

Minutes of the Solihull Chamber of Commerce & Industry

2025 Annual General Meeting

Held on Thursday 20th March 2025

Cranmore Park Conference Centre, Cranmore Ave, Solihull, B90 4LF

1. Welcome

Samantha Frampton (SF) Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

SF advised that the AGM is a formality inline with the Constitution.

SF explained that the AGM was required under the Chamber's Constitution, which sets out the procedure to be followed. Notice of the AGM was sent to all members on the 23rd January 2025

Eileen Schofield (ES) – Solihull Chamber President

Samantha Frampton (SF) – Head of Solihull Chamber

Henrietta Brealey (HB) – CEO Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce

Emma-Louise Hewitt (ELH) – Incoming Solihull Chamber President

2. Minutes of last AGM (taken as read)

SF Minutes of the 2024 AGM were circulated alongside the AGM notice on 23rd January 2025, and we will take these as read.

SF Run through proceedings – Agenda and AGM brochure

3. Update from President – Eileen Schofield (ES) (outgoing president)

Reflecting on Two Years as President of Solihull Chamber of Commerce

It feels like just yesterday that I stepped into the role of President of Solihull Chamber of Commerce, determined to listen, support, and champion the businesses that invest in our Chamber. Looking back, I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together.

A Thriving Business Community

Our networking and learning events have consistently sold out, creating opportunities for businesses to collaborate, share knowledge, and grow.

None of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of Samantha Frampton, our dedicated Head of Solihull Chamber and to the Vice Presidents Emma Louise Hewitt, Rebecca Gater, and Kevin Johns, as well as Membership Assistant Liz Treadwell.

Making a Difference Beyond Business

A key highlight has been our ongoing partnership with Solihull Moors Charity. Over the past two years, our members have gone above and beyond in their support—through donations, mentoring, and fundraising. Thanks to this collective effort, we have raised **£13,225** for the charity's projects and initiatives.

Delivering on Our Key Objectives

At the start of my second year, I set out three key objectives—to foster meaningful discussions within key sectors, to empower women in business, and to tackle transport challenges in our region. I am proud to say that we have delivered on each of these:

1. Sector Roundtables for Professional Services & Hospitality
 - o We launched roundtable discussions in these key sectors, providing a platform for businesses to share best practices, discuss challenges, and explore solutions together.
2. Women in Business Initiatives
 - o Our Solihull Female Leaders Women in Business movement has been a resounding success, thanks to our partnership with Birmingham & Solihull Growth Hub and Solihull Council.
3. Advocating for Improved Transport Links
 - o Transport remains a critical issue for businesses across Solihull. We brought together business leaders with key decision-makers at the West Midlands Combined Authority.

A Privilege and a Legacy

It has been an incredible journey, and serving as President of Solihull Chamber has been an absolute privilege. I set out with a clear vision, and I am proud to have fulfilled my objectives in support of our members and the wider business community.

As I hand over the reins, I do so with confidence in the Chamber's continued growth and success. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey—it has been an honour to serve, and I look forward to seeing the Chamber continue to thrive.

4.Election of Officers – Samantha Frampton (SF)

Thank you to Eileen, and not just for that summary of achievements, but for all that you have done as President over the past 2 years.

Your passion, time and commitment to help make a meaningful impact and create new opportunities for both members and the wider Solihull Business community has been unwavering.

It has been an absolute pleasure and joy working with you and an honour to have had you as our President.

However, this is not goodbye as I am pleased to share with everyone that the executive committee have voted for you to remain as a co-opted Executive committee member for a further year.

Election of Officers and Members of the Chamber's Executive Council for the coming 2 year term. Nomination papers were circulated to all Solihull Chamber members alongside the notice of the AGM.

Election of the Solihull Chamber's President

Eileen Schofield was elected as President by the Executive Council in March 2023 for a 2-year period which has now come to an end. Eileen is therefore stepping down as President today.

In line with the Solihull Chamber Constitution the GPC recommended Emma-Louise Hewitt from Sydney Mitchell to be the next President and I'm delighted to announce that Emma will be the next President of the Solihull Chamber of Commerce for a 2-year term.

Congratulations Emma.

We now move on to the election of officers and members of the Chamber's Executive Council for the coming 2-year term. Nomination papers were circulated to all Solihull Chamber members alongside the notice of the AGM.

Election of Vice President

Under the Chamber's Constitution, Kevin Johns and Rebecca Gater will continue as Vice President's for a second year at this AGM.

Emma-Louise Hewitt's appointment as President has therefore created 1 vacancy for a Vice President.

I can now announce that Kim Hulse of K Hulse Consulting will take up the position as Vice President on the Solihull Chambers Executive Council for a two-year period.

Congratulations Kim

Election of Executive Council Members

Under the Chamber's Constitution Louise Dunn and Tony Elvin will continue as Executive Council members for a second year at this AGM. Thank you both for your continued support and I look forward to working with you both for another 12 months.

Andy Cole and Erica Burke will be resigning from the Executive Council.

Amanda Holden, Ian Rogers, Jas Rohel, Pauline Clarke and Steve Whitmarsh have all completed a two-year term on the Council and under the Chamber's Constitution will be offering themselves for re-election as Executive Council members at this AGM.

Kim Hulse's appointment as Vice-President has therefore created a further vacancy on the council.

These changes resulted in there being 8 vacancies for election to the Executive Committee Council.

The number of applications received did not exceed the number of vacancies, and as per the constitution I can therefore announce that the following have been elected to the Executive Committee Council for a 2-year term.

1. Amanda Holden – The Wilkes Partnership
2. Ian Rogers – Solihull Summerfest
3. Jas Rohel – Education Awards
4. Mark Wilson – Headpoint Advisors
5. Pauline Clarke – St Basils
6. Steve Whitmarsh - runyourfleet
7. Susie Ankrett – Plum Executive

Eileen Schofield would like to continue to support and be involved in some capacity with the Solihull Executive Council and therefore has been co-opted on for a further 12 months as a voting member.

A further 3 candidates were proposed and voted for by the Executive Committee to join as co-opted voting members.

1. Neil Bayliss – Hubtel IT
2. Rebecca Fox – Colebridge Trust
3. Rob Wells – Sport for Life

Congratulations to you all.

This brings the AGM formalities to a close, but before moving on I would like to just take a moment to extend my sincere gratitude to the Council Members standing down today for all their time, effort and support over the last 2 years, thank you

And I would also like to offer my congratulations again to Emma-Louise Hewitt and our new Council members – I look forward to working with you.

Congratulations to you all.

I would also like take this opportunity to thank our local patrons – Arden Multi Academy Trust, Birmingham Business Park, Hilton Birmingham Metropole, Hogarth's Hotel Solihull, Prime Accountants, Schumacher Packaging, Solihull College & University Centre, Solihull Moors FC and Touchwood.

All of the chamber team and you our members.

I would now like to hand over to Henrietta Brealey, CEO of the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

5.GBCC Update

Henrietta Brealey, CEO of the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce

Thank you for the invitation to attend. Thank you to Eileen for her commitment and support over the last two years as Solihull Chamber of Commerce President for Solihull and the wider Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce. Thank you also for her support and relationship with Sam Frampton, Head of Solihull. Thank you to the existing and exciting Solihull Executive Committee for your support.

Congratulations and welcome to Emma-Louise Hewitt your new Solihull Chamber of Commerce President and to the new Solihull Executive Committee members.

It's wonderful to see everyone in attendance and re-iterates what a vibrant community there is in Solihull.

I look forward to seeing Solihull continue to thrive.

6. Welcome from incoming President – Emma-Louise Hewitt (ELH)

I am extremely honoured to be taking on the role of the President of Solihull Chamber of Commerce for the next two years working alongside Samantha Frampton, Head of Solihull, as we continue to strive to create an environment that fosters growth, innovation and collaboration among our members.

I follow a long line of great Presidents, and I would like to thank each and every one of them for all they have done. A special thanks goes to Eileen Schofield, our outgoing President, who has worked tirelessly in

successfully bringing our members together, highlighting issues faced by our members, including transport and connectivity between the north and south of the borough.

I am inspired by the unique contributions each President has made and I'm eager to bring my own fresh perspectives and initiatives to the role.

As President, alongside the executive committee, our primary responsibility is to represent you by prioritising support, connection and growth of our members businesses.

The committee is made up of exceptional business leaders from our community who live and breathe Solihull in all they do and are deeply invested in Solihull's success. They volunteer their time because they genuinely care about local businesses and the community that they serve. Solihull's thriving businesses are at the core of our vibrant community and as far as we are concerned, Solihull is the best place to do business.

We are committed to supporting you and your businesses, to actively listen and engage with you as fellow members, ensuring that your voice is heard. Our goal is to continue to deliver impactful events and initiatives that benefit your businesses, ensuring you get the most out of your membership. Saying that, we urge you to engage with the Chamber in a meaningful way to get the most out of your membership.

The committee and I are looking forward to collaborating with you and your businesses to support, connect and grow your success.

7. Welcome from incoming charity – Solihull Hospital Charity

Fiona Ahearne and Jonathan Burch – Fund Raising Officers

On behalf of everyone at Solihull Hospital Charity, I'm so incredibly thankful to everyone involved with the Solihull Chamber of Commerce for choosing us to be their charity of the year for 2025/2026.

Being Solihull Chamber's charity of the year will make an amazing difference to our fundraising and awareness levels and help raise funds for the amazing projects we have at Solihull Hospital. I am very excited to be working with Solihull Chamber throughout the coming year and can't wait to get started

Solihull Hospital Charity is the official NHS charity of Solihull Hospital and funds added extras that are over and above NHS provision at Solihull Hospital. The charity is part of University Hospitals Birmingham Charity, supporting needs across Solihull, QE, Heartlands and Good Hope Hospitals.

Being in hospital can be really hard physically and emotionally. This is why we as a charity want to do all we can to make our patients, and their families feel as supported as possible during their treatment. From lollipops to wall art and from therapy dogs to staff-wellbeing, the charity raises vital funds to support needs at Solihull Hospital that make a real impact on patients, families, and staff. We are incredibly grateful for all support received!

End of Meeting

Thank you from Solihull Chamber of Commerce

