

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
Ashford Economic Development Group

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the AEDG held at Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce on 14th August 2024 at 8.30am.

PRESENT	NAME	POSITION
	Nettie Buss (AB)	Chair
	Peter Heritage (PH)	
	Richard Lavender (RL)	
	Tom Shaw-Dunn (TS-D)	
	Steve Garnett (SG)	
	Tim Sheppard (TS)	
	Dan Sherlock (DS)	
	Richard Stafford (RS)	
	Tom Jenkins (TJ)	
	James McComas (JM)	
	Richard Lloyd (RLL)	
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM	Susan Bonett (SB) Joanna Brown (JB) Maria Callow (MB) Andrew Osborne (AO) Tudor Price (TP) Jason Rainbird (JR) Katie Hodson (KH)	

1. NOTICE AND QUORUM

The chair reported that enough notice of the meeting had been duly given and that a quorum was present. The chair declared that the meeting was open at 8.30am.

2. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Minutes of the board meeting held on 18th July 2024 had already been approved. The chair had been authorised to sign them as a complete record of the relevant meeting.

3. ANY MATTERS ARISING/PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters to be discussed – any such matters are on the agenda for this meeting.

4. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Welcome

EES

TP had sent to an email to **AB** prior to the meeting to advise that there are some updates regarding the EES and it was suggested by **TP** that we approach the East Kent EDG to join one of our meetings and invite the KRF – **AB** will contact Ray Johnson from East Kent EDG and suggest the October meeting.

The AEDG discussed their views on Brock from a business perspective and have a number of questions / challenges that they would like to put forward.

New MP's

The new MP's are still settling into their new roles and the Ashford Borough is now represented by 2 – it is not yet known how they will operate and whether it will be similar to the relationship we had with Damian Green – it was agreed that this could wait until the end of the year / beginning of 2025.

College Update

As it was exam result day, there was not a representative from the college – **AB** to ask **SB** & **JB** for an update in the September meeting.

Farming sector

TJ advised that there are now 14 vineyards in Kent – **RL** will ask the membership team for a couple of names of members who could give us a presentation with regards to their sector etc.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RS expressed that we should still look to hold some meetings at other businesses in our areas – it was agreed we would look to do this and suggestions would be good to gather any possible takers. Also **RS** will invite Rollo Parsons to the next AEDG meeting as a representative of the Ag sector.

AB thanked everyone for their bio's which are now virtually complete and on the www.

6. CLOSE

AB thanked everyone for their continued support.

Date of next meeting - 8.30am, 19th September 2024 at Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

There was no further business and therefore the chair declared that the meeting was closed at 9.30am.

.....Chair – Nettie Buss - Date