

BOSCASTLE CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 19th March 2020 at Bridge House

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Executive Committee of the BCTC deals with administration of the BCTC's business. The Executive will have the power to deal with all matters of the BCTC in between BCTC general meetings. The Chairman can call meetings of the Executive Committee at any time.

Present: Debbie Beszant, Nick Chater, Fergus Moffat, Louise Smith, Jon Ward, Ross Yates, Chris Searle, Roz Fentum

Apologies: Claire Bailey

Quorum

The chairperson notified the members that the meeting was quorate being that two thirds of the executive committee being present, therefore, the Executive meeting continued.

Matters arising from the previous meeting

Deferred to General Meeting.

Unprecedented times and access to grants for Members

The Executive Committee of the BCTC discussed the current climate and the severe interruption to business that many of our Members will be facing in the ongoing weeks and months.

It was voted and agreed that as a short-term emergency measure, Members would be welcome to request access to an emergency bridging loan from the monies held in the BCTC deposit account. Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and only be discussed by the Executive Committee. Depending on the level of need and demand, an amount will be offered and if accepted a simple loan agreement will be drawn up and a cheque issued with the agreement detailing how the repayment will be made.

We have many different types of businesses within the Chamber and each business will feel the pinch of COVID-19 and the effects on their particular business at different times over the coming months. Some businesses are seeing the effects now, whilst others may be able to manage immediately, but may need support a month or so further down the line. Therefore, the Executive Committee envisage multiple phases to the loan offer, with immediate loans being made initially, and hopefully repaid within a short term, freeing up further borrowing to other members in the coming weeks and months. We intend to keep the loan offers under regular review.

The Executive Committee's view was clear we need to work together and help each other where we can. A formal letter will be drafted and sent to the Membership urgently.

Boscastle and Crackington Gig Club

The BCTC received correspondence from the club regarding their annual regatta in the harbour and a request for a loan proposal for a new gig.

The Executive Committee believe that the club has already have held the regatta for some years and that their organisation and timings are generally well accepted. However, the Executive Committee encourage extended dialogue with other community groups to ensure there is not a clash with any other events. The Executive Committee further encourage the club to revisit all the usual points for consideration: parking, event management and communication.

Regarding the loan proposal, the Executive Committee believe that the Membership, rather than the Executive, needs to consider the loan proposal. There has been points raised by individual Executive Members that need further discussion; loan amount, repayment plan, security and an emphasis of continued community involvement in their club. These points need to be addressed prior to the Membership meeting scheduled for June.

Boscastle Walking Week 2020

Selena had planned to give a narrative update regarding the event however with circumstances being fluid, it would follow in due course. As always, the Executive Committee thank Selena and her team in their work and preparation of the event. We can only imagine the huge amount of consideration they have had to face with the COVID-19 circumstances.

Next meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday 10th June 2020 as previously advertised. Should any additional activities or issues arise, additional meetings will be organised and publicised accordingly.