Norfolk Chambers of Commerce

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the 129th Annual General Meeting
Held on Friday 28 November 2025 at 8:45am
Hardwick House, No. 2 Agricultural Hall Plain, Norwich, NR1 3FS

Present:	Nova Fairbank	Chief Executive
	Alton Nutile	Treasurer
	Jack Weaver	Chief Operating Officer & Company Secretary

Together with representatives of member firms who attended this meeting – as per the list attached to these minutes.

Jack Weaver welcomed all to the meeting and ran through the format. Apologies were received from the President Jonathan Cage, so Jack Weaver, as Company Secretary formally opened the AGM.

As this is a Festive Hub Club, we are going to steal 15 minutes of your time deliver our version of the Christmas Carol through the medium of an AGM. In the spirit of a Christmas Carol, here's some mandatory Dickensian language for you…

Notice is hereby given that the 129th Annual General Meeting of the Norfolk Chambers of Commerce is being held here at Hardwick House, No. 2 Agricultural Hall Plain, Norwich, for the purpose of transacting the business outlined in the agenda.

We begin with Christmas Past; what has Norfolk Chambers achieved in the last year?

It's been another busy year for us. We have delivered our usual large-scale events – starting with a sell-out Big Debate last February and a brilliant Festival of Knowledge with over 5,000 students in March.

In June, we brought you 2 very sunny and hot days at the Royal Norfolk Show, welcoming thousands of visitors to the largest marquee on the site – putting Norfolk's SMEs at the heart of the show.

October saw our largest B2B yet, now in its 28th year - this is the largest B2B event in the East of England.

Two weeks ago we ran our annual Bank of England Lunch and we will be closing out 2025 with a spectacular Christmas at the Castle event on 5th December – a black tie, medieval banquet, with guest speaker Rory Bremner giving his satirical take on the world.

Somehow our team have also found time to deliver a whole range of networking events all over the county. And we've seen amazing engagement with our initiatives Co. Solo, Co.next and Co.spark, bring businesses together to support and collaborate with each other.

We have worked tirelessly to put your voice front and centre in the skills landscape with the Norfolk & Suffolk Local Skill Improvement Plan (LSIP). The LSIP team has delivered engagement events, skills surveys and gathered 60 Keystone Employers to ensure we keep putting your skills needs on the agenda, working with government to solve them.

Our Digital Chamber went live this year meaning you can now book your events and administer your account all through your own personal Dashboard. And we're now looking at overhauling our website to give you even more value from your directory listing.

Finally, our fabulous Business Hub. 2025 was the year we made access to our Hub complimentary to any Norfolk Chambers member. And it's great to see so many of you using this space to collaborate.

And the variety of biscuits, cakes and sweets you bring in make it all worthwhile. You are what makes this space special – and tell your friends and colleagues!

My last job before I hand over to 'Christmas Present' is some changes to our Board. Firstly, we say goodbye to Kelly Cartwright and Simon Girdlestone who have left the board – a huge thanks to them for their contribution over the years. And we welcome Alton Nutile, Finance Director from GeoAcoustics as our new Treasurer. Over to Alton for Christmas Present

Alton Nutile presented a summary of the financials for the 2024/25 year.

Christmas Future
Nova Fairbank presented a look ahead to 2025/26. It's a big birthday for us in 2026 - we will be 130 years old – that is a massive milestone and you can bet we will be celebrating it. Watch this space for how you can get involved.

We've campaigned on behalf of our members since 1896 on everything from infrastructure needs to skills and everything in between. There are even minutes from Great Yarmouth meetings in the late 1800s complaining about the Acle Straight – so clearly there is still more work to do! Devolution is the new game in town, with an elected Mayor becoming a reality in May 2026. We are the voice of Norfolk business, so do keep telling us what you need, so we get your voices heard.

Our digital innovation continues – with our website will get a face lift – making it easier to navigate and we will be re-launching the Norfolk Knowledge Hub – a free to access online tool for all businesses – member and non-member that will give anyone access to information, knowledge sharing and how to guides. We will also launch a business news channel: Norfolk's Voice.

The content for both will be written by you, the business community. It's a brilliant way to not only raise your profile but demonstrate your expertise to a wider audience and of course, as members you will be able to upload your content for free.

Norfolk's Voice will be an online business news channel that will celebrate business news of all kinds, showcasing the brilliance of our business community and more importantly will be accessible to all – no paywalls to view – just business news by the Norfolk business community.

We will be delivering all our usual flagship events from the Big Debate in February it will be on devolution and we have already confirmed all of the Mayoral candidates - its an opportunity for you to ask direct questions of the potential mayor.

The Future Careers Expo in March will support over 7,000 students – 4500 are already booked. We will have interactive experience opportunities for students in construction, energy, aviation, healthcare, hospitality and professional services to name but a few.

Our Business Zone will be back at the Royal Norfolk Show, October will be B2B and we will slot another Castle event in somewhere, as well as a diverse range of networking across the county and Co.next, Co.Solo and Co.Spark activities.

The Big Debate, Future Careers Expo, Royal Norfolk Show and the B2B are all bookable right now – so don't miss out, visit our website to get your space confirmed.

We are now 2 months into writing a new Norfolk and Suffolk LSIP for 2026-2029. Having spent 3 years gathering employer evidence, we are now working on what solutions need to be considered. This is being done in collaboration with Suffolk Chamber and both Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils.

Finally, I come to you our members. You are the reason we exist and we exist to connect, support and give voice to you all.

We are never going to stand still, so we are planning to overhaul the membership offering. In the coming months you will see us reach out to many of you to help us to determine what will deliver the best value for money for each of you - whether you are a start-up or a large global corporate. Our aim is to make the Norfolk Chambers membership relevant and accessible to any business - because what you need is what we do.

2026 will see an incredible amount of change, from trade wars to actual wars and a level of political turbulence that will reshape and impact on the business landscape. Norfolk Chambers will remain steadfastly in your corner, supporting you and championing Norfolk as an exceptional place to live, work and do business.

So to bring our Christmas Carol to a close all that remains is to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous and happy new year!

Jack Weaver closed the AGM at 9:15am

Norfolk Chambers of Commerce

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List of Members in attendance at the AGM

organisation	firstname	lastname	membership_type
UK Potholes Ltd	Faye	Ames	Member
Norfolk County Council	Mathew	Bardwell	Member
City College Norwich	Philip	Beckwith	Member
Larking Gowen	Jo	Burton	Member
Feilden & Mawson Group Ltd	Erin	Davidson	Member
Synergy Resourcing Solutions	Ruben	Davis	Member
Acora One	James	Dove	Member
Synergy Resourcing Solutions	James	Ellis	Member
Norwich Samaritans	Stephen	Ferrey	Member
Jennifer Fuller	Jennifer	Fuller	Member
KNP Litho Ltd	Dave	Gibbons	Member
Katrina Haggarty Marketing Consultancy	Katrina	Haggarty	Member
101 Websites Apps & Email Marketing	Rebecca	Hartley	Member
Style & Craft	Jake	Hithersay	Member
UK Potholes Ltd	Kelly	Humphreys	Member
Acora One	Catherine	Kilbourn	Member
ATK Digital Marketing	Tanya	Korteling	Member
Rogers & Norton Solicitors Ltd	April	Lyon	Member
Taylor Investigations	Charlotte	Notley	Member
P4 Limited	Rob	Oldland	Member
Beacon IT	Macauley	Partridge	Member
Acora One	Graham	Rich	Member
Nicholsons Solicitors LLP	David	Richards	Member
Swarm Training C.I.C.	Paul	Riddock	Member
Spider	Gail	Shemming	Member
Howes Percival LLP	Gordon	Simpson	Member
Beacon IT	Daniel	Smith	Member
Paul Robinson Partnership (UK) LLP	Andrew	Smith	Member
City College Norwich	Lisa	Taylor	Member
Rogers & Norton Solicitors Ltd	Chloe	Tooley	Member
Howden Insurance	Erika	Woodhouse	Member
Budease Ltd	Charles	Worsman	Member
Uptech	Rick	Notley	Member
Uptech	Jason	Carlton	Member