

**St Austell BID Board Meeting**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2021.**

**Present** **via Zoom:** Richard Hurst (RH), Brian Palmer (BP), Giles Bingley (GB), Martin Davies (MD), Grant Macdonald (GM), Clive Acraman (CA), Dale Lovatt (DL), Allan Clare (AC), Roberto Cubbedu (RC) & Sean Marshall (SM)

**Apologies:** Ben Delaney (BD).

**Absent:** Donna Roberts (DR)

**In attendance via Zoom:** Annette Miller (AM).

1. **Welcome: RH** welcomed the board to the meeting.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the board meeting held on the 5th January 2021 were reviewed and approved.
3. **Finance:** Monthly update provided by **GB**.
   1. Income received during the month - £21,000 received from Cornwall Council for COVID expenditure. £4,395 received from the Town Council to cover cost of COVID wardens. £6,000 of levy received brining the collection rate to 78%. £4,000 received for the Shark mural.
   2. Expenditure this month included the following costs: taking down the Christmas lights, COVID, Administration and Security/Wardens.

**RH & GB** thanked **AM** for her work in getting the COVID funding through. There is the possibility of additional COVID fund to run from April to the end of June.

We will be carrying over a surplus which will be a good start for the next financial year.

**RH** asked if the new bank account had been opened **GB** said no, we were waiting on one director to return their form. **RH** suggested removing the director to allow BID to open its new account, we would of course welcome them back should they wish to re-join. **RH** to contact the director concerned to make them aware of the intended course of action.

1. **St Austell Revitalisation Partnership:** The inaugural meeting of the Partnership took place on the 27th January. Made up of 18 members split equally into local business, voluntary & community, and public sectors, supported by a further 7 non-voting members who act as advisors to the partnership. James Staughton representing the business sector was nominated and voted in as chair, with two vice chairs each representing the remaining sectors to be announced. The terms of reference have been drafted for discussion with a view to finalising them at the next meeting. Catlin Murray explained that there were two pots of money one being the town vitality fund which is a non-strategic pot of which the original deadline of the end of March has been removed and is now a rolling process. The second pot is classed as a strategic fund which is not part of a bid process. Catlin will send a summary of the pots to all members with further explanation. The next meeting will be Thursday the 4th March following which **DL** will have a clearer understanding of what the partnership aims to achieve.
2. **COVID 19:**

**Update:** 61 businesses are currently open in town many operating a click and collect service or appointment only basis. Town is incredibly quiet, and businesses are feeling the impact. Many national high street brands are disappearing across the country which is also affecting St Austell. We continue to promote shop local shop safe. The board wishes to extend its thanks to Hayley Newton for her continued work and support with the towns and BIDs Facebook page. We have 210 retail units of which 120 are independents, these stand a better chance of surviving through lockdown.

1. **Planting:** Discussion had around the budget for summer planting. **AM** to get a quote from Hay Nurseries for £5,000, £7,500, and £10,000 for the board to compare and decide on this year’s expenditure.
2. **Meetings**:
   1. **BP** advised that in response to the joint letter highlighting concerns about ASB, Cornwall Council had recognised the need for a meeting with their Head of Housing regarding the high percentage of emergency accommodation in St Austell **RH & AM** to attend.
   2. **CA** advised that the Chamber of Commerce AGM is still outstanding, and it will be the focus of the next Chamber meeting.
   3. **AM** had a Zoom meeting with the Round Table who were interested to learn more about BID and what it has achieved in the town.
   4. **RH** SABEF the Green/Whitegold event will be held on the 19th June which is still very much in development. Positive noise being made regarding the development of St Austell College.
3. **A.O.B**: **AM** presented a funding request of £500 for 4FS to help their students during lockdown. Following a general discussion by the board about the value the BID gets from supporting this local group and considering the performances and support with BID events in the town centre it was decided it represented a good return for levy payers and was subsequently approved.

**Meeting closed 18.30**

**Next meeting 2nd March 2021**

**(To be held via zoom)**