



Minutes of Committee Meeting

Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 5.45pm in Quay House, Kingsbridge

1. Welcome & Apologies

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

2. Minutes & Actions

Minutes from 7th February 2024 approved.

Actions outstanding previously and ongoing

Action #1: To add Donations and Subscriptions to March or April agenda	JS/NC
Action #2: KCC Careers Board Steering Group is to be set up, to include SB, JG, SB, SBa. SB to work with KCC to establish agreement for ongoing administrator to receive and review data for the page.	SBa/SB

3. Treasurer's Report

Apologies from JG

4. Council reports

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

South Hams District Council - *ML / SD*

Council Tax

- ML reported that SHDC has increased council tax for 2024/25 by 2.99% (increasing a Band D Council Tax for 2024/25 from £185.42 to £190.96 - an increase of £5.54 per year).

Council Plan 24-28

- At a Full Council meeting on 15 February, [The Council Plan for 24-28](#), which sets out the overall aims and ambitions for the district for the next four years, was fully adopted, along with the supporting delivery plan for the first year.
- The delivery plan for 2024/25 represents a commitment of £4.591m in delivering on the Councils priorities for the district. This is a mix of freeing up existing earmarked reserves, reprioritisation of existing core budgets and government grants that have been secured (for example UK Shared Prosperity Funding).

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- Four key policy areas were agreed - to prioritise the climate change and biodiversity emergency, tackle the challenging housing situation, support the economy, and deliver good quality services to the district's communities.

One key area is **Economy and Jobs**, with the following Primary Aims:

- Support our highstreets and businesses to adapt for future demands.
 - Create an Environment in which businesses in all sectors can innovate.
 - Champion for local infrastructure (including broadband) to support economic growth.
 - Further develop our active travel network to sustainably connect our communities.
 - Leverage the strength of partner organisations to develop the skills of our residents.
 - Maximise the opportunities of the Freeport and the business it brings to the area.
- ML confirmed that there is not a lot of funding out there; government have announced additional funding in the budget, but there is no news yet on what is available.
 - Regarding funding, SD referred to the Chamber as a key partner in the Council Plan, and committed to follow up with SHDC Business Team to ensure they automatically communicate with the Chamber about future grant funding etc.

Business survey

- JS asked whether we should expect a survey about what business needs. ML explained that there has been a recent (statutory) online **Budget Engagement Survey** that was sent out to 1,800 (tbc) businesses as part of the annual budget setting process but agreed that it would be a good idea to put a survey out there to tie in with the plan.
- Julia Wingate referred to Community Economic Plan (CEP) for Kingsbridge and explained that the outlying areas are not included. JE said that Marlborough and East Portlemouth are being added to Salcombe's CEP.
- A discussion ensued about the business survey - CG asked why they don't send it out to people who pay business rates? PC suggested the survey is sent to chamber to distribute to members.
- SD and ML to follow up.
- JS asked where business sits on the plan; ML said it wasn't compiled in order of priority.

Devolution

- SD referred to a DCC draft devolution proposal to establish the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA) www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk - to circulate in minutes.

Harbour Board

- By June Salcombe Harbour Board will have a strategic 5-year plan - ML to forward for circulation.
- ML and JE confirmed that Salcombe Harbour is a priority. As a regional marine leisure destination, it is a catalyst for marine and tourism-based businesses throughout the district and is part of Salcombe's economic plan.
- JS referred to incoming boat holders and value on local economy - visitor income accounts for a large percentage of the harbour's overall income and the Chamber has an interest in the number of visitors coming into the estuary. ML said there's an upward change - the number of yachts coming into the harbour has bounced back since Covid.
- Whilst they're only publishing the 5-year plan, ML referred to 5-, 10- and 15-year plans.
- JS said it would be useful to have the data.
- It was suggested that we invite Salcombe Harbour Master, Cameron Sims-Stirling to a meeting. His presence might fit with November event at Salcombe Harbour Hotel.

Action #1: To add Harbour Board to agenda ongoing.

NC

Action #2: To invite Salcombe Harbour Master to a future committee meeting

NC

Devon County Council

No representation

Town: Salcombe | Kingsbridge | Modbury

Salcombe Town Council (STC) - SD

RNLI's 200th Anniversary

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- On Monday 4th March, Salcombe celebrated the RNLI's 200th anniversary.
 - This year's big event is the Field of Light which is hoped to raise funds for the RNLI and generate a lot more visitors.

Salcombe Maritime Museum

- This year the museum marks its 50th anniversary - to mark the occasion, they are hosting some special events to showcase their collection and tell Salcombe's story.

D-Day 80th Anniversary

- 6th June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day; Salcombe will be holding a day of commemorative events, culminating in beacon lighting on Thursday 6th. Given that this takes place in term time, they don't anticipate lots of visitors.
- This year, National Fish and Chip Day is also taking place on 6th June, to recognise the morale-boosting importance of fish and chips during WWII, and on D-Day. JE is hoping to tie in both events.

Park and Ride

- Currently looking at options - talking to SHDC and DCC.

Parking

- Devon County Council has postponed plans for Pay and Display Parking Meters in Salcombe.
- Shows that DCC has listened to the feedback from the public and local members following the consultation.

Salcombe in Bloom

- More generally, efforts are afoot to make Salcombe a nicer place to visit. Trying to set up a Salcombe in Bloom (on a smaller scale than Kingsbridge) and have secured initial sponsorship from STC.

Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC)

Kingsbridge in Bloom

- This year's colour theme is the RNLI's 200th anniversary, marked by yellow wellies by RNLI commemorative statue.
- The community has also been invited to knit yellow RNLI wellies.

Cookworthy Museum

- A new exhibition opens on Monday 25th March. 'Six Weeks to Go' details life in the South Hams during World War II as American troops evacuated whole villages to enable the troops to partake in D-Day preparations.

Police station

- The Police and Crime Commissioner, Alison Hernandez, officially opened Kingsbridge Police Enquiry Office on 21st February, which is a good thing for the town.

Bandstand

- The Bandstand is at the snagging stage but needs to be ready for the Food and Music Festival.

Skate Park

- The opening has been delayed because the Skate Park failed its RoSPA safety test.

Flooding issues

- Sewage has been overflowing from drains at the lower end of town - on Mill Street and the entrance to Quay car park. SW Water has been using tankers to remove sewage to "reduce pressure on the system" after downpours "inundated" the sewers.
- SW Water have been here for two weeks and there is nothing obvious - they believe it's the volume of rainwater, which doesn't address the issue of a non-satisfactory drainage problem.
- Flooding has always been a problem in Kingsbridge. DCC commissioned a report on the issue but failed to include new Applegate estate. KTC is lobbying hard to get things sorted out. PC explained that the real problem is the number of houses and no one on the planning committee is a water engineer.

- Next Monday-Wednesday particularly high tides are expected and there is a concern about sewage coming into shops on Bridge Street. PC and JW will be in town from 6am on Monday, and DCC are sending a team next Wednesday to police this and help clear up.
- The flooding impacts on tourism and business - last year Jamie's was unreachable due to flood water and lost 25 bookings as a result.
- SD applauded the Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan, which details KTC's emergency response to flooding. Not all towns have such plans in place.
- KTC have brought out a new leaflet called 'Flooding in Kingsbridge' with advice for residents.
- JW explained that KTC are trying to set up an alert for flooding. She referred to Kingsbridge taking part in a pilot scheme with the **Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP)** funded by DEFRA as part of the £150 million Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme (FCRIP).
The project aims to provide more time for communities to be ready by (amongst other things) *"providing localised flood forecasting alerts and other smart technologies to the community to improve preparation time for flood events."*
These technologies including developing and testing new approaches such as surface flood water forecasting pilot schemes and smart gullies. However, these responses are for rainwater, not tide water.
- JS asked if there's anything the Chamber can do to help. It was agreed that there was an appetite to write to Cllr Gilbert regarding the impact the flooding is having on business.
- PC referred to the Environment Agency possibly penalising SW Water.
- ML reminded committee that when SW Water upgraded the sewerage network in Salcombe to alleviate flooding to roads and properties and pollution to the estuary, it cost around £1.2m. This scheme solved a lot of problems, and the situation has improved.

Action #3: To write to Cllr Gilbert (see above)

TBC

Modbury Parish Council (MPC) - SW

Housing

- There are issues with Baker Estates' proposed Penn Parks development.
The proposed access arrangements involving crossing the A379 twice (three times if in a wheelchair or with a buggy) or using The Green Lane informally and exiting onto a dangerous corner of an A379 was considered unacceptable and dangerous.
- Baker Estates have also reduced the proposed number of affordable homes from 30% to 10% (4 homes). SHDC says 30% is an acceptable proportion.
- There has been some flooding around the town with areas getting cut off; getting SW Water to respond is difficult.

Modbury's Marvellous Make-over

- SW announced the relaunch of Modbury, post SW Water works - **Modbury's Marvellous Make-over**.
- Work is underway to draw up a project plan and budget to make Modbury desirable to live in and visit. Nearly all the shops are up and running again and there is lots of new planting, although they want more signage.
- They are looking for funding. A donation has been offered and Crowdfunding is being considered. MPC, Chamber of Commerce, DCC and SWW will all be contributing.
- Modbury are taking a lot of steers from what's going on in Kingsbridge.

Strategic Plans

- Trying to focus on aims and objectives as they've never been a proper plan.
- They have a new councillor.

5. Business Clubs

Deferred to April meeting

6. Chamber Rebrand

Deferred to April meeting

7. Ongoing Projects

Field of Light

- Salcombe Town Council **have** approved the installation, but East Portlemouth has not yet approved - committee were keen to know when they should expect confirmation.
- ML confirmed that the planning application is in the formal consultation period (statutory 28 days) - without confirmation it's nerve wracking for businesses as they need to plan.
- Committee can check progress via SHDC's planning portal - ML to send link.

Impactful Info Panels project

No update

Collaboration with KCC / Digital Careers Board

- SB provided feedback and showed committee the prototype.
 - The technical build is done. SB has created a prototype which will allow KCC to update with jobs - hopefully by end of March - and would ideally like to make it live before March's business club.
 - Needs to be easy for KCC to update.
 - If it has an application date, once the deadline passes the job disappears.
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10. AOB

- To review Chamber offering - move to April's meeting.
- JW spoke about **Kingsbridge Easter Treasure Hunt**.

Kingsbridge is trying to revitalise an egg hunt. There will be 12 museum treasures in shop windows; entrants need to identify the treasures, fill in a sheet and get an egg.

They already have some sponsorship from Tesco, but they need to secure more funding for prizes, printing etc - they are asking for about £650.

In return for a Chamber donation, JW committed to Chamber logos on printed materials, social media etc.

SD/CG proposed shortening the time to ensure that there are enough eggs.

In JG's absence, JS proposed the Chamber donates £300 + committing to 2 extra businesses for £50.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 3rd April 2024
