



# **(draft) Minutes of the Meeting of Bodmin Chamber of Commerce & Industry, held at the Westberry Hotel on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present: Joy Bassett, Carol Randall, Phill Gale, Chris Hallett, Balu Madhvani, Russell Cosway, Phil Taylor, Rob Wood, Paul Holley, Shane Solomon (arrived later)**

**Apologies from Paula Hutchens, Jane Tily, Daryn Dodge**

## **Minutes**

The Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> September meeting were accepted as an accurate record by those present who had also been present at the September meeting.

## **Matters arising**

Phil Taylor reported that a member had still not renewed as far as returning the renewal form is concerned and is therefore, technically, no longer a member. Joy said she would speak with the Treasurer to check if payment had been made, and if not will contact the member concerned. She knows he is very busy, so it has probably slipped his mind.

**Action: Joy to speak to Phil Brown about membership payments**

## **Ellie Mason – Bodmin Life (was Bodmin Banner)**

Joy reported that unfortunately Ellie was unable to attend the meeting and read an email that Ellie had sent to her about the Bodmin Life first edition. She specifically mentioned that the new magazine would have a Wasson section and Ellie invited any business or organisation to send the following to [rosie@launcestonlife.com](mailto:rosie@launcestonlife.com) with

- Event / Business name
- Date
- Location
- Ticket Price (if applicable)
- Contact details for information
- 1 short sentence giving a description

Inclusion to this section will be free to the community and must be received by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October to be included in the November edition. Joy added that the new Bodmin Life magazine would be 40 pages, possibly larger in future issues.

Paul Holley added that Bodmin Way is partnering with Bodmin Life as their newsletter and Bodmin Life were essentially trying to do the same thing and it made sense to work together. Paul said he was very impressed with Ellie and the team at Bodmin life, and that Barbara Brittain would be working on it. He said that it would be published bi-monthly but with a much

larger circulation than the Banner. Also, copies would be delivered by Royal Mail so much more reliable circulation. He added that advertising space would be available.

**Action: Joy to circulate Ellie's email immediately after the meeting in case anyone wanted to send anything for the deadline.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Phil Brown was absent and had not sent a report. Phil Taylor queried if the Cornwall Chamber overdue invoice for the subscription had been settled and Joy confirmed that it had.

Joy reported that the £600+VAT payment for Cornwall Channel was due to be paid. Joy added that this would pay for 4 sessions in the studio of either film or podcast. Phil T asked what the videos would be about, and Carol replied that this was on the agenda to discuss to see what members wanted to use it for.

Joy went on to say that the G7 event that we did at the Cornwall Channel had helped to spark more interest in the Agri-Food Hub in Bodmin that Phil Ugalde had begun years before. She added that discussions about this are progressing well and we are having discussions with Stephen Rushworth and Pete Perry, a Cornwall Councillor who has been proposing a central fish processing and canning plant in Cornwall and who thinks that Bodmin would be an ideal spot. We are now working on research to pull together an evidence base and business plan.

One of the possible services in Bodmin would be a canning and bottling plant but others were also being researched in terms of demand. Another idea would be to have a retail outlet showcasing Cornwall Produce.

Phil T said that he could not remember the G7 video so Carol said she would resend the link to members.

### **Membership Secretary's report**

Phil T reported that in 2020 we had 42 members representing 27 organisations and we now have 31 members representing 20 organisations. Phil T thought it would be worth speaking to those members who did not renew.

**Action: Joy and Carol to review membership list**

### **Survey Update**

Carol reported that the questionnaire has now been completed by several Chamber members with no negative feedback and we therefore feel that it is OK to launch. Carol said she would be doing an article in Bodmin Voice about it and will approach the members of the Bodmin Virtual Market and publicise it on Facebook. Balu asked if we had asked traders on the Virtual Market to be members. Carol responded that we have not done this yet but that she was hoping that we can start to build a relationship with them when we start a conversation with them about

the research and what they would like to see us offer in terms of support. Carol added that it is important to remember that Chamber Officers are volunteers, so it isn't possible to do everything, and that many times we have asked members for their ideas and suggestions regarding events etc and typically had no response at all.

This sparked a long conversation about why we cannot attract members to Chamber. Russell said that the Lostwithiel Business Group has 150 members and so Bodmin Chamber should have many more as it is a much larger place. Phil T said that Lostwithiel has a close community generally and is more like a village in that respect, and also mentioned Marden Business Forum (another "non-chamber") which similarly attracts very high membership.

Chris Hallett said that until Joy mentioned Chamber to him, he had heard nothing about it at all. This led to a discussion about how we might promote Chamber given that we have limited resources. There was discussion about the possibility of holding more informal networking events which may have a wider appeal.

It was suggested that we don't call ourselves a Chamber, but Carol noted that we had paid £500 to British Chamber of Commerce to incorporate as Bodmin Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ltd only last year.

After much discussion it was agreed that we might look to host a Christmas dinner evening on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Westberry as the Westberry is not offering Christmas parties this year but Asian buffet events with tables of 8. It was agreed we would look at 10 tables of 8. Phil T checked availability and 6<sup>th</sup> Dec was provisionally booked. Cost is not yet known and Covid is still a risk.

### **Shane Solomon – Cornwall Channel new product**

Shane shared that some of his clients do not want to have professional videos but would like to produce their own. Shane and Louise Brooks Curry, from Cornwall Marine Network, have worked together to put together a subsidised training course to help people make their own videos. If anyone is interested in knowing more, please contact Shane at [cornwallchannel.co.uk](http://cornwallchannel.co.uk).

Shane invited Chamber members to come and visit his studio for a tour of the facilities.

### **Welcome Back Fund (WBF) Update**

Carol reported that despite chasing, the CDC have not sent us the information that we need as an offer letter so that we can progress with our bid for gazebos and other equipment to run a regular market in town and performance events.

Carol said it is unfortunate that the Christmas market we were hoping to help Bodmin Town Council run may not be possible because of the CDC delays.

## **Town Team/ Town Vitality Bid Update**

Carol gave a quick update about the Town Team. She said that she would be delivering a letter to all Bodmin town centre traders to ask them to nominate a representative on the town team.

She also explained that it had been agreed that the charrette, a form of public consultation, would take place in Spring 2022 and Chamber would be organising a meeting of Chamber members and other business people as preparation for this consultation

Balu asked who the members of the Town Team were and put himself forward as a potential member to represent sporting organisations. Carol referred him to the trader letter she had given him, as this contained an explanation of the membership structure and explained that the Group could not be too large as it had to be manageable. She explained that as part of the Communications Strategy the TT was exploring the possibility of having an Engagement Group which would consist of representatives of smaller organisations. This would allow any individual or organisation to receive regular email updates and the chance to offer feedback. Phil T asked to whom the Team reported, and was told “no-one”. He then asked if it was an entirely autonomous organisation and was informed that it was.

## **Date of next meeting**

Next Chamber meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021.