



BODMIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

– Building a better Bodmin in Business for the Community

Minutes of General Chamber meeting held on Zoom on 18th January, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Zoom Meeting ID: *redacted*; Passcode: *redacted*.

Present: Joy Bassett, Carol Randall, Phill Gale, Jane Tily, Phil Taylor, Phil Brown, Rob Wood, Daryn Dodge, Darren Buckley, Andrew Kirk

Apologies from Paul Miles Rogers, Balu Madhvani, Paula Hutchens, Martin Hemmerle

Minutes

Minutes of the November meeting were accepted as an accurate record. Phil Taylor spotted some typos which will be corrected for final version for filing.

Action: CR to correct typos and send to Joy for filing

Matter Arising

Window stickers

Joy suggested that people should be picking up the window stickers from the Westberry Hotel. Phil T confirmed there are still lots of stickers to be picked up and Chamber members can get a discount from their takeaway if they pick one up at the same time as their sticker. The stickers are small enough to go on a car window, but Phil advised that the police will not be happy if they are put on the front windscreen.

Search Facility on Virtual Market

Carol R did check on the search facility for the Virtual Market and it was functioning so not sure why Phil T had problems. Phil asked if the market was still active, and was assured that it was.

Welcome to new member Andrew Kirk

Joy welcomed Andrew Kirk, a new member and invited him to introduce himself. Andrew works for Tilney Financial Planning, has lived in Bodmin for 32 years, and is keen to help support the town through the Chamber and while at the same time building his network.

Membership update

Phil T reported that we now have 35 individual members from 24 distinct organisations. Joined since last meeting have been Andrew Kirk of Tilney Financial Planning and Nathalie Swift of Swift HR.

Phill Gale suggested that we should be approaching businesses on the Walker Lines estate regarding becoming members. Carol reported that she has Googled businesses in all the Bodmin industrial estates

and has built up a database of email addresses. Her proposed plan is to send our Chamber Business Plan to them with an invitation to join. Joy added that British Chamber advised us to use our Business Plan to help recruit new members.

The Business Plan needs to have an Executive Summary added but will then be ready to be sent out.

Action: Carol to add Executive Summary to Business Plan and do Email campaign

Finance update

Phil B reported that the account has a balance of £2724.85.

2020 -2025 Business Plan

The Chamber's Business plan was circulated to all members but many had not had time to read it so there was very little discussion about it. Joy did comment that this will now give us some structure to work with. Jane commented that she had not had a chance to read it yet but liked the plans showing planning uses in the town centre.

Kickstart Scheme Update – Finding 30 placements

Joy reported that now that we have registered as a limited company, we have approached the DWP to see if we can act as an intermediary for the Kickstart Scheme. They have changed their guidelines and have invited us to send an application for 30 places. Joy explained that this is a potential source of income for the Chamber and an opportunity to help local youngsters.

Carol added that the Kickstart programme has had its problems as the DWP were given only days to launch it. She knows of one business who applied for two places through Cornwall College, have waited more than two months already, and have still heard nothing. She added that she will check if any changes have been made since we put together our Briefing note and then email members to get expressions of interest. She will also work on some template forms to make it easier for employers to submit applications.

Carol also said that it was her understanding that if applications were submitted to start at a specified date, they would still be valid if circumstances meant that these were delayed.

Darren Buckley added that Cornwall Chamber have also experienced problems with the scheme finding candidates. He mentioned that Cornwall Chamber has a new funded scheme they are working on with partners, including Truro College, called the Employers Led Skills programme where they find specific tutors for training needs. He said it was available until March 2023. Darren said he would send information about this to us.

Darren also mentioned that Cornwall Chamber are running 10 Masterclasses on various topics such as book-keeping and marketing.

Action: Carol to update Kickstart briefing note and email to Chamber members to gauge interest.

Bodmin Virtual Market Update

Carol reported that the Virtual Market has been a real success and has been particularly utilised by very small businesses especially crafters, artists and cake makers. There are more than a thousand members,

with 120 of those being traders. She said that the credit must go to Dave Birch who has worked hard to give the Virtual Market a vibrant personality and given lots of help and advice. We had originally planned for this to be for Christmas shopping and to review in January. This has been done and Dave is happy to keep going with it and we decided to take the following actions:

- Dave will draw up a list of events and occasions that he will get traders to focus on, e.g., St Valentine's Day, Easter, etc.
- Carol and Joy will invite produce providers that may be outside of Bodmin but who are prepared to deliver to Bodmin which will be of interest to the buyers who are members and is especially useful during lockdown e.g. the goat farm in Pensilva and St Ewe eggs just outside Truro who have been running a "Shell Out to Help Out" campaign selling trays of their eggs at £3 for 30 eggs. They were here at the Bodmin and Wenford station on Saturday. For every tray they sell they are giving one to local food banks.
- Carol and Joy are to speak with Paul Miles Rogers to explore what advice and training services could be shared with the traders to help them develop their businesses.

Action: Carol and Joy to invite produce businesses to join

Action: Carol to speak to Paul Miles Rogers about possible offerings to Virtual Market traders

Any Other Business

ATI experiences and other help

Phill Gale mentioned that Paul Miles Rogers had helped him, through a contact in ATI, to contact someone who might be interested to learn about clock making. Phil B said that his business had a bad experience with ATI some years ago when they were promised help and it never materialised. Joy pointed out that this was before Paul was there and he is now helping a lot of businesses.

Carol mentioned that one of the issues with some of the business consultants offering free European fund help is that they may come up with a plan that is perfectly valid but that many small businesses do not always have the time, or the expertise, to execute these plans so get to see it as a waste of their time.

G7 Summit and Tour of Britain

Darren Buckley mentioned the G7 summit which is going to be held in June 2021 at the Carbis Bay Hotel. Cornwall Chamber have been involved in recent discussions and are looking forward to showcasing the exciting developments in Cornwall. Phil T added that someone had booked all the rooms at the Westberry at rock bottom prices before the public announcement had been made, and so not all local hotels will benefit equally from this visit.

There was also mention of the Tour of Britain that is due to come to Bodmin in September. Phil T mentioned that the St Piran cycling club, here in Cornwall, is ranked 67th in the world which is a significant achievement.

Jane looking for office in town centre.

Jane said that she was looking to rent a small office in the town centre for her architect's practice and asked if members could let her know if they hear of anything as she is struggling to find something. She only needs a small unit, with parking and toilet facilities. She does not need a shop front but needs to be able to invite clients in for meetings. She is happy to consider sharing.

Carol suggested she put a post on Bodmin Business Facebook page and offered to put a post on the Chamber Facebook page. Phil T suggested that the Bodmin Virtual Market might be another possibility.

Action: Carol to post for Jane on Facebook page

Upcoming Meetings

The Next Breakfast Meetings are 8am on 19th January with Zoom ID 817 7307 9033 and Passcode 766861, and 8 am on 1st February when Scott Mann should be with us again. Zoom ID 832 6566 5802, Passcode 051647.

Date of Next Chamber Meeting – Monday 15th February at the new time of 6.30 pm.

Zoom ID: *redacted*; Passcode: *redacted*.