



# Minutes of the Fortieth Annual General Meeting of Business in the Community

held on 7th December 2022

at Queen Elizabeth II Centre

Broad Sanctuary, London SW1P 3EE

(and broadcast virtually)

## 1. Introduction

Amanda Mackenzie, Chief Executive, opened the 40th Annual General Meeting, being broadcast as a webinar from the Queen Elizabeth II Centre. She was joined by Gavin Patterson, Chair, and Richard Hutton, Chair of the Finance & Risk Committee.

## 2. Ordinary Resolution 1

Richard Hutton gave a presentation on the financial performance of the charity. He said that BITC had delivered a small surplus on unrestricted activities in the year to June 2022. The charity had invested in growing its membership, its advisory services and its marketing teams, to support further growth of the network, and at the same time maintained tight control over its finances.

He said that the Northern Ireland team had had a strong year and continued to see growth of the network.

Richard stated that the 21/22 financial year saw the successful completion of the National Business Response Network (NBRN) and the activities of the 40th Anniversary year spanned both the previous and the current financial year. BITC had benefitted from the generous support of Founder Members for the many activities related to this celebration.

There was a reduction in restricted funds as the charity undertook activity funded by resources recognised in previous years under the National Business Response Network. The modest surplus on unrestricted activities meant that BITC maintained its reserves target, an important measure of financial security for any charity.

Richard stated that there was a reduction in cash reserves as resources were used on the NBRN project. However, BITC still ended the year in a robust cash position relative to the liquidity target.



Looking ahead, the charity would continue the drive to increase membership to strengthen the network and drive positive change, supporting companies on their responsible business journey. The Seeing is Believing Programme, reinvigorated by the organisation's 40th Anniversary, would continue, and new work had begun as a response to the cost-of-living crisis through reactivation of the National Business Response Network.

Richard said that focus would remain on maintaining strong control and management of risk, and in this respect he thanked Charlie O'Neill, BITC's Finance Director, and his team, who continued to do an outstanding job in this regard.

Richard concluded by thanking his colleagues on the Finance & Risk Committee for their support and wisdom during 2022, and also the Audit Committee for their oversight of the charity's compliance and governance processes. Richard added that John Neill was standing down as a trustee after a remarkable period of service, and the charity was merging the responsibilities of the Finance & Risk Committee into the Audit Committee.

Gavin Patterson thanked Richard Hutton and John Neill, and also Andrew Thomas and his team at Crowe, BITC's auditors, for their professional support and advice. He thanked members for voting online in advance. As the required number of votes had been received in advance, Gavin confirmed that Directors' Annual Report and Accounts, including the Strategic Review, for the year ended 30 June 2022, had been duly received by members and would be made publicly available on BITC's website.

### 3. **Ordinary Resolution 2**

Gavin Patterson stated that the final resolution was the re-appointment of five directors whom the Board recommended for re-election. They would hold office for three years or until they stood down. As the requisite number of votes had been received online in advance, voting separately for each director, Gavin declared that Lucinda Charles-Jones, Chris Conway, Richard Hutton, Alison Rose and himself, Gavin Patterson, were duly re-elected as directors of Business in the Community.

Gavin said that this year BITC was saying farewell to three long-serving trustees. John Williams had stepped down in the summer after 20 years of service, and both John Neill and Steve Holliday were retiring at this AGM. They had both given the most outstanding service to the charity and BITC owed them a huge debt of gratitude.

That concluded the formal business of the AGM and Gavin invited Amanda Mackenzie, at her final AGM as BITC CEO, to make some closing remarks.

Amanda said that it had been an incredible privilege to work alongside BITC's Board and Members. This organisation was 40 years young and had played a pivotal role bridging business and society. This had been celebrated during 2022, but there was no room for complacency; there was still lots to do.



She said that much had happened since this time last year; from the war in Ukraine, the cost-of-living crisis, the changes brought about to ways of working after the pandemic, and with the death of The Queen, BITC's Royal Founding Patron had become our new King. So, the country remained in an era of change and transition.

Amanda said that she had absolute conviction that Business in the Community would continue to flourish as it had the backing of over 600 companies across the UK. She thanked those companies for standing shoulder to shoulder with BITC – through the good times and the bad times. She thanked them for staying part of a wide Network. When every penny counted. She thanked members for believing in something beyond their own bottom line.

Amanda thanked members for committing to an action plan on climate change; 70% of members having formulated their own plans.

She thanked members for backing the Opening Doors inclusive recruitment campaign. Only launched January 2022, this already covered over half a million jobs, and was well on the way to the goal of 2 million jobs by 2025.

She thanked members for supporting new work to find work placements for refugees, and for helping nearly 3,000 people furthest from the workplace to develop new skills and confidence. And she thanked members for signing the Race at Work Charter to make workplaces more inclusive; BITC close to hitting its goal of 1,000 signatories.

And Amanda thanked the Anniversary Partners for supporting all of the activities in the 40th Anniversary year. BITC had been Making Work Work, challenging companies to go faster, braver, bolder in their actions to benefit people and planet.

She also thanked members for taking up the offer of a depth-charge on an area of the Responsible Business Map – be it Responsible Business Strategy, Inclusion, Wellbeing, Social Impact or the Environment.

And finally she thanked members for feeling that BITC was a safe place to discuss difficult and sensitive issues – such as business's response to the war in Ukraine, and the Cost-of-Living crisis. BITC had run hundreds of online meetings and events in the past 2½ years offering members a safe space to meet, talk and learn from each other. Amanda saluted all of BITC's members and signed off.

