



Notes from the Meeting

AGM – 4.30 pm to 5 pm

Thursday 28th September, 2023

Board Room, Wollens, The Terrace, Torquay

Present: Chris Hart (CH), Anthony Payne-Neale (APN), Andy Banner-Price (ABP), Martin Brook (MB), Pippa Craddock (PC), Carolyn Custerson (CC), Claire Flower (CF), Jason Garside (JC), Tim Godfrey (TG), Jim Parker (JP), Kelly Widley (KW), Brett Powis BP – Powis Hotels, Katrine Harrington (minutes)

Apologies: Richard Cuming (RC) and Lisa Tuck (LT)

CH opened the meeting, thanking everyone for attending the 2023 ERBID Company AGM and gave specific thanks to the board for their work through the year, the Executive team for all of their hard work, and to Tom Godfrey for his work as Chair during the first year of ERBID2.

CC presented an overview of the English Riviera's 2022 performance which was another challenging post-COVID year for the resort, with visitor numbers down by 15% in volume overall and 6% in value compared to 2019 (pre-COVID) The impact of cost-of-living and dramatic rises in operating costs and in particular energy costs seriously started to hit everyone in the sector by the 4th quarter of 2022 and business confidence was declining significantly. In 2022 the company continued to invest significantly in Destination Marketing because of the Levy collected to help the resort remain competitive with national marketing in the Midlands and Bristol in particular, plus a new £100k Event Development investment in partnership with Torbay Council.

TG gave a presentation on the English Riviera BID Company Management Accounts for 2022 sighting an 86.5% collection rate in Levy to support the work of the Company. The Accounts had been circulated to all Company Members and were unanimously approved by all attending plus 13 proxy votes.

AOB

The owner of the Trafalgar House Hotel in Torquay had forwarded his apologies and asked a specific question around what grant funding the ERBID Company had managed to secure. CC responded to clarify that in 2022 no additional grant funding had been secured, but UK Shared Prosperity Funding Levelling Up Money had been secured for 2023-24 in respect of developing new Geopark Discovery Experiences and that this information would be shared.