

**DRAFT**

**MINUTES OF MEMBERS' MEETING OF BODMIN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
HELD ON MONDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2019**

**Those Present:**

**Joy Bassett** (Deputy Chair) A P Bassett Solicitors

**Phil Ugalde** (Treasurer) Proper Cornish Ltd

**Phil Brown** Cornish Lime

**Balu Madhvani** Jai The Jeweller

**Alison Perrin** Bodmin College

**Paula Hutchens** Amber Training

**Hanna Irwin** Bodmin Railway/Bodmin Riding & Heritage Festival

**Sophie Hodge** Bodmin Riding & Heritage Festival + Into Bodmin

**Kim Roscoe** Kelta Systems

**Geoff Kestell** Martin & Budge Menswear

**Philip Taylor** (Secretarial) Westberry Hotel

**Sarah Horne** Roscrea B&B

**Catharine Robins** Cornwall Hospice Care

1. The Chairman opened the Meeting and welcomed all Members and Guest Speaker. Balu reminded the meeting that Steve of The Hole in the Wall wished to join Chamber.

**2. Talk by Catherine Parnall from Acceleration Through Innovation:**

Catherine introduced herself and explained that Acceleration Through Innovation was all about helping to bring ideas to market. She advised they were backed by Plymouth University and gave examples of small businesses/people whom they had successfully helped including a small Bean Bag Company that had become incredibly successful after research by AtI had helped the company to achieve its goal.

She confirmed that AtI worked with businesses right across the sector and was an ERDF funded programme. She believed that ATI would be in Bodmin towards the end of the year and meanwhile anyone interested could register online. She confirmed that EU funding would run until March 2020. A minimum of 12 hours consultancy was offered up to £1500 followed by

match-funding. Catherine welcomed enquiries on behalf of ATI and answered questions from Members. The Chairman thanked Catherine for her attendance and information that she shared with the Meeting.

### 3. Chamber Business

- a) **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Chris Wilkes, Paul Miles Rogers and Lee Keast
- b) **Minutes of previous Meeting - 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019:** PM-R said that following a meeting with Sproull re the Bodmin Breakfast Group, it was confirmed that there would be a meeting on the first Tuesday in March and he would attend.

Subject to correction of a typo on page 5 of the Minutes, they were formally signed by the Chairman as a true record.

- c) **Matters Arising:** re Page 5, Phil Ugalde raised the issues of potential funding for Chamber and Better Bodmin. The Chair said she would give an update on the Future Funding Scheme in the Town Council Update.
- d) **Correspondence:** There was none.
- e) **Town Council Update:** The Chairman reported that she had written to Stephen Horscroft to express her disappointment that Bodmin had not been considered for the Future Funding for Towns Centre because we did not meet the population criteria of £20,000. A meeting was arranged where Stephen had a chance to meet some of the town councillors, business owners and representatives from the Chamber and hear first-hand the progress Bodmin as a town was making. He recommend that Bodmin complete the application form anyway – the process will be useful as a way to help prepare us for future funding opportunities.

Balu reported that he was due to meet with Ian Saltern (CLLD) re funding. PU agreed it was a shame and felt it was essential to make a noise to ensure that Bodmin is recognised as a town worth working for. The Chairman reiterated these sentiments.

After further discussion, it was generally agreed that success was more likely to be achieved by acting collectively. Balu said that a lot of European funding was not being used. He felt that the new Council was being particularly positive.

Hannah raised the question of the new website for TIC and the Town Council and its delay with the result that Bodmin Town and its Attractions were not currently being promoted via the website which was something of a missed opportunity. Discussion followed and PT pointed out that every Chamber Member was entitled to a page on the Chamber website.

**f) Press release re Free Membership by PT:** PB felt it should be emphasized that Bodmin was a great town and should urge support. The Chairman said she would circulate it by e-mail and agreed the Press Release should include both Colleges and Bodmin Jail. She confirmed that an extra paragraph could be added without the need for a further vote.

**g) Update on Vision for Bodmin:** Chairman advised that Neil Pendleton had prepared a draft “Bodmin 2030 and Beyond”. She called on Members to read and offer any observations and additions. A meeting with the Council was planned for the next day with a further meeting in March. PU believed we should be inspirational and focused on trying to make Bodmin work as a community (rather than just bricks and mortar) and the importance of identifying what it is that really sets Bodmin apart.

Balu proposed a proper Farmers’ Market but after considerable discussion and the first-hand knowledge of Sarah (Horne) it was accepted that insurance requirements and other applicable regulations including Food Hygiene and Health & Safety as well as the need for electricity, simply made it prohibitive.

Sophie (Hodge) advised the The Bodmin riding & Heritage Festival would run over 3 days this year and she hoped to be able to work with local businesses as well as Chamber Members.

Hannah believed that Friday and Sunday would attract local people and it was hoped that Saturday would attract visitors. Friday night would be Food on the Folly and supported too by the Folk Club. On Sunday would be the

Parkrun with activities at the boxing club and with football and rugby too, the aim was to get people out and actively involved.

For the main festival on Saturday, the roads would be closed, a good programme of entertainment was planned and it was hoped that local businesses would both advertise as well as offer sponsorship.

The Chairman requested that this be promoted on the Chamber website. In response to PT, Hannah said that the Festival may possibly include horses. It was confirmed that the Riding and Heritage Festival customarily took place on the first weekend in July.

Balu re-iterated the importance of closing the roads actually from Mount Folly and requested confirmation that this would be so. The Chairman re-iterated the importance of communication so that everyone knew what was going on - website address for the Festival  
**[www.bodminridingandheritage.org.uk](http://www.bodminridingandheritage.org.uk)**

Geoff Kestell urged support by the Chamber for Bodmin's biggest event of the year.

PB advised of a Working Group on Shire Hall Suite as regards its future. The Chairman queried whether the Town Council needed to put something on its website. PU felt it vital to ensure that Shire Hall be preserved for use by the people of Bodmin. The Chairman confirmed a date was fixed for 2<sup>nd</sup> March at the old Library where members of the public could come and discuss this and other issues of interest.

PB felt it essential that the Council should retain its assets including Shire Hall Suite.

**h) Date and time of next Meeting and Speaker:** The next Chamber Meeting will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and Guest Speaker will be Jules Burton from Unlocking Potential.

The Meeting closed at 19.38