

BOSCASTLE CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 11th March 2019 The Riverside

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Debbie Beszant, Nick Chater, Paul Stedman, Louise Smith, Jon Ward, Ross Yates, Claire Bailey

Apologies: none received

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.

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.

Commencement of the BCTC Executive Committee meeting:

Matters arising from the previous meeting: deferred to General Meeting.

Road closure and signage

The BCTC has continued to lobby key stakeholders regarding the road closure. The committee thanked particularly the work of Nick and Peter who have been at the forefront of following up responses from Cornwall Council and Cormac on behalf of the BCTC.

Cormac has provided the following narrative update for members as of Monday 11th March:

“The steelwork cages on bays one and three have been constructed, secured to the piles and the timber shuttering assembled around them, to form the cap itself. The concrete has now been poured and the same operations will now follow in bay two. Following this, the shuttering will be removed and the caps waterproofed. We can then commence the backfilling, compacting and adding a further protective layer, before final surfacing. We are ahead of programme. We are reluctant to commit to an overly optimistic finish date, however subject to as you say to continued rates of progress and no unforeseen engineering difficulties, New Road will be open for the start of the Cornish school holidays.”

The BCTC will continue to correspond with the key stakeholders seeking further updates, clarification on 'Cornish school holidays'/formal completion date and will push for completion by the end of March.

The Blowhole

At a meeting of the editorial team this morning, there was an opportunity to fill the front page of the Spring edition of the 2019 publication due hit doormats mid-April. Rather than it talk about the negative of the road closure, it was suggested to highlight what we have to offer. Whilst we can promote the tough environment village businesses face currently, the article could focus on what Boscastle businesses offer already and do residents truly use their village to the full extent that they could. This could also be used to coincide that Boscastle is “open” for when the road closure is lifted and circulated to other media outlets.

We propose a promotional photograph of traders and business folk on the lower bridge holding something relevant to their business with Boscastle Harbour and Queen's Head in the background.

Boscastle Festival

Social media posts have been brought to the attention of Members regarding a proposal to hold a festival in the upper car park on the 7th and 8th of September. As with previous and similar proposals and events, Members continue to raise concerns regarding the chosen date and location for any event which imposes restrictions upon business activity which is relied upon during crucial trading months. Members are keen to work with any individuals or organisations who wish to promote what Boscastle has to offer when working in harmony with the local community and the businesses that it directly affects.

Regarding the proposal seen, the Executive committee highlighted within the meeting that it supports the festival idea in principal as the organiser has previously held two events with minimal disruption and has worked to address any concerns raised. However, the Executive committee notes the change in dates with a revised chosen date at the beginning of September which as stated is a crucial month for traders in the village.

The Executive Committee is conscious of working with accurate information rather than social media postings. Therefore, as the organiser has always been helpful with Membership previously, representatives of the Membership will make contact and liaise directly, reporting back to the Membership in due course.

Next meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday 12th June 2019 as previously advertised. Should any additional activities or issues arise, additional meetings will be organised and publicised accordingly.