



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: 28th May 2018

Location: Granville Hotel

Meeting: 231st Annual General Meeting of Waterford Chamber of Commerce, and the 31st Annual General Meeting of Waterford Chamber of Commerce, a Company Limited by Guarantee

Present: President in the Chair, CEO, Directors, Officers & members
as recorded in the attendance register

1. & 2. Apologies / Minutes / Correspondence

Paul Nolan addressed the members in attendance.
Apologies received from: Kieran Walsh, Irene Treacy, Declan Brady, Niall Harrington, and Tina Darrer and as per those recorded in the Chamber office.

On the proposal of Tony Fitzgerald and seconded by Ronan Brazil the Minutes of the AGM held on 22nd May 2017 were approved, and signed by the President.

3. Motion to increase the maximum number of elected Directors

Paul Nolan advised the members that the Candidates going forward for election this year were of a great quality, representative of a number of sectors. Paul also advised that bearing in mind the time given to Chamber business a new system was now in operation within Chamber. It would be incumbent of all new Directors to join an advisory panel and that to this end the motion to increase the maximum number of elected Directors from 11 to 12 was put to the members.

This motion was proposed by Kathryn Kiely and seconded by Jonathan Earl.

4. Election of Directors

Based on the passing of the above motion all Candidates put forward for election were deemed to be elected:

Brian Devereux, Ciaran Cullen, Derek Lowry, Edel Spillane, Jacqui Kielthy, John McSweeney, Kieran Walsh, Niall Griffin, Nuala Browne Treacy, Pamela Pim, Richard Hurley, Valerie Farrell.

5. Address by Paul Nolan, outgoing President

In welcoming everyone to the 231st Annual General Meeting of Waterford Chamber of Commerce and the 31st AGM of Waterford Chamber of Commerce, A Company Limited by Guarantee, Paul stated that it had been a great honour to serve as Chamber President of Ireland's oldest Chamber of Commerce.

Paul went on to thank his family and his employers for giving him the time to carry out his role over the past 12 months. The time given under CSR allowed his Employers, Dawn Meats Group, to give back to Waterford.

Paul thanked the efforts of the people in Chamber who have rebuilt the Chamber back to a Company with over 400 members representing 16000 employees.

	<p>Paul’s proudest moments were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Minister for Finance Paschal Donohoe’s visit to WIT announcing the plan for Ireland 2040 and the role Waterford will play in it as the Regional City of the South East. - ” Waterford Chamber, he added, “is locked and loaded to drive the business agenda for our regional capital and play a leading role for the region as it offers an alternative to investment in Dublin, both as a region in its own right and as part of an ‘economic corridor’ with Cork, Limerick and Galway, with a combined workforce in excess of two million.” <p>Mr Nolan stated: “Whilst it can be said that Waterford has not, despite its own proud history, achieved its potential in recent decades and often felt hard done by, I believe we may also have been too hard on ourselves at times. I believe that Waterford is taking the bit between the teeth and we are experiencing a collective ‘drive on’.”</p> <p>Paul thanked the Board and Executive for their work, he also thanked the permanent staff of Chamber who work so hard and were fantastic support to him.</p> <p>Paul went on to say that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was a privilege to be President - Strength is in the voice of the membership - The Chamber foundations are in excellent shape <p>Again in closing Paul thanked everyone for all the support he received during the Year.</p>
6.	Report on Chamber Activity 2017
	<p>On addressing the members present Gerald Hurley, CEO, thanked the Board of Directors for their contribution to the Chamber. Gerald stated that 2017 was a watershed for the future of Waterford, with the region being identified as 1 of 5 main cities in the National Planning Framework.</p> <p>Gerald went on to talk about the offerings Waterford had in the Greenway and the North Quays/Michael Street Development. Gerald stated: “Undeniably, there are a number of projects that we need to get ‘over the line’ and we can achieve them – as long as we have a real unity of purpose. Delivery of the infrastructural funding required to enable the development of the North Quays and Michael Street (developments), the creation of Waterford’s Technological University, 24/7 cardiac care and better connectivity (along the N24) are some of the things that are long overdue and by working together we can and will achieve them.”</p> <p>Gerald spoke about the objectives that Chamber were involved in and that it was in the interest of all organisations to be members. In 2017 membership had grown to 416 and that Chamber valued the support of the Region. Gerald went on to say that all relationships are two-way and that Chamber needed to be relevant to its members. Gerald spoke about the Policy Advisory Panels which were set up during the year and that these panels assisted Chamber in preparing and providing content for a number of submissions to Government.</p>

	<p>Gerald outlined the number of events/initiatives that Chamber had been involved in during the year including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business After Hours events - Waterford Business Expo - President’s Lunch - Annual Dinner - Redesign of Chamber Website - Social Media activity - Waterford Skillnet – 1500 individuals had attended training - Succession Planning - Regional Leaders Programme - Toys for Engineers - Launch of Network Magazine <p>All of these reinforce the power of Team Work and a special mention was made to the work of Lynda Lawton and Michael Lynagh.</p> <p>Gerald spoke about the collaboration between Waterford Chamber and the two other Chambers in the Region over the past 12 months mainly Tramore Chamber of Commerce and Tourism and Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber.</p> <p>Gerald went on to say that the Chamber team was small but dynamic. Gerald thanked the outgoing Board, sponsors during the year and the commitment of outgoing President, Paul Nolan, who was a tremendous ambassador for Waterford.</p> <p>Gerald concluded by congratulating the new Board on their election for 2018-2020.</p>
7.	Hon Treasurer’s report for year ended 31.12.17 and presentation of the Audited Accounts for that period
	<p>Treasurer Ronan Brazil presented the financial report, noted that it was summarised in the Annual Report and advised that copies of the full Audited Accounts were available on request.</p> <p>Ronan went on to make the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income – there was currently a surplus - Chamber was continuing to grow - There was a reversal of the declining period 2011-2012 - Subscriptions were up 10% - Overall income was up 20% - New members were joining every month - Legacy debt was cleared - Prudential financial management was the name of the game <p>Adoption of year end accounts were proposed by Jonathan Earl and seconded by Pamela Pimm.</p>
8.	Reappointment of the Auditors
	<p>On the proposal of Paul Nolan, seconded by Brian Devereux, MK Brazil were reappointed as Auditors for 2018/2019.</p>
9.	Election of Hon. Treasurer
	<p>On the proposal of Ronan Brazil, seconded by Laurent Borla, Martina Curtain (PWC) was appointed as Hon. Treasurer for 2018/2019</p>

10.	Election of and address by Incoming President
	<p>Kathryn Kiely, Glazik Ltd has worked tirelessly over the past 2 years on the National Planning Framework submission for Chamber. Paul Nolan, Outgoing President, wished Kathryn well in her new role.</p> <p>On the proposal of Willie Donnelly, seconded by Jonathan Earl, Kathryn Kiely was appointed as President of Waterford Chamber of Commerce for 2018/2019.</p> <p>New Waterford Chamber President Kathryn Kiely (co-owner and Director of Glazik Ltd) is looking forward to a challenging and exciting year at the helm.</p> <p>Addressing the Chamber's 231st Annual General Meeting, Kathryn has established three priorities for her 12-month term: "Enhancing connectedness, capability building and continuing to influence the planning and development of Waterford as the regional city of the South East."</p> <p>The Cork native added: "In Chamber over the last year we have had many discussions with our members on what they see as the key challenges. While challenges in business can be very specific to the day, sector or size of your company, there are a number of common themes which now prevail or are predicted to be challenges in the coming years. These include access to a skilled workforce and talent required now and for the workforce of the future; our susceptibility as an open economy having to face factors such as Brexit, impact of changes in US economic policies, EU regulation, introduction of disruptive technologies which fundamentally change established business models and ensuring the competitiveness, attractiveness and vibrancy of Waterford as a location for companies to provide sustainable employment and quality of life."</p> <p>Kathryn has had a close association with Waterford Chamber over the past six years, serving as a member of the Jobs Enterprise & Innovation Committee, the Executive Committee and has also served as a board member. She had previously worked as Head of Industry Services at Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) where she played a major role in developing a range of research, innovation and enterprise development programmes.</p>
11.	Confirmation of Jonathan Earl as Deputy President
	<p>In accordance with Article 46 (c) Jonathan Earl was confirmed as Deputy President for the period 2018/2019</p>
12.	Election of Vice President
	<p>On the proposal of Tony Fitzgerald, seconded by Jonathan Earl, Danette Connolly was unanimously elected Vice President.</p>
13.	Confirmation of Directors
	<p>Brian Devereux, Ciaran Cullen, Derek Lowry, Edel Spillane, Jacqui Kielthy, John McSweeney, Kieran Walsh, Niall Griffin, Nuala Browne Treacy, Pamela Pim, Richard Hurley, Valerie Farrell have all been elected to the Board of Directors for the period 2018-2020.</p>
14.	Any other Business
	<p>There was no other business.</p> <p>Gerald Hurley, CEO, thanked everyone on their attendance and brought the 231st AGM to a close.</p>