

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

Those Present:

Paul Miles Rogers (Chairman)
Joy Bassett (Deputy Chair) A P Bassett, Solicitors
Phil Ugalde (Treasurer) Proper Cornish Ltd
Phil Brown Cornish Lime
Balu Madhvani Jai The Jeweller
Kim Roscoe Kelta Systems
Geoff Kestell Martin & Budge Menswear
Lee Keat Martin & Budge Menswear
Philip Taylor (Secretariat) Westberry Hotel
The Rev. Paul Holley

Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from: Paula Hutchens and Alison Perrin

Speaker - Unlocking Potential: The Chairman introduced the Meeting's Guest Speakers, Debbie Horner and Jules Burton from the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Growth Hub. Debbie explained their respective roles within the organisation that was known for its work in helping SMEs in Cornwall. A key focus was in encouraging businesses to take on graduates in order to stop them leaving the county.

She advised that they ran events and brought successful business leaders into the County to encourage and help both start-ups as well as bigger businesses and to help businesses get to the next level. She explained that the Growth Hub was the facilitating organisation which could signpost people/businesses to the help and support that was available. They also ran 2-day Workshops for both start-up and early stage businesses.

She advised that another programme was planned for businesses that turned over up to £500,000 offering help on exporting for example as well as leadership and marketing skills. Businesses involved in whichever programme, enabled them to seek grant funding.

She explained how the 3-part programme worked with guest speakers and collaboration with other businesses. The next event would take place in May. In addition, there were some interesting courses coming up and that it was all about what others were doing and how the Hub could help businesses here in Cornwall, to look at their own businesses and make changes that might stimulate and improve them. She confirmed that the Breakthrough Scheme would remain funded in Cornwall until October 2021

The Guests then took questions from Members after which the Chairman thanked Debbie and Jules for addressing the Meeting and invited them to stay for the remainder if they wished.

Minutes of Last Chamber Meeting:

Phil Taylor reported that the Press Article offering free Chamber Membership had been published in the North Cornwall Advertiser. Phil Ugalde confirmed that 2 new members had signed up.

The Minutes were formally Moved, Seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Matters Arising: There were none

Correspondence There was none

Agenda Items:

Chairman's Report: The Chairman referred Members to his report and to a meeting that he, Joy and other Steering Group Members had attended to discuss the socio economic strategy. Joy reported that this had focused on local authorities using local businesses for local procurement. She referred to the Preston model.

The Chairman further explained how it would work and in reply to Kim Roscoe, confirmed that the Council had been represented at the meeting.

Re the High Street Fund: The Chairman reported that at a meeting with the Cornwall Council representative, he had enlightened him as to what was going on in the town and whilst not necessarily eligible for that fund, it was hoped that Bodmin will be considered for possible future funding. Joy elaborated upon the history of this matter and Chambers' involvement.

The Chairman advised that he had presented a similar opportunity in the Midlands last year to that offered by the Growth Hub, namely the opportunity for retail shops to liaise with their customers via social media.

In response to Phil Ugalde, the Chairman confirmed it was an example of what could be done if funding was available. Joy confirmed that Chamber had not actually completed the High Street Fund form and the Chairman confirmed that if Chamber decided it was the right thing to do then either he or Joy would have to do it. After further discussion, she said she felt it had been a useful exercise.

The Chairman reported that Chamber was being asked to become involved in many things and was concerned that there were not the resources to do this. Geoff Kestell

felt that Chamber should concentrate on what was going on at present in order to encourage people to become involved and also be seen to be supporting our local initiatives such as the Boxing Club. Balu felt it was important for Chamber to be looking to the future and confirmed that he had always been supported by Chamber on occasions that he had needed it.

In relation to the Chairman's Report, Kim Roscoe felt that the work done with Cornwall Council was starting to create an awareness of Bodmin but that Chamber needed to be seen to be succeeding in order to properly promote it.

Phil Ugalde felt that the town was similar to a business and therefore a strategy was needed to get the footfall. He felt that more people needed to be playing active roles and that more new members were needed. Kim Roscoe asked whether there were any Bodmin people who had started businesses in the town? Confirmed there were a few.

Phil Brown said for him it was all about doing something for Bodmin. He believed that there should be communication between Bodmin Town Council, Cornwall Council and the town. Joy felt there was a disconnect between them though Phil Ugalde did feel that things had improved slightly. He believed the biggest problem for Chamber was getting people to do things between meetings.

In reply to Kim Roscoe, the Chairman confirmed that the town was not big enough for BID. Phil Ugalde asked Kim Roscoe where thought the funding might come from? The Chairman felt that funding for a post would not be a problem and confirmed that funding through a company limited by guarantee offered a better choice of funding options.

Kim Roscoe said Chamber needed something that was demonstrable to the public and which could also be fed back into the Council. In reply to Phil Ugalde, he said he would search for an "acorn". He felt it essential to engage with the youth of the town. The Chairman said he had met a young lady looking to set up a business creating Bodmin Souvenirs. Could this be the "acorn"?

The Chairman said that if Chamber succeeded in getting funding, it would need to prove it could become self-financing.

Re: The Beacon and Community working together: The Chairman reported on progress. He gave examples of organisations working together and sharing facilities for example, the Doctors' Practices moving up to Bodmin Hospital. After considerable discussion, it was Agreed that Joy would **Sorry Joy, I've got a big blank here**

Chamber AGM: Discussion ensued. The Chairman felt that the AGM should be blogged on a daily basis.

Kim Roscoe said he was willing to donate some time to help get the project/acorn off the ground and Lee Keat confirmed that he would be willing to be involved too. Balu advised he had been unable to get funding for raised beds in Honey Street.

Phil Ugalde reported that they had been unable to secure funding for executive help. He wondered whether a campaign in the town might bring an offer of help for say, 6 months. Joy believed that the Chairman (who by then had had to leave the Meeting) had found funding. She confirmed that this item would be on the agenda of the next meeting. She said we also needed to look at how we can make our Chamber grow and referred to courses run by Falmouth University. It was suggested that Bodmin College would be preferable.

d) Joy advised of a Meeting the following evening at 5.30 at the Old Library to which all business members were welcome and at which all the stakeholders would be present.

Phil Brown Proposed that Chamber, through PMR, should thank Neil ??????? on behalf of Chamber. After discussion, Joy asked whether Chamber wished to commit to the Shared Vision that was being presented. Phil Ugalde suggested that Chamber support in principle. Joy Proposed “Chamber will play its part in making the Vision work”

A.O.B.

Phil Ugalde confirmed that the topic of a Paid Resource had already been covered.

He proposed that “Format of Minutes” be on the Agenda each month. He felt it was never clear what decision had been taken on agenda items. It was AGREED that items requiring a decision should henceforth be formally Moved and Seconded and the result of the Vote recorded in the Minutes.

In relation to the layout of tables for future Meetings, it was explained by Phil Taylor and understood by the meeting that if tables were re-arranged for the purpose of a Chamber meeting that they would be returned to their original positions at the end.

It was AGREED that the venue for the AGM would be The Westberry Hotel. Phil Ugalde kindly offered to donate Cornish Pasties which offer was gratefully accepted. It was also AGREED to approach the College with regard to a flyer.

Joy offered and it was AGREED that Bassetts would sponsor the tea and coffee. With regard to The Westberry’s costs, Kim Roscoe (Kelta Systems) and Balu (Jai Jewellers) kindly offered a donation of £50. This was Seconded and AGREED with 1 abstention.

Joy requested that Sponsors send in their logos as soon as possible.

The Meeting ended at 20.00 hrs