



BODMIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

— Building a better Bodmin in Business for the Community

Minutes of General Chamber meeting held on Zoom on 21st September 2020 at 6pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81497983212?pwd=ZnZqVlZlZS9PY3lzOHYxZnJhODQ0dz09>

Meeting ID: 814 9798 3212 Passcode: 682164 The meeting was recorded on Zoom

Present: Joy Bassett, Carol Randall, Paul Miles Rogers, Phill Gale, Jane Tily

Apologies from Rajesh Joshi, Phil Taylor, Phil Brown, Paula Hutchens

No Membership or Finance updates

Kickstart Scheme Update

Joy explained that we are very keen for Chamber to be a representative for the Government Kickstart Scheme. However, to be eligible to be a representative the Chamber needs to register at Companies House and Joy asked who would support this.

Paul said that participating in the Kickstart Scheme in this way could potentially be a game-changer for the Chamber and fully supported registration as a CIC. Carol explained that CIC registration is a longer process than the simpler, and much faster, process of Limited by Guarantee so it was unanimously agreed to take the simplest route. It is possible to convert status should we wish to in future. Limited by Guarantee is also the status used by Cornwall Chamber. Paul also proposed that once this was done, we could also look at adopting the Cornwall Chamber's rules and regulations.

Jane pointed out that while she recognised that registration would mean additional tasks, such as submitting accounts she was supportive of registration. Joy said she had spoken to Phil Brown, Chamber Treasurer, and he was supportive of registration.

It was unanimously agreed that Chamber should register and inform all members. Joy said she would register Chamber the next day so that we can apply for the Kickstart representative programme as soon as possible and resume that work.

Joy also mentioned that Paula Hutchens, of Amber Consultancy, has put together an excellent training and mentoring programme for employers to use to deliver the required training for the participants of the Kickstart Scheme. This will be offered to employers by Chamber as a recommended option. Employers can choose not to use this programme but will have to provide evidence that they are delivering the required training in some way.

Action: Joy to register Chamber at Companies House

Meeting Links Update

Paul and Joy have set up the Zoom recurring links for the Chamber General meetings and the Breakfast Meetings. This means that the Zoom link ID for the Chamber meeting will always be the same. There will also be one link ID for the 1st Tuesday Breakfast Meetings and another for the 3rd Tuesday Breakfast

Meetings. These recurring Zoom Link IDs are the Link IDs mentioned below in the Upcoming meetings section.

Paul is also going to try to organise Hootsuite to automatically schedule Tweets for the meetings.

Action: Paul to sort Hootsuite for meeting tweets

New Officer

Joy suggested that as Paul Miles Rogers is still so active on Chamber activities that he should be on the Chamber Committee. It was suggested that Paul should be given the title of Development Officer and all present agreed.

Festival of Business Update

Paul thanked the people who suggested amendments to the wording on the Eventbrite page for the Bodmin Chamber Networking Breakfast Session at the Cornwall Virtual Festival of Business. The amendments have been made and it has been sent to Cornwall Chamber. This Session will be at 8am on Tuesday the 3rd November and the Eventbrite link is <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/121564307115>

The plan is for this to be a special edition of our Virtual Breakfast meeting and we will be asking some successful Bodmin businesses to speak about their business. The objective is for this networking session to showcase Bodmin as a place to do business.

Christmas Market on Saturday, 5th December Update

Carol and Joy have been working on the market plans. Carol sent an update before this meeting to all members. Joy suggested that 25 stalls should be achievable in the space available, but we still need measure up and confirm. She said that we would start inviting potential stall holders in the next week. Carol said she would put together a list of possible businesses that we could invite to have a stall and circulate it to members for them to add any suggestions.

Joy also said that Karen Philips has volunteered to help with this. Karen is one of the Town Councillors looking at the opportunity for the Town Council to apply for a Market Authority licence and run regular markets. Karen has a contact who ran the Padstow Christmas market last year and has sent the forms that Padstow used for their stall holders. Carol also has some from the Falmouth market and is going to "Bodminise" them.

Carol also spoke to Sarah Horne, who ran a market on the Folly back in 2011. She was very helpful but reported that it was not a success because people just didn't come and there was not enough business to keep the traders coming. She said that the feedback was that "It wasn't like the old one".

There was a discussion about gazebos and Carol said she has been trying to contact Aussie Marquees, who Karen Philips had found helpful in previous discussions. She was unable to get through to them and left Voicemail messages. Carol reported that she thinks that, given how hard it is to find gazebos for hire and the fact that we do not have any budget to pay for them, it is likely that we will have to ask traders to bring their own. The downside of this is that it can look untidy if they are all different and the risk is that they are not weather proof or robust enough and are potentially a hazard.

Jane mentioned that it might be possible to attach hooks to the buildings along Fore Street and have an awning over the street. She thought this might work as the street is very narrow.

The possible impact of Covid restrictions was also discussed but it was felt that as this event will all be in the open air, it should be OK. The other risk is that people are too concerned about the transmission risk that they do not come to the market. We need to be aware of the possibility that it may have to be cancelled.

Paul said that he has a Win a Mini stand that he can bring if it is felt to be appropriate.

Action: Carol to prepare forms for stall holders and circulate list of potential stall holders to members for suggestions for others

Action: Carol and Joy to measure up and prepare plan

Bodmin College Video

Joy has been talking to Bodmin College about the possibility of their digital Media students doing a video for us. It was felt that they could do a promotional video for Bodmin as a great place to invest. Paul suggested that Kickstart would be another good topic for a video.

Action: Joy will follow up with College

Window Sticker update

Jane gave an update regarding the design of the window sticker. Al Shiner, the graphic designer who is working on it has recently moved to the Bodmin area and is looking for work in the area. He is making progress on a design. Jane gave him a screen shot of the minutes with the proposed wording and has given him a deadline of the end of October. Joy said that we should not expect him to do the work for nothing and to ask him for an indication of the cost for his professional services. Chamber will obviously pay for printing. There was a discussion about whether Chamber should pay for the stickers or members. Phil Gale and Jane both said that they would be happy to pay for theirs. Joy suggested that we could invite Al to present it at one of our Breakfast meetings. Carol suggested that he join Chamber as it would be free and may well help him make contacts in the area.

Action: Jane will follow up on these ideas with Al

AOB

Jane shared with us that the Cornish Buildings Group tweeted a video by the Cornish Buildings Group of buildings of note in Redruth. The Cornish Buildings Group exists to stimulate interest, appreciation and knowledge of good buildings in Cornwall.

Upcoming Meetings

Date of Next Business Breakfast Meetings – Tuesday 6th October at 8 am with Dan Dicker from Circular and Co as guest and MP for North Cornwall, Scott Mann

Zoom ID: 832 6566 5802 Passcode: 051647

and **Tuesday 20th October**, Zoom ID 817 7307 9033 Passcode: 766861

Date of Next Chamber Meeting - Monday 19th October at 6pm

Zoom ID: 814 9798 3212 Passcode: 632164