



Minutes of Committee Meeting

Wednesday 7th June 2023 at 5.45pm in Quay House, Kingsbridge

Chairman:	James Spencer	
Treasurer:	John Gardner	
Executive Committee:	Catherine Gillen	The Brownstone Gallery
	Georgie Leonard	Bochinelli
Associate Committee:	Cllr Jasper Evans	Salcombe Town Council, Deputy Mayor
	Kim Willis	Marketing Manager
	Cllr Mark Long	South Hams District Council
	Sarah Burnett	Salcombe Information Centre & KCC
	Cllr Philip Cole	Kingsbridge Town Council, Mayor
Secretary:	Nicola Coulson	

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies:	Cllr Rufus Gilbert	Devon County Council
	Alison Theaker	The Spark, Business Coaching
	Scot Baston	Cornerstone Photography
	Jane Tyler	The Winking Prawn Group & Salcombe Information Centre
	Dawn Blundell	Kingsbridge Information Centre

JS introduced Julia Wingate (JW) to discuss Love Kingsbridge & a possible coaching collaboration.

JW came to our coaching event at Soar Mill Cove, which she found very beneficial. She is interested in working with the Chamber to offer a coaching collaboration to galvanise businesses.

Committee discussed positive feedback from the coaching event. NC referred to new member, Liz Reddish, being inspired to consider how she runs the “back end” of her business. JS has spoken to Steve Gaskell, and another coach who said he’d offer 6 x 2hr online courses. KW asked if it would be offered to members only; a discussion ensued. SB suggested we invite non-members to showcase the benefits of joining the Chamber.

In principle, committee agreed this is a good opportunity to work with Traders; now we need to think about the practicalities of running an event. Suggestion to open it out to Salcombe and Modbury traders.

Love Kingsbridge campaign

JW updated committee on the *Love Kingsbridge* campaign, which seeks to shine a light on Kingsbridge as a destination for visitors and residents alike. Post Covid, *Love Kingsbridge* received £1.5k from the Town Council to fund some signs and banners.

The campaign has also received signage funding from SHDC to increase footfall from Tesco’s car park to Fore Street. There are now 3 signs - one in Tesco car park, then a repeater sign halfway up, then one by toilet block. There is a bit more funding to paint the toilet block once Velarde has finished.

The Town Council has committed to funding ongoing marketing, so Leigh Joliffe from marketingshed has been retained to do some PR. JS congratulated JW about receiving repeat funding. JW is aiming to increase footfall - not just visitors, but those who live in the area - and is keen to hear any ideas on how to get more traction.

There are 120 independent businesses on the high street, many of which aren’t engaging. PC congratulated JW and pointed out that Kingsbridge and Sidmouth had the strongest recovery in visitor numbers after Covid restrictions were lifted. JW concurred that Kingsbridge has fewer empty units than the national average and as a high street, they’re faring very well.

JS referred to the large map at the bottom of Fore Street which desperately needs updating. PC pointed out that it’s difficult to keep it current.

Action #0: “Shared coaching session for traders and chamber members” - event organised by chamber and traders JW

Action #1: To review the efficacy of the large map All

JS then introduced Lorna Yabsley, Gallery Director, Velarde Gallery.

Lorna gave committee a brief history of Velarde, a contemporary art and craft gallery at the top of Fore Street, due to open on 21st July. Owner-Directors and artists, Matt and Fi Velarde, are

working with Lorna, who secured 86 Fore Street (formerly The Mare & Foal Sanctuary) during Covid.

The space comprises of two gallery spaces, two boutique apartments which will be let for revenue, a sculpture garden, and an artist studio. Lorna envisages 6 major shows a year, with the aim of creating a leading venue for the sale of both British and international art, selling in the gallery and online.

Committee agreed that this investment is good news for Kingsbridge and a positive step for Devon's cultural tourism. JW asked why Kingsbridge? Matt and Fi love this area, the South West has a thriving arts scene and Lorna referred to the success of international gallery Hauser & Wirth's rural outpost in Bruton.

On behalf of Velarde, Lorna expressed a commitment to Kingsbridge. She is keen to join the Chamber and get involved with Love Kingsbridge. It was also suggested that we might possibly use gallery for a future Chamber event.

JS referred to the refurbishment of the public toilets opposite, and asked if the chamber can help in any way? PC gave a brief update on the public toilets, suggesting that the current one-way system may stay. There are plans to move the disabled bays and create a mini park where the motorbikes are. Ideally the whole area will be reconfigured - however, the council needs to raise the money. The long-term objective is to energise the top of town.

Lorna pointed out that there's a huge amount of wealth locally and mooted the idea of crowdfunding to raise the money.

Lorna confirmed that the gallery is free and that all are welcome. She also pointed out that they will be attending national and international art fairs, which will garner national press and will reinforce Kingsbridge as an arts destination.

2. Minutes & Actions

Minutes from 3rd May 23 approved.

Actions outstanding from May meeting:

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|------------|---|----|
| Action #1: | To look for opportunities to host an Autumn 2023 event in Modbury. <i>Ongoing</i> | NC |
| Action #2: | Modbury roadworks letter - CG to document sequence of events | CG |
| Action #3: | NC to draft correspondence that can be read and heard, then finding the organisation to direct this to. | NC |
| Action #4: | KW to include Jobs Board in next newsletter & liaise with JS/DB about further promotion | KW |
| Action #5: | NC to target bigger employers to let them know about the Jobs' Board | NC |

3. Council reports

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

Devon County Council - Apologies from RG

SHDC - ML

- Post-elections, we now have a Liberal council, lead by Julian Brazil. ML explained that the Executive of SHDC now has a Green and a Conservative councillor, and ML (Independent) is now Chair of the Development and Management Committee, with a Conservative VP; all of which suggests Cllr Brazil is keen to be inclusive. There is a feeling that the new members want things to happen, so it will be interesting to see how the council shapes up. The main focusses will be on the need for local housing, sustainability, and biodiversity.
- Government has launched a new drive to support rural communities. SHDC will likely receive funding from the Rural England Prosperity Fund to invest in rural communities across the district.
- ML happy to keep attending Chamber meetings.
- He reported that the Harbour Board is being reshaped, although at the time of our meeting the committee is not yet formed. ML would like to see more of a working relationship between the Harbour and the town and parish councils, plus a more formal link with the Chamber. ML would also like to see more work on sustainability and environmental issues.

PC welcomed improved relations, as thus far, there hasn't been much of a relationship between town and harbour.

- JS would like to see business high on SHDC strategy and wondered about reinstatement of regular business surveys? Or opportunities for business to have a voice which has been lost in the last few years.
- ML reported that potentially there will be future monies coming from government, but it hasn't been decided how this will be delivered. JS reiterated that Chamber is a proven vehicle to distribute grant funds and asked that SHDC consider and retain the Chamber as a potential conduit for funding, and to provide information about the local business community.

ML valued the way in which the grant funds were directed and agreed to talk to SHDC executive and officers involved in grant allocation to remind them of this.

Action #2: Once Harbour Board is reconstituted, ML to approach for increased engagement

ML

- Town: Salcombe, Kingsbridge and Modbury

Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC)

- PC confirmed the good news that the **police station is to reopen** before end of 2023.
- The bad news is that **Lloyds has announced the closure of their Kingsbridge branch**, probably in October. This is on the town council's agenda for a full council meeting w/c 12th June. PC is appalled. He explained that post-closure, Barclays and NatWest now come in a van on an adhoc basis, but they can't bank money as it makes the carrier vulnerable. JW reported that HSBC assures it's not going to close; reportedly they want to be the last standing bank on the high street.

JS asked about the need for bank for non-retail members. JE explained that he visits the bank every two weeks to bank the Maritime Museum's donations. He is very disappointed with Lloyds' decision.

JS asked if there is anything we can do to help traders? PC can lobby Lloyds, but the decision has been made. Aside from the obvious impact on residents and local businesses, he foresees an indirect negative effect on the town; visitors won't come into bank and therefore won't spend their money in the local shops/cafes. PC committed to updating committee after the meeting. JW thinks the next step is investigating a banking hub.

Brixham has a Banking Hub (one of the first in the country), owned by Cash Access UK, funded by the banks, and run by the Post Office. This shared banking space allows customers of all major banks and building societies to withdraw and deposit cash and cheques, make balance enquiries, and use the free ATM. Community bankers visit the hub on rotation. JW has investigated the application process for Kingsbridge. A heated discussion ensued - could this be the death knell for cash?

- On a more positive note, all the **new street furniture is in place**. The town is having a general spruce up - the damage done by lorries will be repaired by start of summer season.
- Update on the **bandstand**: PC & JW met Youth Justice, and the insurers have agreed insurance. Unfortunately, the bandstand won't be ready for fair week.
- **Skate Park** had a consultation last week. PC also reported that the Food Bank are looking for a new location, and he's meeting Julian Brazil to discuss.
- PC would also like to move forward with the discussion with SHDC about Ropewalk site for housing.

Salcombe Town Council (STC) - JE

- JE reported that Salcombe has a new council; of the 8 new councillors, over half own and run own businesses in the town. JE therefore predicts a strong business focus. A new community action group has been set up to consult with stakeholders in Salcombe, including traders and the business community. One of first steps will be to set up consultations with business.
- Moving forward, JE is committed to supporting Chamber initiatives. He said it would be useful to update STC on discussions from Chamber meetings and it would also be useful to know who the Salcombe members are. STC are keen to positively engage, to increase their profile and to identify business opportunities.
- Following on from a communication from STC that the council representative might vary from meeting to meeting, depending on councillor's availability, NC enquired about having one representative from STC to provide continuity. JE said he'd discuss at next council meeting. Jess Denny from the Community Working Group will get back to us on that. SK feels that

different people might provide a fresh perspective. JS commended JE in the change of council pushing business to the fore.

- KW said it would be good to have bigger Salcombe businesses as members. A discussion ensued about the Chamber and SIC exploring a joint promotional offering for members. SB and JS discussed a need for cross pollination between our member towns - promoting each other's events and activities, which the Chamber could possibly facilitate.
- JE raised the potential development of 9 business units in Marlborough (Salcombe and Marlborough Business Park). The developers are well funded, with experience of doing this type of development. No formal application has been made yet, but a representative, Simon Gotch, is happy to come and brief committee.

Action #3: To invite Simon Gotch to brief committee

JS

Modbury

- CG reported that Modbury has a new parish council. They would like one of those councillors to attend chamber meetings.
- Modbury Neighbourhood plan has had full approval and pointed out that it was an achievement getting it over the line.
- Modbury are looking into the establishment of a permanent outside market square. To do that, the parking would need to be replaced. There is a kernel of an idea to purchase a vacant building to create an indoor market or arts/ crafts centre.

Action #4: NC to approach Secretary of Modbury Parish Council to invite a representative

NC

Action #5: NC/JG to draft correspondence that can be read and heard, then finding the organisation to direct this to.

JG/NC

4. Matters newly arising for committee members

Nothing to report.

5. Strategic Theme at next event

6. Members' Forum

To be carried over to next meeting

7. Treasurer's Report

1. Account Balances

Current Account balance	£12,904.94	
(Modbury funds)	(£4,950.13)	
(Kingsbridge Traders)	(£4,058.00)	
Current Account Net Total	£3,896.81	
Deposit Account	£3,175.06	
Total Balance	£7,071.87	(Mar balance = £7,038.01)

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	£300	
Oct/Nov	Salcombe Christmas Lights	£200	
	As required	£300	

Notes

Financial documents are now saved in the Green Room site.

9. AOB

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 7th June 2023
