



Minutes of Committee Meeting

Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 5.45pm in Quay House, Kingsbridge

Chairman: James Spencer
Treasurer: John Gardner
Secretary: Nicola Coulson
Marketing Manager: Kim Willis

1. Welcome & Apologies

PRESENT: James Spencer, John Gardner, Kim Willis, Nicola Coulson, Sarah Burnett, Scot Baston, Georgie Leonard, Jane Tyler, Cllr Nikki Turton, Cllr Philip Cole
APOLOGIES: Cllr Mark Long, Cllr Rufus Gilbert, Alison Theaker, Dawn Blundell

2. Minutes & Actions

Minutes from 1st February 23 approved.

Actions outstanding from February meeting:

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| Action #4: Leadership team website update: To add Georgie Leonard - <i>to be completed by April</i> | NC |
| Action #5: KW to oversee Chamber website promotional content eg. photos and generic wording - <i>Done: KW has updated text and updated banner photos</i> | KW |
| Action #6: Members' Directory to be picked up later in quarter - <i>carried over</i> | JS |
| Action #7: To look for opportunities to host a 2023 event in Modbury
<i>Agreed to pencil in Thursday 28th September for Modbury Business Club - venue TBC. Explore gallery & check dates of Modbury Fair Week 2023 to avoid potential clash.</i> | |
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3. Council reports

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

No representation present.

- **Town: Salcombe, Kingsbridge and Modbury**

Salcombe Town Council (STC) - NT

- New Town Clerk, Sara Jones, townclerk@salcombetowncouncil.gov.uk started today (1st March 2023).
- Plans well underway for the **Coronation Weekend**.

A working group is putting together series of events and has a live Facebook page (*Salcombe Coronation Celebrations*). Applications submitted for temporary road closures - Cliff Road, Whitestrand Car Park, Fore Street - and there is an agreed Coronation weekend itinerary (lead by King Charles) for Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Screens will go up throughout Salcombe to watch (awaiting timings) and they hope to provide Park and Ride. JG asked what support the Chamber can give to Salcombe; JT to pass on this offer of assistance to Working Group.

- Most empty commercial units now have occupants. JS asked when the newly built Gould Road units will be occupied; NT confirmed that occupancy is imminent, and all will be local marine related industries. She wondered if they are waiting until the new financial year to launch. Committee remarked that the offer of 5 new commercial units, plus the new Harbour Office, is notable progress for Salcombe's businesses.
- JS enquired about the progress of ZEST (Zero Emission Salcombe Transit) electric passenger shuttle service. NT confirmed that discussions are ongoing with Zest but there are hurdles.

Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC) - PC

- PC updated on Tally Ho service. Further to a DCC meeting, the latest news regarding the bus services is that the Town Service (160) and service to Loddiswell and Hope Cove (162) will continue to operate after 31st of this month but will only run Monday to Fridays. Until he knows otherwise, they will continue to operate to the present timetable.

- Whilst the Council cannot afford to run a bus service, Kingsbridge does have charging points and bus stops so are keen to explore alternatives, specifically ZEST's Niall Rudd. There is a meeting on 2nd March in Exeter to discuss the service. JS asked PC to keep Committee in the loop regarding bus services.
- Committee noted that the staffing crisis is Chamber members' top priority, and our previous Business Club at Thurlestone agreed that good transport links are key to staffing.
- Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 4th March to talk to residents about, amongst other things, budgets, progress about skate park, and local tree plantings.
- Saturday 11th March will see planting of a mixed fruit community orchard on Wallingford Road, funded by Town Council and grant funding.
- PC discussed Kingsbridge's plans for the Coronation. He reported that KTC is concerned about spending on events that have 'no legacy' during the current severe cost of living crisis. JT and NT pointed out that a lot of Salcombe's events are being organised by volunteers and funded by donations.
- PC reported that the shops are looking good, though there is an ongoing issue with the YMCA building's absentee landlord.
- PC suggested we invite Velarde to present to committee.
- PC was relieved to report that the bandstand fire will be covered by insurance. There is a meeting with youth offenders' team to discuss a proportionate outcome for the 3 under-18s responsible for the fire. If the structural engineers give the go ahead, it might be a quicker repair, though if the steels are damaged it won't be a "quick fix". JS offered Chamber members with regards to contractors for the repairs. PC said that the KTC would like to do a big celebration when it's reopened.

Action #1: Extend invitation to representative from Velarde Gallery to talk to committee

NC

4. Matters newly arising for committee members

- Discussions with The Gazette are ongoing; going forward, we will send them copy with photo/s and it was agreed to invite Sam Acourt and Charlene to future Business Clubs.
- KW confirmed that Charlene is placing article about the Anthony Mangnall Business Club and JS's recent visit to KCC where he appeared on KCC's Zoom TV as part of their Discovery Week Employer Panels (KCC invites different sectors to come and pitch to 15/16-year-olds). SB thanked JS and invited any committee members interested in taking part to contact her.
- SB asked if Chamber could extend the jobs board to Salcombe, in a bid to link up Salcombe and Kingsbridge job opportunities. JG explained that it costs £700 for Kingsbridge Jobs Board. It was agreed to put Jobs Board in Kingsbridge and prospect of the same in Salcombe on the agenda for next meeting.
- NT suggested approaching STC for funding for the Salcombe Job Board. A discussion ensued about where to place signage/jobs board.
- PC felt that the existing sign facilitated by the Chamber outside Peacocks, Kingsbridge is underutilised and asked whether it would be a better position for the jobs board?
- JS invited committee to consider returning to bi-monthly meetings as the season starts; committee considered and voted in favour of monthly meetings.

5. Strategic Theme at next event

- SBa raised the topic of potential speakers for March's Business Club.
- A discussion ensued about Kingsbridge Town Lands Committee FEOFFSS <https://kingsbridgefeoffees.org>, a social housing charity that supports families in Kingsbridge and Salcombe. JS referred committee back to the lack of affordable housing for employees and queried whether FEOFFES was a solution? A discussion followed and it was decided not; perhaps it's more what the Chamber can do for them? PC, who sits on the Dodbrook Committee, asked if it would be better to have FEOFFES come and talk to committee?
- Regarding affordable housing, PC explained the Town Council is having issues with the derelict Ropewalk Site, which is owned by SHDC. KTC wants to build 16 affordable properties and referred to Salcombe's Community Land Trust's scheme. KTC and SHDC are now in partnership to develop the site although SHDC has received Expressions of Interest which have not yet been shared with KTC.

- JS reiterated the need to bring housing into our March event because this was a strategic priority defined by members in September so in line with our strategic priorities for this year, which run from September to June, and we don't typically have a theme at the AGM. Whilst not ruling out any organisation from attending, we need to have further discussion about how we make this event themed around housing and still tangibly useful to business.
- SB mooted the idea of inviting another housing association or an estate agent.
- SBa broached the panel format; he thought it might be better to stick with a panel until we've covered all the strategic priorities, then consider a different format for the AGM in June.

6. Member forums, general

- We have two forums currently - online The Green Room (members-only online Facebook group) and in person Business Clubs and the AGM.
- NC updated on the Soar Mill Business Club.
- SB suggested Soar Mill Cove have a promotional slot at the event.
- SBa enquired about what the proportion of non-member vs members ticketing was at Thurlestone Golf Club - *NC to confirm*. Is this an ACTION to be noted Nic?

Action #2: Report proportion of non-members vs members, as above

NC

7. Treasurer's Report

Current Account balance	£13,936.63
(Modbury funds	£4,950.13)
(Kingsbridge Traders	£5,000.00)
Current Account Net Total	£3,986.50
Deposit Account	£3,167.67
Total Balance	£7,154.17

Notes

1. Fees for STRIPE card processing will increase with effect from 10 Apr 23 as follows:
 - a. **Standard UK cards.** Increase from (1.4% + £0.20) to (1.5% + £0.20) per transaction.
 - b. **Premium UK cards (commercial Visa/Mastercard).** Increase from (1.4% + £0.20) to (1.5% + £0.20) per transaction.
2. Proposed donations look-ahead Mar/Apr in accordance with the 2023 Draft Budget:
 - a. Kingsbridge in Bloom (£500)
 - b. Salcombe Dinghy Sailing Wind Project (£300)
 - c. Kingsbridge Classic Rallies (£200)
3. To ensure financial transparency, JG intends to present this and other relevant financial documents (such as reconciliation work) in the Green Room.

JG gave committee the audited facts and figures **as reconciled on 31st January**, to present a more accurate picture for the records.

He expressed the importance of making this a forward-looking document, rather than focussing on what has been done in the past, then referred to the previous (draft) budget and what Peter's proposed donations mean for the next few months.

In the spirit of transparency, JG is keen that these proposed commitments are discussed at committee and that all future Treasurer's reports are posted on Facebook/Green Room.

JG asked JS if he has authority to approach the proposed recipients to initiate donations. JS thanked JG and is pleased that committee will be given a chance to reflect on the proposed investments in advance and make judgements.

Committee was asked whether they wished to approve PR's proposed funding commitments, including:

1. Kingsbridge in Bloom (KIB)

Whilst declaring an interest as he sits on the KIB committee, PC pointed out that KIB brings awards to the town year on year.

SBa proposed that we continue to contribute; GL seconded. Agreed.

2. The Wind Project/Salcombe Dinghy Sailing

The Wind Project (a Charitable Community Benefit Society) aims to encourage wider social participation and engagement in Sailing with the objective of building a stronger, more socially cohesive, local community with opportunities available to all. The Project also aims to have a positive impact on the local and wider economy by broadening people's horizons to the potential employment opportunities in the marine industry.

JG proposed; JS seconded. Agreed.

3. Quayside Classics (Classic car meet in Market Square, Kingsbridge)

Kevin Moore of Axle Tramps runs a regular Classic Car open meet in Market Square on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, between May and September.

SB proposed; JG seconded. Agreed.

Committee agreed that this process was good for transparency.

Ignite update: JG confirmed that £500 each has been allocated for Salcombe, Kingsbridge, Modbury.

Working Group for Ignite - SB and JG have volunteered to steer.

Action #3 To add Upcoming Donations to Agenda

NC

8. AOB

(1) Salcombe TC invite to pursue something for the Coronation - *covered during the meeting*

(2) How to engage with KDJ (proposed open plan working space of both fixed and hot desks for up to 40 x young professionals) to the benefit of members and the area's business community more widely. *To be discussed at next meeting.*

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5th April 2023
