

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BODMIN CHAMBER**  
**OF COMMERCE HELD ON MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

The Chairman opened the Meeting and welcomed all present.

**The following Members were in attendance:**

Paul Miles Rogers (Chairman)	
Joy Bassett (Deputy Chairman)	
Philip Taylor/Secretary	Westberry Hotel
Gill Jenkins/Secretary	Bedknobs B&B
Geoff Kestell	Martin & Budge Menswear
Lee Keat	Martin & Budge Menswear
Kim Roscoe	Kelta Systems
Alison Perrin	Bodmin College
Melanie Thomas	Bodmin College
Chris Wilkes	Bodmin Jail

**Apologies for Absence:**

Sarah Horne (Roscrea B&B), Paula Hutchens (Amber Consulting & Training), Ed Dyer (Ed Dyer Electrical), Phil Brown (Cornish Lime), Phil Ugalde (Proper Cornish)

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

Subject to the addition of Paula's surname "Hutchens" in 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph from the end, the Minutes were formally **APPROVED**.

**Correspondence/Meetings Attended**

The Chairman reported that the Steering Group had approved a letter of support for the Jail's proposed development of the site on Berrycombe Vale into a car park and invited Chris Wilkes to address the Meeting.

Chris Wilkes gave a brief history of the Jail and emphasised that lack of funding in previous years had left the Jail with much work needed. He reported that visitor numbers were currently 60,000 per year. It had been decided to develop 2 derelict wings into an hotel and it was hoped that the Jail would become a world-class attraction that would make it fit for purpose for the next 20 years.

Questions were asked by Members re parking and access and the Chairman confirmed that the Steering Group was looking at the whole question of a co-ordinated local transport strategy and were facilitating co-operation between the various groups to collaborate over getting more people into the town. Chris Wilkes confirmed that the

Jail too was looking at ways of getting visitors to visit other attractions in town. In response to Joy Bassett, he hoped that the Jail Hotel would also help the night-time economy – restaurants etc. The Chairman felt that the opening of the refurbished Jail could well encourage other businesses to open.

In reply to Kim Roscoe, CW confirmed that a first-class operator had been appointed to run the hotel which he hoped would be up and running by the end of 2020 though they had faced huge engineering challenges along the way.

It was also confirmed that the Jail would be installing parking meters and that some of the monies would probably go back to the Town Council.

### **Matters Arising:**

**Cornish Guardian Press Release:** The Chairman re-iterated Chamber's thanks to Geoff Kestell and Lee Keat from Martin & Budge for their 'first-hand experience' of the Fore Street gas works closure. Kim Roscoe agreed it was excellent coverage. After discussion, it was confirmed that Chamber should continue to monitor and issue appropriate press releases to the effect that the town was open again.

**Chamber Banners:** The Chairman reported as per the Agenda item. He said he was waiting to hear from Falmouth Design which Melanie Thomas confirmed was part of Bodmin College and **agreed** that she will look into it.

**Safer Bodmin:** The Chairman referred to this Agenda Item. Joy Basset confirmed that some shops had been issued with alarms but shopkeepers were concerned that the Police were not attending quickly enough when called to deal with a criminal situation. She **proposed** inviting James Honeywell to a Chamber Meeting to talk about the training available to shop owners.

Geoff Kestell said that shop-lifting had always been a low priority for the Police. Joy advised that 'reported' crimes had gone down.

Phil Taylor and the Chairman related their experience of how this problem was dealt with in their former towns/areas. Joy's suggestion to invite James Honeywell was endorsed.

Joy reported that Fin Irwin had been granted funds to enable work to be done with troubled youngsters and that ideas included the treatment of graffiti as art which she felt was a positive idea.

**Bodmin Business Breakfast:** The Chairman reported as per Agenda Item.

**New Members:** The Chairman advised that an application for membership had been received from Roselyn School, near Churchtown. After discussion, the Chairman

confirmed that applicants for membership should either be situated within Bodmin itself or have a business interest in the Bodmin area and that the constitution provided that new members must be proposed and seconded. After further discussion, Roselyn School was proposed, seconded and **agreed**. It was further **agreed** that all future applications for membership would be formally presented at the first Chamber meeting after receipt, and that membership would automatically be granted unless any member present spoke against, in which case the matter would be put to a vote.

**Place Shaping Group:** The Chairman advised that he had attended a meeting to discuss the proposed re-shaping of Dennison Road Car Park and Joy elaborated on the background to The Better Bodmin Group and in particular, Phil Ugalde's aspirations to make Bodmin the food hub of Cornwall which was just one of a number of ideas. The Chairman confirmed that he and many other groups and organisations had been invited along to express their views and that architects has been asked to produce options as to what Dennison Road car park could be used for. Many aspects to be considered included how to bring people up into Fore Street from Dennison Road.

Geoff Kestell advised that this had all been done before but the Chairman felt it important to look at the present and the future rather than the past. Kim Roscoe advised that when this was last considered, no money had been available. He suggested that the need for parking could be solved by a multi-story car park north of Fore Street and re-iterated that in the past, Chamber had put a lot of work into the future of Bodmin.

Phil Taylor said this had been on the table for a very long time and felt something should be done as soon as possible without incurring the cost of even more consultants' fees. Chairman agreed but said funds were needed so that this could move forward. Bodmin businesses as well out-of-town businesses needed to be canvassed and he had been told that 'pots of money were available'.

He felt that Chamber should work with Better Bodmin, the latter being an ongoing organisation, and called for feedback as to whether the Steering Group members could take this forward to include getting Bodmin Chamber's Constitution updated in line with other Chambers and to liaise with other groups such as Better Bodmin.

In relation to the Constitution, Phil Taylor **proposed** setting up a Chamber Working Party specifically to consider the Constitution and to report back to the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Meeting. The Chairman referred to the attendance at Chamber's first meeting of ..... of Cornwall Chamber of Commerce and ..... **PAUL, PLEASE COMPLETE – OR DELETE!** Phil Taylor re-iterated his proposal to set up a group that could make such a recommendation to the April Meeting.

The Chairman considered the Business Breakfasts to be a good marketing arm and that B/B could become a part of Chamber i.e., a subsidiary business of Chamber, but this would have to be agreed by both parties. The Chairman said he was keen to get

businesses from outside of Bodmin Town to come along to the Breakfast Meetings at the Westberry Hotel. Phil Taylor **proposed** a plaque at the entrance to the Westberry stating that “Bodmin Chamber meets here”. The Chairman also considered the issue of a membership certificate.

**Members Trade News:** As per Agenda item, the Chairman proposed that Chamber issue a **Trade News** for Members prior to future Chamber Meetings in order to encourage attendance. (I don't remember this one at all ! PT)

**Future Bodmin & Community Improvement District:** The Chairman referred to this Agenda Item. He agreed that Fin (Irwin) could aptly take care of the **??????** side and reported that Chamber had been invited to be part of the other Groups.

**Bodmin College Request:** Alison Perrin (**or was it Melanie Thomas???**) of Bodmin College said she felt that ‘education’ was not particularly well represented. The Chairman confirmed that all areas of business should be included as part of Bodmin Chamber and that he had had a hard time trying to get the out-of-town businesses involved. Joy reported that she was trying to reach out to the out-of-town businesses through the Business Breakfast. Re Work Experience, Melanie wondered whether local businesses could be encouraged to go into College to talk to pupils about their businesses. She advised of their Careers Fair planned for December. Phil Taylor asked that she e-mail details and he would ascertain whether the Westberry Hotel might wish to get involved.

It was generally **agreed** that Chamber needs to encourage out-of-town businesses.

The Chairman asked if Members wished the Steering Group to push forward with Better Bodmin to try and get funding for to get Bodmin on the map? Phil Taylor requested that the Chairman draft a Proposal to go to Members for consideration. **AGREED.**

Joy Proposed a Christmas Party on the 14<sup>th</sup> December – **AGREED**

**Date and time of next Meeting:** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018

The Meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.