

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 5.45pm in Quay House, Kingsbridge



Chairman:	James Spencer	
Treasurer:	John Gardner	
Executive Committee:	Scot Baston	Cornerstone Photography
	Catherine Gillen	The Brownstone Gallery
	Jane Tyler	The Winking Prawn Group
Associate Committee:	Cllr Nikki Turton	Salcombe Town Council, Mayor
	Kim Willis	Marketing Manager
	Dawn Blundell	Kingsbridge Information Centre
	Alison Theaker	The Spark, Business Coaching
Secretary:	Nicola Coulson	

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies:	Cllr Rufus Gilbert	Devon County Council
	Cllr Mark Long	South Hams District Council
	Sarah Burnett	Salcombe Information Centre & KCC
	Cllr Philip Cole	Kingsbridge Town Council, Mayor
	Georgie Leonard	Bochinelli

2. Minutes & Actions

Minutes from 5th April 23 approved.

Actions outstanding from April meeting:

Action #1:	Members' Directory: <i>Re new members, NC to upload member's logo onto directory, whilst awaiting further information.</i>	NC
Action #2:	To look for opportunities to host an Autumn 2023 event in Modbury. <i>Ongoing</i>	NC
Action #3:	To approach Bartons re hosting this year's AGM. <i>Actioned; awaiting response</i>	NC
Action #4:	To invite representatives from the following to attend and brief committee: - Velarde Gallery - <i>Actioned. Lorna Yabsley to attend June meeting</i> - KDJ Collective - <i>Actioned. Yuiwin Tsang to attend June meeting</i> - Julia Wingate - <i>Actioned. Julia to attend June meeting to discuss possible training collaboration</i>	NC
Action #5:	To organise Chamber 'visioning session'. <i>In hand - date TBC</i>	AT/NC

3. Council reports

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

Apologies from RG and ML.

- Town: Salcombe, Kingsbridge and Modbury

Salcombe Town Council (STC) - NT

- NT is stepping down as Mayor, so thanked committee.
- NT introduced Cllr Caroline Bricknell, Deputy Mayor and NT's likely successor. Caroline has been a Councillor of Salcombe on and off for 10 years and is also a Trustee of the Community Land Trust. Committed to the provision of affordable housing for the parish, Caroline has been involved with housing allocation in Salcombe for many years and has a strong involvement with and understanding of the local community.
- On behalf of committee, JS thanked NT for her contribution.

Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC)

Apologies from PC

Modbury

CG reported that she had no report from Modbury Parish Council as they failed to reach quorum at their last meeting.

The main focus is traffic. The A379 road closure between Aveton Gifford and Modbury for “pole replacement, overhead and underground cabling, tree cutting and excavation to clear blockages” by BT Openreach has caused chaos. CG noted that from Flete roundabout into Modbury there were 15 road closure and signs diverting traffic via Dartington and Totnes, which were extremely confusing for drivers. The signage suggested Modbury was closed; it was not, and this misleading signage undoubtedly resulted in lower visitor numbers and a fall in trade.

NT expressed concern that this disruption could be a precursor to the planned South West Water (SWW) works next year.

CG agreed that Modbury is anticipating a very difficult period of road closures in January 2024, when SWW upgrade the sewer system in Modbury High Street. She explained that traders have already felt the effects of poor or misleading signage this January, when SWW cancelled their planned works at the last minute but failed to remove the road closure notice from their website for over a month. Local radio stations continued to broadcast the road closures in Modbury right through till end of March and this was compounded by misinformation on Google maps and the AA’s website. It took 6 weeks to have the road closure signs removed.

CG reported that the key stakeholders are “passing the buck”; she noted that none of the organisations involved is taking responsibility. She also reported that BT uses sub-contractors to erect signage, which went up well before work started.

A discussion ensued about what the Chamber can do to assist. It was agreed that Committee is keen to put its name to a lobbying effort on behalf of Modbury.

JG asked if we should be approaching whoever is responsible, to explain the impact this is having on local business. Various committee members suggested writing to Anthony Mangnall MP, Sir Gary Streeter MP, Rufus Gilbert (DCC), Devon Highways; SB suggested contacting Devon Chamber as they are strong on lobbying. The goal for the correspondence is:

- a) to achieve recognition from one or more parties partaking in the works, such as BT Open Reach and DCC Highways, that there isn’t currently any means of recourse for impacted businesses
- b) to seek to establish a means of recourse, to the benefit of our member businesses and business more widely.

JS asked CG who to direct this to. BT are carrying out the works, so it was suggested that we make a personal approach to Philip Jansen, CEO of BT, who has a home in Salcombe. JT volunteered to facilitate introduction. It was suggested Mr Jansen is cc-ed into relevant communications.

JG suggested that we need to address policy behind these road closures and the ensuing disruption - presumably this would be Anthony Mangnall and Devon Highways? CG concurred if it raises awareness that there’s something wrong in the planning.

DB is it worth engaging the Gazette? Would it be worth getting in touch with local news?

Action #1:	CG to document sequence of events	CG
Action #2:	NC/JG to draft correspondence that can be read and heard, then finding the organisation to direct this to.	JG/NC
Action #3:	JT to facilitate introduction to Philip Jansen, BT	JT

4. Matters newly arising for committee members

Nothing to report.

5. Strategic Theme at next event

AGM - June 23

Committee discussed ideas for the theme of this year’s Annual Garden Meeting at the end of June. Two key themes were raised:

1. **Public transport**, which seems to be at the core of business over the last 12 months - getting staff into and around the area. Could invite Zest & e-Xplore Devon (e-bike sales and hire).
 2. **Culture**. KW pointed out the imminent openings of Velarde and last Spring’s opening of Outside (a multi-use space which includes a restaurant, pottery studio, organic farm, and skate bowl) which runs events and workshops, means more is happening locally. If we could push the cultural side, it would help create a more year-round destination/economy.
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A discussion ensued.

- SB would like event to focus on the positives the area can bring.
 - JT concurred about the benefits of bringing more people in year-round.
 - JG suggested exploring local vs national issues - e.g., taxation, housing, corporation tax, tourism. Depending on our strategy, do we want a national perspective?
 - SB wondered if we'd be at cross purposes with Devon Chamber or the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), which lobbies for small business and the self-employed.
 - AT would like a short business element, then eating and a focus on networking.
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6. Members' Forum

To be carried over to next meeting

7. Treasurer's Report

1. Account Balances

Current Account balance	£13,171.08	
(Modbury funds)	(£4,950.13)	
(Kingsbridge Traders)	(£4,358.00)	
Current Account Net Total	£3,862.95	
Deposit Account	£3,175.06	
Total Balance	£7,038.01	(Feb balance = £7,070.01)

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

JT updated on Salcombe Information Centre (SIC). She distributed the new look Salcombe Guide and reported a great response. SIC see Salcombe as South Ham's 'jewel in the crown'; they're being approached by advertisers to be included. She reported that the SIC in the Council Hall is having a refresh. JS congratulated JT on the big 'step change' for SIC.

JT also updated on Coronation plans and passed round a flyer. She reported that a lot has been sponsored and confirmed that a free bus would be running over weekend and people will be able to hail the Park & Ride.

JS reported last minute property bookings, so the word is obviously getting out.

DB pointed out that the Jobs Board at the KIC is being underutilised. KW recognised the need to push the information out to our membership and confirmed that it will be going into this month's newsletter as a member benefit.

Action #4:	KW to include Jobs Board in next newsletter & liaise with JS/DB about further promotion	KW
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Action #5:	NC to target bigger employers to let them know about the Jobs' Board	NC
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Date of next meeting: Wednesday 7th June 2023
