

Bristol Credit Union Members' Forum (BCUMF) Meeting Minutes

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Bristol Credit Union (BCU) Members' Forum	Tuesday 27 th June 2017	18:30pm – 20.30pm	Manvers Street Baptist Church, Bath
<p>Present: Craig Marshall (CM) – BCU Member and Member Forum Co-Chair Loz Shamler – BCU Member, Bath Barbara Gordon – BCU Member John James – BCU Member, Bath David Lucas (DL) – BCU Member, Bath Jim Hardman – BCU Member, Bath Jenny Morrish – BCU Member, Bath Anthony Waterhouse (AW) – BCU Member, Bath Elaine Ashley (EA) – BCU member, Bristol Janet Wilkinson (JW) – BCU Member, Bristol (minute taker)</p> <p>Neil Holliday (NH) - BCU Volunteer Director and BCU Member, Bristol Kate Hanks (KH) – BCU Deputy CEO & BCU Member</p>			
		CC	
<p>Apologies: Avril Marshall Ben Commis Helen Clark Trevor Henley Tony Saunders Lin Patterson Roland Cabot Aust</p>		<p>Board of Directors BCU Membership via website</p>	

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Matters Arising
4. Terms of Reference
5. Next Meeting in Bath
6. Set Agenda for next meeting Thursday 7th September, Bristol
7. Any Other Business

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
1.	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u> JW/CM welcomed all those present and opened the meeting asking everyone to introduce themselves. JW offered to take the minutes.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Approval of Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 4th May 2017, were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p><u>AGM follow up</u></p> <p>Loz asked for clarity about the losses made and discussed at the AGM in Bristol and for the decision regarding the 0.25% dividend. CM/KH/NH provided clarity between them about the effect of the changes made by the Cooperative Bank for credit unions across the country. A discussion about the Cooperative Bank and the changes there that have affected BCU ensued.</p> <p>DL suggested that BCU looks at as wide a range as possible of ethical organisations to invest/deposit with. KH and NH provided clarity of existing relationships. DL further suggested that alternatives for current account providers might be pursued.</p> <p>Jenny questioned where members would find out where the CU money is invested and suggested that this might be more obvious to members.</p> <p>NH gave a brief overview of how the Board makes decisions about where to put members' money and the balance between loans and investments and the way in which risk was always taken into account.</p> <p>AW provided an outline of the restrictions on credit unions historically and currently and gave a comparison between credit unions in the UK compared to Ireland and the USA.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p><u>Terms of Reference</u></p> <p>CM outlined the ToR as it stands at the moment (and KH provided hard copies of the current documents in draft form). They were put to the meeting for discussion – the wording of it has been very carefully written to be as clear as possible about BCU and to</p>	

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	<p>encourage as much member participation as possible. AW clarified that BCU is a 'one member one vote mutual organisation and that the Members' Forum is moving to becoming established.</p> <p>AW also highlighted that the Members' Forum needs to be a <i>think tank</i> for the credit union to be as good as it can be. He highlighted and thanked the directors for giving their time to join the Members' Forum and listen to the views of the members.</p> <p>A discussion about ideas followed. CM and AW outlined that ideas were a core theme of the Members' Forum. EA highlighted that part of the perspective of having ideas was that the reality is that the Members' Forum would also be the people who would have to develop and implement the idea – one person may have the idea and other members of the Members' Forum may be the ones who take it forward.</p> <p>The (word version of the) Terms of Reference previously circulated were agreed and accepted by the meeting and will be passed to the Board to be <i>noted</i>.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Bath Members attracting young people into the Credit Union</u></p> <p>EA raised the question about how Bath members were tackling the issues of providing services for young people.</p> <p>KH outlined the work with the Church of England (Life Savers programme) and the prepaid card option for young people at the moment. The challenge is to take the young people with savings accounts over to being active adult members of BCU (and to consider BCU to save for a holiday or take a loan out in their early twenties). Barbara raised a question about how BCU targets young people and KH gave an overview of how BCU uses Facebook and Twitter to communicate to members and non-members.</p> <p>Jim suggests that BCU checks in with other credit unions across the UK about what they are doing. CM referred to the draft terms of reference for the Members' Forum</p>	
5.	<p><u>Members Association</u></p> <p>AW outlined further ideas about the formation of a Members Association having circulated more details since the last meeting. AW outlined the idea of a weekly subscription to the association or crowd fund for specific activities for people in the wider community that BCU serves. There may be the opportunity for the Members Association to support the development of individuals in the precariat to be cooperative directors or support individual members develop skills.</p> <p>Six people are required as a minimum. These people need a few</p>	RH/KH

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	<p>hours per month to be able to get things started. Suggestion that it is put to the membership via the newsletter using the proposal/overview – Rahana Davies was suggested as a good person to summarise the existing proposal and help to flesh out the job roles and the anticipated time requirements although it was suggested that it goes out in the newsletter to look for volunteers to help develop and run with it.</p>	
5	<p><u>Next Meeting Details</u> 7th September at 6:30pm Venue: Bristol Credit Union, 2 York Court, Upper York Street. Bristol. BS2 8QF Email invitation to be sent to all members and details to be in the next member newsletter.</p>	KH
6.	<p>AOB KH asked for suggestions of venues in Bath that might be good for a BCU AGM. Loz suggested the place that Bath Green Party use for their meetings; the Quaker Hall on York Street. He will email KH. Southdown Methodist Church (good car parking) and the Friends Meeting House were suggested. Agenda for 7th September 2017 meeting: social meeting</p>	
7.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u> CM commended the newsletter although he suggested that the smaller articles/images and links were placed higher up the content. <u>Dates of next meetings:</u> Thursday 7th September 2017 at 6.30pm Bristol, Social meeting/event The meeting which was officially closed at 20.30pm</p>	

Signature of Co-Chair: Date: