

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Wednesday 3rd January 2024 at 5.45pm in Quay House, Kingsbridge



1. Welcome & Apologies

Present:	James Spencer John Gardner Scot Baston Nicola Coulson Jane Tyler Alex Robertson Alison Theaker Kim Willis Sarah Burnett Cllr Mark Goodey Cllr Sam Dennis Dawn Blundell	Chair Pebbles Group Treasurer Vice-Chair, Kingsbridge Cornerstone Photography Secretary Committee Member, The Winking Prawn Group Committee Member, IT Workhouse Committee Member, Live Life for me Committee Member, Marketing Manager Associate Committee Member, KCC Salcombe Info Centre Associate Committee Member, Salc. Town Council, Mayor Associate Committee Member, SHDC Associate Committee Member, Kingsbridge Info Centre
Apologies:	Georgie Leonard Cllr Philip Cole Cllr Sarah Wyatt Cllr Mark Long	Committee Member, Bochinelli Associate Committee Member, Kingsbr. Town Council, Mayor Associate Committee Member, Modbury Parish Council Associate Committee Member, SHDC (esp. Planning) & Salcombe Harbour Committee
Absent:	Catherine Gillen Cllr Rufus Gilbert	Committee Member, The Brownston Gallery Associate Committee Member, Devon County Council

2. Minutes & Actions

Minutes from 1st December 2023 approved.

Actions outstanding previously and ongoing

Action #1:	Kingsbridge Map & Salcombe Noticeboards - <i>ongoing (see item 7)</i>	JS
Action #2:	SHDC's Community Economic Plans ("ECP") projects/invite to Laura Eames. <i>Done - Laura to attend Feb meeting to discuss economic plan for the area.</i>	JS
Action #3:	NC to pull together a generic role spec for committee members - <i>ongoing</i>	NC
Action #4:	Salcombe's Field of Lights - <i>ongoing</i>	NC
-	NC to invite Phil Ward (Chair, RNLI's Fundraising Crew) to upcoming Business Club to talk to members. <i>Done - Phil booked to speak at January BC.</i>	
-	NC to book Salcombe Harbour Hotel for final November 2024 Business Club. <i>Done - booked for Thursday 28th November.</i>	
-	Committee to discuss possible collaborative events - <i>ongoing</i>	
Action #5:	SD to liaise with Nigel Mortimer (South Devon AONB Estuaries Partnership) and invite to committee meeting. <i>Done - Nigel to attend future meeting - date TBC.</i>	SD

Actions outstanding from November meeting:

Action #6:	Enquire if STC has sandbags and how they manage their provision. <i>Done - Salcombe has NO sandbags.</i>	NC
Action #7:	NC to update grant section with SHDC grants - <i>done</i>	NC

Actions outstanding from December meeting:

Action #1:	Ask NT's Jonathan Fisher if we can share his slides to the wider membership <i>Done - awaiting response.</i>	NC
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Action #2: Treasurer to review annual sub rate - for discussion at Jan meeting.
Deferred to February meeting.

Action #3: SB to research Ivybridge Chamber. *Done - see below:*

SB

SB caught up with Cllr Matt Steele, Town Councillor, District Councillor, and Chair of Ivybridge Chamber of Commerce to talk about our different Chambers and circumstances. In brief:

- Cllr Steele set up The Ivybridge Bookshop in April 2021.
- The local Chamber had become almost dormant when he took up the role of Chair in August 2021.
- There have been some challenges with the Council on parking, planning etc.
- He is gradually getting to know the community and is keen to have committed local businesspeople on board.

Achievements include:

- Successfully led a campaign to save the town's central carparking from closure by South Hams District for their own commercial development.
- Creation of community activities across the centre of town, including town trails for children.
- Formulated a voice, and meaningful dialogue, between Ivybridge business owners, and the Town and District Councils.
- TV/Radio coverage for window dressing competition
- Town Loyalty Cards established.
- Partnerships with Secondary School developing.

It is an ongoing process, and it was agreed that it is always slow gathering like-minded members with an idea of ways forward.

SB thought it would mutually benefit our Chambers to exchange ideas, notably any funding ideas, creative ways forward e.g., Town loyalty cards.

Each town has individual characters and needs, and Matt is focusing on bringing Ivybridge together after a quiet time, with the Covid crisis aftermath.

SB to remain in contact.

3. Treasurer's Report

JG reported that:

Total balance increased by £300 in November.

- Donations successfully delivered.
- December has been very quiet.
- Managed to break even on events (NC reported that she is chasing outstanding 4 x dinner payments for November BC).

Donations

- Looking for donation ideas for 2024/25.
- SB suggested each committee member comes up with 2 ideas to report next month (c.£3k) 2 aims - 1) to generate further membership & 2) publicity.
- Core aim for donations is to further business interests in the area. Referring to One Voice criteria, we are not looking for a hard return on investment, more to help businesses (e.g., work experience for KCC). See action below.

Expenditure Protocol

- JG shared Expenditure Protocol and invited comments.
- Important to have expenditure protocol - see document.
- JS thanked JG and reiterated how important transparency is.

- SB (in his capacity as Vice-Chair) asked that any costs he incurs on website etc to be agreed with Chair/Treasurer.
- To be filed on OneDrive

Action #1: Put request for donation ideas in next newsletter and forthcoming Gazette article. KW

Action #2: Share OneDrive with Committee. NC

Report dated 30 November 2023

Financial Statements

1. Account Balances

Current Account balance	£13,891.57	
(Modbury funds)	(£4,920.13)	
(Kingsbridge Traders)	(£2,670.00)	
Current Account Net Total	£6,301.44	
Deposit Account	£3,198.78	
Total Balance	£9,500.22	(September balance = £9,286.37)

Monthly Income/Expenditure Statement - as previously circulated.

Report dated 31 December 2023

Financial Statements

1. Account Balances

Current Account balance	£14,064.61	
(Modbury funds)	(£5,390.113)	
(Kingsbridge Traders)	(£2,670.00)	
Current Account Net Total	£6,004.48	
Deposit Account	£3,214.21	
Total Balance	£9,218.69	(October balance = £9,500.22)

Monthly Income/Expenditure Statement - as previously circulated.

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	Not approved
Oct/Nov	Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas	£300	Paid 16/9
Oct/Nov	Salcombe Christmas Lights	£200	Paid 25/11
Oct/Nov	Modbury Christmas Lights (agreed Oct)	£300	Paid 30/11

Notes

- Ideas are requested for 2024 donations, e.g., Kingsbridge Food and Music Festival.

4. Council reports

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

Devon County Council

Apologies from RG

South Hams District Council - *SD*

Salcombe 'Bin Tax' for non-residents

- SD raised SHDC's recent letter to second homeowners in Salcombe regarding Non-Domestic Waste Collection and a discussion ensued.
- The letter, sent to 2,000 addresses, warned part-time residents they face punishments if they are caught using street litter bins or council bottle banks without paying a £350-a-year commercial 'bin tax' or hiring private rubbish collectors.

- It also warned owners of unregistered holiday lets that failure to register a holiday home with the council or an approved commercial collector is a criminal offence. If people let on a casual basis, there will be tough consequences.
- JT expressed shock at the officious wording and punitive tone of the letter and reiterated the importance of second homeowners, many of whom have invested in the town.
- MG pointed out that SHDC see it as a revenue-making exercise and appear to be keener on primary residences than 2nd homes.
- A discussion ensued about rates relief - if you have a single premises you can apply for small business relief of up to 100%. MG pointed out that if it's a dwelling, the owner *should* pay rates.
- SD pointed out that the new Council plan doesn't mention tourism and committed to pushing for this.
- 900-1100 resident voters vs roughly 26k holiday residents.

Parking - Salcombe

- SHDC is reducing parking for residents - is this positive or negative for businesses?

Neighbourhood Plan

- Questions for Laura Eames - find out what the council's objective regarding second homeowners and car parks are?
- How frequently will plan be reviewed and how does it tie in with neighbourhood plan?

Town: Salcombe | Kingsbridge | Modbury

Salcombe Town Council (STC)

- MG to meet Laura Eames re ECP for Salcombe (*see Action below*)
- SD mentioned that that Modbury might like to have the opportunity for their own ECP.

Tally Ho - 164 service

- Tally Ho will be putting 2 new bus stops at the Park & Ride as part of the 164 service. The 164 will stop there coming in and out of Salcombe and will provide a bus service for the same price as the seasonal Park & Ride bus (Adult Return £2.20). Parking will not be free - a £3 daily fee is payable all day every day of the year.
- JS and JT felt this service would be positive for workers.

Proposed Pay and Display

- MG reported that the outcome of public consultation showed no real opposition to meters.
- The Council is still in negotiations with DCC, but can advise that DCC have agreed:
 - For the free parking period to be extended from the initially proposed 30 minutes to 1 hour. Maximum stay 2 hours.
 - For the parking bays outside Boots to have a free period of 30 mins with a maximum period of 1 hour.
 - For Loring Road to be removed from the proposals and to remain with the current maximum free parking period of 20mins.
 - For no waiting overnight at North Sands
 - For no campervans/motorhomes at North Sands

Action #3: To circulate questions to committee on economic plan and ask for any other questions?

MG?

Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC)

Apologies from PC - see previous minutes for update.

- DB reported anti-social behaviour from kids in town - harassing traders. Dawn suggested Chamber could support any initiative to try and quash this behaviour.

Modbury Parish Council (MPC)

Apologies from SW

5. Business Clubs

March Business Club

- The March event at South Sands Hotel has been moved to Thursday 21st March to avoid Easter.

AGM

- Jonathan Fisher has offered East Soar or Overbeck's for an event. A discussion ensued about the AGM, and whether East Soar might work as a venue. Suggested we make an approach to JF re East Soar, though AR pointed out that the summer wedding season might preclude a Thursday meet.
- JG advocated for a return to Bartons, which is at the physical centre of Kingsbridge business.
- Velarde Gallery was also suggested as a potential venue.

January Business Club - Theme/Format

- Format was agreed: One speaker and couple of new business hotspots.
- Suggested theme is connectivity, to ensure our member businesses can compete nationally.
- Alex has written a blog re connectivity to put in newsletter.
- Rose at IT Warehouse would like to talk about IT security for small businesses.
- Committee concurred that if we are trying to create a community where people live/work, connectivity is vital. NC referred to a new interior design business - Carmen and Rafaele - on Bridge Street, Kingsbridge which had problems with Open Reach since last October. The owner was left without access to internet or a telephone line for over seven weeks, and blamed Openreach for not activating the existing copper lines. Alex suggested a temporary Starlight fix for issues such as this.
- SD & AT offered to leaflet business park to publicise the event and it was agreed to waive the non-member meeting charge for this first event of 2024.

Booked venues for 2024

- 25th January Church House Inn, Churchstow
- 21st March South Sands Hotel, Salcombe
- June AGM Bartons, Kingsbridge (TBC)
- 26th September TBC
- 28th November Harbour Hotel, Salcombe

6. Chamber Rebrand

- In the last 3 months, we've discovered Ivybridge and Dartmouth have active Chambers. So, we have a new context about this discussion - does committee want to proceed with the rebrand or pause?
- SB feels it's not the right time to incorporate.
- SD reported that Laura Campbell, Chair of the Dartmouth Chamber, is looking to us for guidance. SD suggests we invite to Chamber meetings.
- AT didn't think we were going to absorb other towns, just adopt a name change. A brief discussion ensued about Dartmouth Chamber's affiliation with Devon Plymouth Chamber on their website. AT didn't feel there was any benefit to us affiliating with Devon Plymouth.
- JG said that if Dartmouth's centre of gravity is further south, our name change shows ambition.
- SD feels that calling it South Hams gives it the status that it deserves.
- The consensus amongst committee was to push forward with rebrand, so JS suggested it was time to visit articles of association, new logo etc.

7. Ongoing Projects

Field of Lights

- No confirmation yet - hoping to celebrate confirmation at our March event.
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Coaching Event Collaboration with KB Traders

- No response from Julia - take off agenda.

Impactful Info Panels project

- Chamber and SIC collaborating on replacing signs in Salcombe and Kingsbridge with remote controlled, touch interface signs.
- JS is in the process of applying for grant funding.
- AR looking into building - tech is fine, but the enclosure (the body of the sign) is an issue - needs to be weatherproof, robust and stainless, with a covering for the screen.

Action #4: Continue with grant application and explore other revenue streams to fund signs. MG?

Collaboration with KCC / Digital Careers Board

- JS met KCC Principal, Tina Graham, who is interested in bringing students closer to business employers and creating more work experience opportunities.
- One idea mooted is for the Chamber to host a website page designed for students. It would look like a student page and list 'friendly' employers willing to offer work experience and/or employment, who would be happy to be contacted by students. It might also list work tasters, using Pebbles as role model?
- The Chamber would act as a conduit but would not be directly involved in facilitating work experiences - acting as an enabler, not deliverer.
- JS is all for shared initiative.
- Tina has agreed to speak at March event.
- JS asked Scot about the cost of setting up and hosting the page. He pointed out that KCC would do the behind-the-scenes admin. SB suggested KCC would also need to promote.
- JG was very supportive of the idea and pointed out the huge potential.
- A Steering Group is to be set up, to include SBa, JG, SB.

Action #5: SBa to lead on employer to student employee work and work experience webpage project, for completion by end of February. SBa/SB
SB to work with KCC to establish agreement for ongoing administrator to receive and review data for the page.

Jobs Board

Discussion ensued about Jobs Board at TIC - not getting take up. JS told DB that Chamber wouldn't continue it's subscription.

8. SHDC's Economic Plans for Kingsbridge / Salcombe

9. Modbury Roadworks

JS reported that an electronic sign at Bantham roundabout erroneously stated that Modbury was closed well before the works commenced. JS liaised with RG who intervened.

10. AOB

- SB wants to look into what we offer as a Chamber - where we can push offers and add value. Committee keen to pursue. Add to Feb agenda.
 - JS asked what committee thinks about business for 2024.
 - KW said she's noticed that holiday lettings are slow, though SBa reported that January was looking busy for him. KW pointed out that other business closures in January have a knock-on effect for other businesses, which doesn't help. Bookings are also weather dependent.
 - Customer demand is one of committee's key concerns - why is it an issue now? What are the underlying causes? Bucking the trend, SD noted that Kingsbridge Celebrates had record takings.
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- SBa noted that a few local pubs are up for sale, including The Globe, Frogmore, and The Church House in Stokenham.
 - KIC - Dawn said that they will be sending out 3 marketing pamphlets instead of the usual 4 due to falling advertising revenue.
 - General gist is that business appears to be proceeding - with caution.
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Action #6: Add Chamber offering to Feb agenda.

NC

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 7th February 2024
