

DRAFT
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BODMIN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE HELD ON MONDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2018

The Chairman opened the Meeting and welcomed all.

The following Members were in attendance:

Paul Miles Rogers (Chairman)	
Philip Taylor/Secretary	Westberry Hotel
Phil Brown	Cornish Lime
Geoff Kestell	Martin & Budge Menswear
Lee Keat	Martin & Budge Menswear
Gill Jenkins/Secretary	Bedknobs B&B
Kim Roscoe	Kelta Systems
John Hutchens	Amber Consultancy and Training
Paula Hutchens	Amber Consultancy and Training

Apologies for Absence:

Sarah Horne, Joy Bassett and Julie Rowan (Sproulls)

Minutes of Last Meeting

It was **AGREED** Joy would be asked to complete upon her return from holiday.

Matters Arising:

The Chairman was not aware of any.

Correspondence: There was none to report.

Agenda Items

1. **Fore Street Closure:** The Chairman recapped on the history of this matter and read out a letter received from Roxanne Whittaker, the replacement Programme Controller Assistant at Wales & West. Lee Keat reported that they (Martin & Budge) had heard nothing further and that things seemed not to be progressing in the way they were told and moreover, no “Business as Usual” signs had been put up.

The Chairman advised that The Cornish Guardian has requested a follow up article re the closure and called for quotes from Geoff Kestell and Lee Keat. In response to members, the Chairman confirmed that it was up to Chamber to provide the information as journalists no longer wrote stories themselves.

Phil Taylor said he found the signage very misleading. Geoff K advised that no-one had been told that the road was going to be open at weekends. Chairman queried whether they have factored in more time than they actually need to do the job?

After further discussion, Kim Roscoe proposed issuing a statement to the effect that we keep positive and with a message that ensures people are made to feel welcome. Chairman suggested getting something out on Bodmin Voice and further emphasized the need to involve out-of-town businesses and also to get bigger businesses on board. His goal he said, was to help make Bodmin a worthwhile destination. The Meeting **AGREED** the Chairman should draft an article for the front page of this week's Guardian with Geoff and Lee (Martin & Budge) providing some comments.

2. **Christmas Lights:** Sarah Horne was not present so it was **AGREED** this item should go on to the October Agenda. Phil Brown confirmed that Fin's Lighting Plan would be funded independently.

3. **Carnival:** The Chairman said that Phil Taylor had updated him on the discussion at last month's Chamber Meeting as to whether Chamber might assist in a more hands-on way rather than have a float at next years' Carnival. Discussion ensued and suggestions made included a Raffle/A-frame promoting it and/or offering assistance on the day as Rotary does. It was felt that post-Carnival entertainment would be a good idea.

Kim Roscoe felt Heritage Day deserved Chamber's support too. He explained its significance and agreed the Chairman will look into it at a later stage along with holding a Raffle each year for a different cause.

Paula Hutchens suggested that Chamber supported the Carnival in 2019 and Heritage Day in 2020. She suggested canvassing Members to ascertain whether there was any real interest in Carnival. It was generally felt that post-Carnival entertainment was a good idea.

Date and time of next Meeting: This will take place on 15th October 2018 at 6 p.m.

6. **AOB:** The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting of the Economic & Info ... Jackie Grimsby Report re re-invigorating town centres. by Mary Portas to put together a report re the regeneration of town centres. He said he had attended with Fin and Pat Rogerson and the Council was keen to get us involved and someone at the meeting said that we only had to write a letter saying that Bodmin was in support of being considered as a Destination Town.

The Chairman felt that the Council's approach was that if they got the opportunity to spend some European money, they would always take it.

Phil Brown felt there was a sense of apathy in Bodmin e.g. the cinema. The Chairman felt that Bodmin seemed to be punching above its weight which could only be good if it

got the town more advertising and business but that it was important to be seen to be being pro-active.

Chamber Bank Account: Phil Brown reported that the balance stood at £2,449 of which £1,749 had been transferred from the old account, £80 from

He also felt it would have been a good opportunity for Chamber Members to have had a marquee at the Royal Air Force Day celebrations. Kim Roscoe advised that Chamber did have a marquee back in 2004 though he was not aware of its present whereabouts.

He also raised the question of a Chamber Banner which had been discussed at the last meeting. The Chairman said he intended to approach Falmouth Uni up on the Walker Lines Estate. After some discussion, it was agreed that Paula will get costs from the school and the Chairman will get a quote from Phoenix Print.

The Chairman felt it was important to forge as many links with the College as possible. He said he had received a request from Better Bodmin to get together. Kim referred to Phil Ugalde's work to get PGI Status for the Cornish Pasty. Now trying to make Bodmin the Food Hub of Cornwall.

Paula ... felt it was important to get all the small Community Groups together. She confirmed that the Bodmin Business Group Meetings took place on the 1st Tuesday of each month. AGREED that the Chairman and Paula would liaise.

It was further AGREED that the Chamber Christmas Party would be held at The Westberry Hotel on a date to be decided.

The next Steering Group Meeting will take place on 1st October 2018.

The Meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.