

**Minutes of Horley and District Chamber of Commerce AGM**  
**- held at Brambles on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

**Present:** Peter von Staerck, John Fisher, Clive Howick, Carol Wan, Carol Jordan, James, Bulman, Adrian Rafi, Fiona Stimpson, Kelly Dunsdon, Chris Madden from Surrey Mirror, Gerard Kempshall, David Blackburn, Nick Geard, Sarah & Julie Williamson, Andy Parr, Chris Wicks & Steve Davie

**Apologies:** Chris Figg, Chris Sharville, Nicola Stafford

**Membership:** 2010 was 93. Very few members have renewed at the moment but the Treasurer has more who sent in monies since the Treasurer closed the Accounts

The new membership subscription rate is now £60 for everyone and the Local Business Group is £200.

**Chairman's Report:** Peter von Staerck apologised for the delayed date of the AGM which was due to unavoidable circumstances.

**Rule Book Changes:** There is a typing error on 2.9 'manager' needs to be changed to 'manner'. Otherwise the Rule Book was agreed. The members ratified these changes and it was agreed that they would stand as the Rules of Membership.

Peter reported that John was also standing down and thanked John for his sterling work in looking after the Chamber's finances.

**Events:** 4500 people came to St George's Day according to the Police. £2000 was raised. £1000 was given to Brambles and the rest is to pay for a defibrillator which it was agreed last year that we would donate the money to purchase one for Horley.

The Big Lunch in the summer was a success and enjoyed by all but was not as successful financially as St George's Day.

The Scarecrow Festival was a great success and was the first time this had been held. There was an estimated 1500 foot fall by the Police.

**Treasurer's Report:** The reports were presented and agreed. The balance in the Chamber is healthy as the moment due to membership subscription fees and St George's Day.

John Fisher said that the Chamber had grown due to Peter's efforts such as St George's Day. He wishes all the best to the new Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

**Local Business Group and Careers Advisory Group:** These have been set up. The Careers Advisory Group has been put on hold at present due to law problems. John Fisher said his wife would be happy to advise Chris Sharville on these.

Clive Howick is very pleased with the progress of the Local Business Group so far.

**Roundabout of Memory:** This is going well. Unfortunately a theft took many of our prizes. There has been a gift of £1000 from Bob Toon of Gatwick Plant Hire which is very welcome.

£888 was raised and 2300 bulbs planted. The Chamber will pay for fertilisation and dead heading. The two roundabouts – Hookwood and Longbridge Roundabouts are looking good at the moment

There will be a Book of Remembrance on the website. Bateman Funerals will have a Book of Remembrance. People can still donate to this if they wish to do so.

**Retirements:** Peter von Staerck needs a rest and so is retiring after the AGM. 2 shops have said they will not renew because he is retiring.

Peter von Staerck wished to thank John Fisher for his excellent services as Treasurer as he is also retiring.

**Local Business Group:** They meet every Monday evening at Menzies Hotel. There are 11 signed up members; 16/20 people attend weekly. They are looking to team up with the Dorking Group and work together. They are thinking of launching a business advice group aiming to help anyone thinking of starting their own business.

Each week someone has a 10-minute slot talking about their business and they aim to have monthly guest speakers and will be holding lunches. They are liaising with Stephen Shepperson on this. They are looking into the idea of having a stall in the High Street where people can drop in for information.

They will be holding exhibitions twice a year. There will be reduced rates for members of the Chamber and will be free for members of the Local Business Group. This will be done in association with Surrey Chamber of Commerce.

There are now search engines for both the Chamber and the Local Business Group; their Google ranking is very good.

**St George's Day:** Fiona Stimpson is very new to this type of event but she has organised a programme. As it falls over the Easter weekend she is looking to get more people to participate in the parade as many people are away on holiday. With 5 weeks to go any advice/help would be greatly appreciated.

**Chamber's Charity of the Year:** This was Brambles for 2010 but they are under threat of closure. They are taking bookings until June. 6 organisations are interested in taking it over and 3 are extremely keen. They will know what is happening at the end of March. John Fisher is retiring in September 2011. It was decided to continue with Brambles as the main charity for the time being. Brambles will close in November 2011 if no one takes it over. The situation will be reviewed after June 2011. Steve Davie said that the Horley Churches held a Horley Job Club which needs publicity. John Fisher suggested they work together.

**Correspondence:** The Corner Shop has put in a planning application to become a wholesale off-licence. Mud Pie Ceramics are definitely closing down now and will become a new kitchen shop. Harlequin Dry Cleaners is to become a ladies' clothes shop. Jack Fairman has applied to have 17 tables, chairs and parasols outside which would accommodate 67 people.

#### **Election of Officers:**

**Chairman**

Fiona Stimpson

Proposed by Clive Howick and  
Seconded by James Bulman

<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Clive Howick	Proposed by Fiona Stimpson and Seconded by Adrian Rafi
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kelly Dunsdon	Proposed by John Fisher and Seconded by Fiona Stimpson
<b>Secretary</b>	Carol Jordan	Proposed by Fiona Stimpson and Seconded by James Bulman
<b>Auditor</b>	Not required	
<b>Executive Committee Members</b>	James Bulman, Adrian Rafi, Anthony Craven	Proposed by Kelly Dunsdon and Seconded by Clive Howick
<b>Lunch Co-Coordinator</b>	Stephen Shepperson	Proposed by Clive Howick and Seconded by John Fisher
<b>HTCMG representative</b>	Clive Howick and James Bulman	Proposed by Adrian Rafi and Seconded by Fiona Stimpson
<b>Regeneration Group</b>	Fiona Stimpson	Proposed by Clive Howick and Seconded by Stephen Shepperson
<b>Town Centre Task Force</b>		To be decided at a later date
<b>Horley West Neighbourhood Panel Meeting</b>		To be decided at a later date
<b>Horley South &amp; Central Neighbourhood Panel Meeting</b>		

Fiona already attends these meetings as a representative of Horley Town Council.

**Parking Charges:** Peter von Staerck has collected 5531 signatures so far against the changes in the parking charges. There are 14500 on line and with other towns. They are sending a letter to Surrey County Council about this which was read to the meeting. It will be signed by Peter von Staerck for the Chamber and by Fiona Stimpson for the Town Council. The cut off deadline is 10th May.

**Handover:** Fiona Stimpson thanked Peter von Staerck for all his hard work and also John Fisher for his.

Peter von Staerck handed Fiona Stimpson the Chairman's badge of office.

A present was given to John Fisher.

**Next Meeting:** In the Windsor Room of the Menzies Hotel Monday 21st March at 1830.

The meeting closed at 1920.