

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Wednesday 5th April 2023 at 5.45pm in Quay House, Kingsbridge



Chairman:	James Spencer	
Treasurer:	John Gardner - <i>apologies</i>	
Executive Committee:	Georgie Leonard	Bochinelli
Associate Committee:	Sarah Burnett	Salcombe Information Centre & KCC
	Cllr Nikki Turton	Salcombe Town Council, Mayor
	Cllr Mark Long	South Hams District Council
	Cllr Rufus Gilbert	Devon County Council
Secretary:	Nicola Coulson	
Apologies:	Scot Baston	Cornerstone Photography
	Alison Theaker	The Spark, Business Coaching
	Catherine Gillen	The Brownstone Gallery
	Jane Tyler	The Winking Prawn Group
	Cllr Philip Cole	Kingsbridge Town Council, Mayor
	Dawn Blundell	Kingsbridge Information Centre
	Kim Willis	Marketing Manager

1. Welcome & Apologies

JS opened by reporting that we'd had positive feedback about the Soar Mill event with business coach Steve Gaskell - 4 members known to attendees to have fed back.

SB suggested going forward, an extended plan of dates, venues, themes etc in advance would allow more planning time.

A spirited discussion ensued about Halifax's annual seaside homes review, and the ensuing national news articles, naming Salcombe as Britain's most expensive seaside location

2. Minutes & Actions

Minutes from 1st March 23 approved.

Actions outstanding from March meeting:

Action #1: Members' Directory further updates to be picked up later in quarter - *carried over* JS/NC

Action #2: To look for opportunities to host a 2023 event in Modbury - *ongoing* NC

Action #3: Extend invitation to representative from Velarde Gallery to talk to committee NC

3. Council reports

District & County: South Hams District Council and Devon County Council

Devon County Council - RG

Devolution

- RG reported that outline approval has been given for a Devon-wide devolution deal which would bring together Devon County Council, Torbay Council and Plymouth City Council to form a combined authority to bring greater local control and allow partners to tap into additional resources to help tackle key local priorities such as affordable housing, better public transport and connectivity, and providing for the skills that the local economy needs.
- A final business case will now be prepared and submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in the expectation that a deal can be agreed this year.

LEPs (Local Enterprise Partnerships)

- LEPs were dissolved at the last budget, transferring responsibilities for local economic growth from LEPs to local authorities by April 2024, with the aim of making the delivery of the service more democratically accountable. This will come under RG's DCC portfolio of economy.

JS asked if winding up LEPs will speed up the process for member businesses seeking to access funding; RG confirmed that it will cut out layers of process and create greater transparency and accountability.

Potholes

- In the spring budget, the Chancellor announced an extra £200m to be allocated to tackling potholes. DCC will receive £9.4m to facilitate vital repairs.

On-street parking in Salcombe

- RG reported that DCC is to undertake a strategic review of on-street parking in Salcombe to establish whether to introduce more pay and display meters. He pointed out that Salcombe has an enforcement problem; “if parking is pay to use, it is easier to enforce”. He mentioned that making on-street parking more expensive than off-street would encourage the use of car parks but that any proposed changes would need careful consideration.
- However, one suggestion might be to allow 20-30 minutes free parking to encourage customers to move on faster, therefore creating greater turnover, but he confirmed that blue badge holders would retain their parking privileges.

ML asked if the consultation would be looking at street permitting? RG said not.

ML asked about timings of the consultation; RG to find out and report back.

RG confirmed that parking revenues would be pumped into bus services and maintenance of affected roads but stated that the purpose is not to create a cash surplus.

He touched on the move towards cashless parking, though expressed reservations about accessibility for the elderly and others who may not be able to ‘pay by phone’.

RG left the meeting

SHDC - ML

- ML reported that there’s a limited amount he can report in the run up to local elections on 4th May.
- Following on from RG’s announcement about parking, ML would like to see a more holistic approach (to local governance) after the elections, involving town, district, and county councils - including the need to look at parking.
 - Regarding parking in Salcombe, ML would like to see an additional level on Shadycombe car park to create 50-60 more spaces.
 - He referred to a previous summer survey in Batson which showed a substantial chunk of parking spaces were being taken up for the entire week.
 - Some holiday homes have two Resident Parking Permits, plus a permit for The Creek Long Stay Car Park, Batson, whilst some permanent residents can’t get a parking permit.
 - ML summarised by asking what committee really wanted to achieve - fairer parking, increased parking, potentially move long term parking to top of town to free up spaces in town.
 - He also raised the question of workers. With a trimmed bus service, workers are having to pay for parking for the day. Salcombe needs a level of worker parking at a reasonable cost - cheaper than it would be elsewhere.
 - NT pointed out that the perception is that Salcombe is affluent.
 - SB said that her info centre new manager cannot rely on the bus service to get her to work on time, so the TIC opening hours have been pushed back to fit in with the bus timetable.
 - JS told committee that Pebbles has multiple parking permits at £400 each per annum; the cheapest for new applications is now £900. The solution lies in improved public transport to and from our area and the provision of workers’ parking spaces at the top of the town.
 - ML - referring to DCC’s parking review - felt that many parties need to be consulted as the parking situation affects everyone. He cited Beadon being overrun by non-residents using it as a car park. He would like to see more “joined up thinking”, e.g., splitting permits between part-time workers’ cars, but conceded that the problem will be difficult to solve due to lack of space for additional parking, and a reduced bus service.
 - JS concurred that there needs to be some “big thinking”.
 - NT touched on the idea of buying a field to provide extra parking.
 - JS pledged the Chamber’s support and concurred with ML that solutions need to be innovative to impact long term. He referred to absent homeowners renting out car parking spaces off peak to provide additional parking. SB suggested that second homeowners should be involved in the consultation.

- ML accepted that there must be investment; JS brought up the question of public and business funding being made available.

NT updated on Zest's electric bus. The vehicle has been licensed by SHDC, but there are more licenses to get to deliver a service. She explained that they haven't yet asked Salcombe Town Council if they can use the Park & Ride.

- Charging was discussed: There are two charging ports in Batson, but it wasn't yet clear what speed the bus needs to charge - quick or trickle overnight.
- Zest is looking for funding - public or private sponsorship.
- ML compared it to similar (successful) schemes in Europe, e.g., ski resorts.
- ML thinks it's great initiative and JS concurred, saying it could be part of the infrastructure needed.

- Town: Salcombe, Kingsbridge and Modbury

Salcombe Town Council (STC) - NT

- Park & Ride will be running over 3-day Coronation weekend; NT to confirm whether this will be free.
- Park & Ride will then be running from the 8th July to the 1st week of September, taking standard bus route around town, stopping at Shadycombe. A bigger bus will be able to take more people at a time.
- HMS Magpie came into Salcombe, and the crew visited Salcombe and Marlborough Primary schools.
- NT updated on the 5 commercial units in Batson; ML confirmed that the tenants are going in at the beginning of May.
- The new Harbour Workshop won't be ready until September.
- The empty shops by petrol station are now occupied.

Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC)

- In PC's absence, GL reported that there was talk of a St Luke's Hospice shop going into Quay Pub on Fore Street, but this has not been confirmed.
- Fulford's old unit is still empty.
- Velarde Gallery is on track to open in July and it's her understanding that there are two units above the gallery that are to be sold on the open market.
- ML confirmed that the public toilets are now free of charge.

Modbury

CG sent apologies.

4. Matters newly arising for committee members

5. Strategic Theme at next event

AGM - end of June - *to be discussed at May meeting*

Venue to be confirmed ASAP

Action #1: To approach Barton's to discuss possibility of hosting this year's AGM

NC

6. Member forums, general

To be carried over to next meeting

7. Treasurer's Report

1. Account Balances

Current Account balance	£13,852.47	
(Modbury funds)	(£4,950.13)	
(Kingsbridge Traders)	(£5,000.00)	
Current Account Net Total	£3,902.34	
Deposit Account	£3,167.67	
Total Balance	£7,070.01	(Jan balance = £7,154.17)

2. Monthly Income/Expenditure Statement - as previously circulated.

8. Upcoming Donations

Donations look-ahead in accordance with the 2023 Draft Budget:

Date	Beneficiary	Amount	Notes
Feb	Kingsbridge TIC Jobs Board	£840	Paid £700 + VAT
Mar/Apr	Kingsbridge in Bloom	£500	Paid 12/3
	Kingsbridge Classic Rallies	£200	Paid 17/3
	Salcombe Dinghy Sailing Wind Project	£300	Paid 17/3
Sep	Salcombe Live Music	£300	
Oct/Nov	Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas	£200	
Oct/Nov	As required	£300	

Notes

Financial documents are now saved in the Green Room site.

9. AOB

i. How to engage with KDJ Collective

- KDJ Collective are a group of DJs who run quarterly parties in and around the area.
- They have formed a management team to set up and run a proposed work hub in the former Barclays building (1-2 Anchor Centre, Bridge Street).
- The space will be branded either Kingsbridge House or The Hub and marketed as a members' club with work and meeting spaces (25 x permanent office desks: 40 x hot desk, 5 x private meeting rooms, plus hourly rates for visitors needing workspace). They envisage a "thriving social environment", with a relaxed layout and options for hosting events.

AT wondered if it might be duplication of effort?

SB understood it be more of a community centre.

Action #2: To invite representative of KDJ to present to committee

NC

ii. Julia Wingate's proposed coaching event

Inspired by our last event, Julia has proposed a potential collaboration between the Chamber and Kingsbridge Traders to run a business coaching event.

SB liked the idea in principle and felt this could be mutually advantageous, if the traders are clear on what sort of training they need.

iii. Love Kingsbridge update

Julia Wingate will be announcing a launch competition over next couple of months.

Action #3: To check details/timings with Julia and invite to committee meeting to discuss joint coaching event between Chamber and Traders' Association

NC

iv. Howard Wicks

NC received an email from Howard's father, explaining that ML suggested that the SHDC Housing Team might be able to assist; ML to forward to the relevant councillor.

It was suggested that this might fall under FOEFFEES?

Action #4: To forward the initial email and liaise with ML and PC

NC

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- v. AT asked what the Chamber marketing objectives are; what do we need marketing to provide for Chamber to pay for itself? JS pointed out that membership is going up year by year and that marketing provides an opportunity for increased membership. JS proposed that committee undertakes a 'visioning session' to establish renewed goals for upcoming years and that from the newly defined goals, marketing goals could reveal themselves. The proposal was welcomed by committee.
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Action #5: To organise 'visioning session', as above

JS

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 3rd May 2023
