

Minutes of Axminster Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting

Held at 18:30 on Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at The Guildhall, 5 West Street, Axminster, EX13 5NX

Present: Rev. Kay d'Albertanson, Carol Clement, Leigh Conley, Karen Dowdeswell, Mark Dowdeswell, Sandie Draper, Annette Fay, Jill Farrow, Di Harnett, Alison Hayward (Treasurer), Colin Hayward, Paul Hayward, Joely Hopkins (Minutes Secretary), Karen Hussey (Vice Chair), Laura Joyce, John McFadzean, Jack Price, Jane Rockett (Chair), Dorita Sanger, Ella Tarrant, Sarah Webb, Austin Wells-Burr

Minutes

1. Apologies

- a. Apologies were received from Tony Benger, Susie McFadzean and Steve Holt.

2. Minutes

- a. The minutes of the previous annual general meeting held on 20th May 2024 were approved as correct. Proposed by Karen Hussey and seconded by Mark Dowdeswell.

3. Matters Arising

- a. There were no matters arising from the previous annual general meeting.

4. Chairperson's Report

- a. Chamber Chair, Jane Rockett, presented the report on the Chamber's numerous activities and projects from the last year.
- b. The Chamber would like to thank the PCC and Waffle House for working with us to get the benches put back onto the green as well as all those who helped repair them.
- c. The Chamber has also been applying for various grants, one of which is funding the project for new leaflets and town map.
- d. Thanks should also go to Adrian from Pink Pigeon and Barrie on help with the website and social media.

5. Treasurer's Report

- a. Alison Hayward, Chamber Treasurer, gave the report for the Chamber's accounts. This year we have a deficit of £556.97 as opposed to a surplus of £786.40 from the previous year. Although the Chamber had another busy year and our bank balances and funds remain healthy, membership has dropped slightly compared to last year and we need continued support in order to keep up our work.
- b. Love of a Railway is now a separate entity and so Railway income and expenses have been removed.
- c. The banners fund, made up of grants, stood at £574.76 as of 31st January 2025.

6. Election of Officers

- a. Chair Jane Rockett, Vice Chair Karen Hussey and Treasurer Alison Hayward were re-elected en bloc with the addition of John McFadzean, Austin Wells-Burr and Ella Tarrant to the management committee. Proposed by Mark Dowdeswell and seconded by Colin Hayward.

- b. There was also discussion considering the time and location of the meetings.

7. Open Discussion on Improving Footfall and Trading in Axminster

- a. The forum was opened with Kate Rideout's message, which emphasised the need for collaboration and community in order to promote trading and footfall in Axminster.
- b. There was a discussion of ideas for distributing the leaflets in order to have the most impact such as approaching Axminster Tesco and cross leafleting with other businesses. Various locations were suggested for distributing the leaflets when they are ready and Colin Hayward agreed to looking into doing something with the Railway.
 - i. It was also suggested the Community Shed make Axminster specific leaflet holders.
- c. In addition, issues regarding parking were discussed. Paul Hayward gave an update on the status of the NPC car park. It was also noted the need to promote that Axminster is one of the cheapest places for parking in the area.
- d. The idea of a market was also raised and Sandie Draper, Laura Joyce and Ella Tarrant agreed look into it.

8. Any Other Business

- a. There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 19:42. The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed.