



Minutes of Committee Meeting

Wednesday 7th May 2025 at 5.45pm in Quay House, Kingsbridge

1. Welcome & Apologies

Present:	Scot Baston John Gardner Nicola Coulson Jane Tyler Kim Willis Adam Taylor Cllr Mark Goodey Cllr Steve Mammatt Cllr Sam Dennis	Vice-Chair, Kingsbridge Cornerstone Photography Treasurer Secretary Committee Member, The Winking Prawn Group Committee Member, Marketing Manager Committee Member, Taylored Games Associate Committee Member, Salc. Town Council, Mayor Associate Committee Member, Kingsbr. Town Council Associate Committee Member, SHDC
Apologies:	James Spencer Alex Robertson Cllr Julia Wingate Cllr Jasper Evans Cllr Tony Price Cllr Sarah Wyatt Sarah Burnett Cllr Mark Long Dawn Blundell	Chair Pebbles Group Committee Member, IT Workhouse Associate Committee Member, Kingsbr. Town Council, Mayor Associate Committee Member, Salc. Town Council Associate Committee Member, Modbury Parish Council Associate Committee Member, Modbury Parish Council Associate Committee Member, KCC Salcombe Info Centre Associate Committee Member, SHDC (esp. Planning) & Salcombe Harbour Committee Associate Committee Member, Kingsbridge Info Centre

SB opened the meeting, standing in from JS.

2. Minutes & Actions

Minutes from April 2025 approved (with some actions pending).
One amendment to April's minutes regarding Salcombe's Park and Ride. The minutes may have overstated the likelihood of a second bus being added and will be amended to reflect that this is a possibility, not a confirmed plan.

Actions outstanding previously and ongoing

1. Member Survey: Draft to gather feedback and agree content. To send out via Survey Monkey. <i>Update: Feedback form drafted and ready to be issued, pending approval.</i>	KW/NC
2. Devolution: SD to continue monitoring. <i>Ongoing</i>	SD
3. Membership: Administrative review of members that have left over the last 3 years. <i>Ongoing.</i>	JSS

3. Council reports

Salcombe Town Council (STC) - MG

1. Crabfest 2025

- MG reported *Crabfest 2025* as “very successful,” with excellent weather and strong attendance.
- Crabfest continues to be a well-attended and popular event, drawing significant footfall to Salcombe over the early May Bank Holiday and providing a platform for showcasing Salcombe on a regional and national level.
- SM reported 600+ cars parked in the Rotary Club Park-and-Ride field.
- Rotary also organised more activities than in previous years, enhancing the visitor experience.
- Committee expressed appreciation for Rotary's efforts and fundraising.

Local business concerns

- While the event is beneficial for some, particularly those located close to the main site, several local businesses - particularly those located elsewhere in the town - saw little or no boost in trade on what is normally a busy bank holiday weekend.
- SD confirmed via recent email that Crabfest organisers do not pay for car park closures, despite occupying Whitestrand for 4 days. This closure - for 4 days (for setup, event day, and breakdown) - creates significant disruption to parking availability, impacting both residents and local businesses, and the waiving of a hire charge raised concerns about fair use of council-owned infrastructure.
- JT noted Salcombe Town Council paid for the park-and-ride for 3 days, while the organisers only funded one day, yet benefited from four full days of free parking. This raised questions about balance in cost-sharing, particularly as the event uses public resources and infrastructure.
- Frustration expressed that traders outside the site saw minimal benefit, while the event generated significant revenue, with examples like £6 glasses of rosé selling out.
- Committee discussed whether the event would be better suited to September rather than the early May

Bank Holiday, when crab is in season and staffing levels are more manageable.

Local inclusion

- Crabfest has run for around 10 years (excluding a 3-year COVID break).
- Initial idea was for a locally driven event promoting Salcombe, with local chefs and crab at the centre. As the event has grown, there is concern that it may be drifting away from its original community focus
- Increasing presence of non-local traders and national-level chefs has prompted questions about local representation and relevance. Some businesses felt the event doesn't reflect or benefit Salcombe enough, with many traders and food vendors unrelated to local produce or crab.
- There is a perception that information on arrangements and costs (e.g. parking, logistics, revenues) has not always been transparent or easily accessible, creating frustration and confusion among local stakeholders.

Event review

- It was noted that Crabfest remains a valued community event with proven fundraising impact.
 - However, committee supported the view that, given its scale and public support, a periodic review of its operations and cost-sharing model would be beneficial.
 - Committee expressed interest in constructive dialogue between local stakeholders and Rotary Club to ensure the event continues to grow in a way that is sustainable, transparent, and inclusive.
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2. VE Day

A highly successful VE Day celebration was held on Monday at Cliff House Gardens, featuring live music, community engagement, and national media presence.

Performers included *The Hummingbirds* and *The Larks*.

BBC Coverage

- The BBC contacted the STC on the morning of the event, requesting a brief feature for the 1pm news. Despite the event's official start at 2pm, the BBC film crew arrived early, observed the setup, and chose to remain on site for the full day. Footage was filmed from approximately 11.30am onwards, capturing performances and atmosphere.
 - The weather, backdrop of the estuary, and local participation were cited as key factors in the BBC's decision to prioritise the story, and the segment received positive national coverage, highlighting Salcombe in a favourable light.
 - A **church service and wreath-laying ceremony** were scheduled for the following day as part of the VE Day observances.
 - MG noted the VE Day event as a major success, reflecting well on the town and demonstrating strong community spirit and positive national recognition.
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Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC) - SM

- Limited recent council activity due to the May elections - things have been relatively quiet.

1. VE Day Celebrations

- VE Day event was coordinated by the Royal British Legion, not by the council directly, though KTC did provide financial support.
 - The celebration was held primarily at the Mill Club - **event promotion was minimal**, possibly due to the Legion's limited social media use.
 - No parade took place, which some viewed as a disappointment given the number of veterans in the area and the strong community interest.
 - It was suggested the council could **support future events through simple promotion**, without organising them directly.
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2. Parking | Car Parks

KTC worked with SHDC to restructure Fore Street car park to function as a shoppers' car park - encouraging short-stay turnover. The new structure aimed to support businesses by improving parking space turnover.

This prompted a wider discussion about the current parking issues.

Issues

Ongoing complaints from businesses and visitors:

- New parking rules intended to make central car parks short-stay and shopper-friendly.
- Customers now tending to rush visits, park briefly, grab items, and leave - rather than shopping and dining around town.
- Regulars have said they no longer visit other nearby spots like Fika or Bewleys due to parking stress.
- SD confirmed complaints from residents who formerly combined activities (e.g., swimming then coffee) but now avoid town because of shortened parking times and higher charges.
- Residents and workers are struggling with parking options too, and there are reports of increased parking in residential streets.

Parking Enforcement & Cost

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- Committee reported increased parking warden activity, particularly on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Traffic wardens were seen timing loading and unloading windows closely.
 - Inconsistent enforcement noted: heavily present in some areas, absent in others.
 - **Permit uptake** among residents suspected to be **very low**: SD said she would be requesting figures and historical data for review by the end of summer.

Pricing Comparisons and Seasonal Strategy

- MG compared local pricing at **North Sands** with **Polzeath** in Cornwall, where **winter parking is far cheaper** - suggesting Kingsbridge explore **seasonal discounting** to support off-peak use.
 - Frustration expressed that revenue from fines and fees is directed primarily to Devon County Council, not directly reinvested into Kingsbridge infrastructure.
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4. Youth Anti-Social Behaviour Update

- A young repeat offender, linked to 75% of local crime reports, has been given a 6-8 month sentence, part to be served in youth custody, part on a supervised license.
 - His removal from the community has seen the return of absent youths to school and improved atmosphere in affected areas.
 - While the individual caused significant disruption, committee expressed concern and empathy, supporting long-term intervention and rehabilitation.
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5. Comms and Community Engagement

Discussion around event promotion and community inclusion:

- Committee noted that Salcombe's messaging is more visible and proactive.
 - SM reported that Lorna Yabsley is now managing KTC social media, which may improve outreach going forward.
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Modbury Parish Council

Apologies from Modbury

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

South Hams District Council - SD

1. Local Elections

SD provided an update following the Devon County Council elections:

- Liberal Democrats won 27 out of 60 seats, short of the majority.
 - A coalition is likely with the Green Party, who hold 6 seats, securing a working majority.
 - Julian Brazil (Lib Dem) is expected to become Leader of Devon County Council.
 - Jackie Hodgson (Green Party) is anticipated as Deputy Leader.
 - Louise Wainwright is now the County Councillor for the Salcombe Division.
 - Out of the 60 total seats, 45 councillors are new, representing a major turnover and a heavy workload for council officers and committees.
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2. SHDC Leadership

- At District level, Dan Thomas is expected to become the new Leader of SHDC.
 - Simon Rake, who won the Dartmouth seat, is the probable Deputy Leader.
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3. Council Representation & Engagement

- Concerns raised about who will represent the area now that Rufus Gilbert (previous cabinet member for economy) has stepped down.
 - SD suggested requesting regular reports from the Economy Team, especially if no direct representative attends, and emphasised the importance of lobbying new leadership, given the scale of change and potential policy shifts.
 - Committee raised the need to invite new County Councillors (e.g. Louise Wainwright, Julian Brazil) to future meetings. Suggested an introductory letter from JS, SBa and JG, to:
 - Extend an invitation to the AGM.
 - Establish ongoing communication on local issues.
 - Recognised that Cllrs Brazil and Wainwright have both attended in the past, and could be encouraged to re-engage.
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4. Event Commercialisation & Community Impact

- SD touched on Crabfest and reflected on similar issues from organising "Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas".
 - Over time, such events often attract more out-of-area traders, straying from their community roots.
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- Recognised how easy it is for organisers to repeat booking patterns without reviewing impact.
- Advocated for a reset and review, with organisers reconsidering their purpose and community engagement.

4. Treasurer's Report

1. Financial Statements

Report dated 31st March 2025

Account Balances

Current Account balance	£15,691.63	
(Modbury funds)	(£4,531.19)	
(Kingsbridge Traders)	(£2,573.00)	
Current Account Net Total	£8,587.44	
Deposit Account	£6,850.12	
Total Balance	£15,437.56	(February balance = £14,990.35)

Monthly Income/Expenditure Statement - as previously circulated.

Donation Proposal

JG assessed the **Devon Young Fishers** initiative using the agreed scoring mechanism. It rated positively. After reviewing their work and marketing, he proposed a **£200 donation**.

- This would be the **first donation of the year**, and although the Chamber has moved away from general donations, this aligns with their aims and offers good visibility.
- **Proposal seconded by SB**, with support from NC, who noted their effective marketing and willingness to promote the Chamber's support.

Railway advertising opportunity

SM invited the Chamber to advertise on the Kingsbridge and District Light Railway (LDLR).

- Cost: £250 for a permanent A2 poster, with strong visibility and long-term value.
- Suggested to evaluate via the Chamber's matrix before deciding.

Financial Update

- £31 interest earned from the savings account in Q1 - noted as an improvement from last year.
- JG confirmed that he is now the primary account user.

Event Refunds & Budget Impact

- Recent business club event saw food order cancellations; refunds issued, resulting in a small loss.
 - Overall, due to consistent surplus from previous events, the annual position is still expected to break even or show a small profit.
 - Potential to recoup losses at the AGM through measures like running the bar.
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Actions:

JG to confirm £200 donation with Jemma Jewkes, Devon Young Fishers, cc'ing KW for marketing purposes.

JG/KW

JG to consider donation to KDLR

JG

5. Ongoing Projects

South Hams Chamber Rebrand | Website

1. Website Launch and Rebrand

- A **vote** was held regarding the launch of the new website and associated rebrand. The result was a unanimous vote in favour (5 out of 5 eligible committee members present).
- Although JS and AR had both expressed support for launching the website, their votes could not be formally included due to their absence.

Implementation Plan:

- The new website will go live in the week commencing 16 June (targeting 16-19 June).
- Copy updates may be made before launch to ensure consistency with the Chamber's revised scope.
- A holding page will be added for the Kingsbridge, Salcombe & Modbury Chamber to inform visitors of the transition.
- The old website will be archived, and hosting responsibilities transferred.
- Social media and ticketing functions will be moved to the new platform ahead of the AGM.

2. Chamber Scope Discussion | Vote

Options Presented:

- a) A simplified continuation of the Chamber's current focus, concentrating on supporting local members, improving communication, and refining internal processes.
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- b) An expanded model, including potential collaboration with other chambers, broader geographical reach, increased political or advocacy involvement, and a more proactive external presence.

Discussion Points:

- Several members noted that while expansion is aspirational, current capacity is limited due to committee reductions.
- A proposal was made to adopt a flexible stance: begin with the simplified model and reassess in six months or after new leadership is in place.

Vote Outcome:

Majority in favour of Option (a): simplified, locally focused Chamber operations, with a review clause to allow evolution based on capacity and leadership.

3. Leadership and Committee Transition

Chair and Treasurer Positions:

- JS (Chair) has indicated plans to step down, most likely at the AGM. Formal confirmation and date are pending.
- JG (Treasurer) confirmed he is stepping down at the AGM.

Committee Concerns:

- The current committee is undersized, and there is a recognised need to recruit new members to ensure continuity.
- It was noted that leadership changes present an opportunity for renewal alongside the rebrand.

Next Steps:

- AGM materials will include a call for nominations for the Chair and Treasurer roles.
 - Communications (newsletter, social media, and website) will be used to raise awareness of these vacancies.
 - A short informal description of roles and responsibilities may be included to encourage interest without deterring potential candidates.
 - There was a suggestion to run a press article explaining the value of the Chamber and inviting local businesspeople to get involved.
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4. Membership Engagement and Communications

- Not all members are regularly reading meeting minutes or are fully aware of current changes.
- Events are attended by a small proportion of the overall membership, making outreach more difficult.

Actions Proposed:

- Use the rebrand and new website as a relaunch opportunity to improve engagement.
 - Distribute information via email, newsletter, website updates, and potentially local press coverage.
 - Ensure members are informed of leadership opportunities and upcoming changes well in advance of the AGM.
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5. Use of Funds and Strategic Focus

JG raised concern regarding the lack of clear action following the decision last year to stop charitable donations. It was noted that a significant proportion of funds are being spent on internal operations rather than delivering on the Chamber's stated mission.

Agreement:

- A refocus on outward-facing, member-beneficial activities is needed.
- Strategic planning to utilise available funds for initiatives that provide value to the local business community will be discussed at future meetings.

In summary:

SBa summarised the session, noting that progress is being made toward a more stable and clearly directed Chamber. The upcoming rebrand and website launch offer a valuable opportunity to relaunch the Chamber's public presence and refresh its internal structure. The AGM will be a critical point for formalising leadership changes and recruiting new committee members.

JG commended the committee for beginning to move from internal reflection toward a more proactive approach. There was collective agreement that the Chamber must now focus on outward action and tangible value for members if it is to grow and remain relevant.

Actions:

Launch new website by mid-June	SBa/KW
Finalise website copy and transition page	KW/NC/SBa
Prepare AGM nomination call for Chair and Treasurer	NC/SBa/KW
Promote leadership vacancies across communication channels	KW
Draft messaging for local press and newsletter re: Chamber value and roles	

Begin planning post-donation fund initiatives - to be discussed in future meetings
Reassess Chamber scope post-AGM or within six months

Membership

1. Membership Growth

- Urgent need to grow membership.
- Word of mouth seen as the most effective recruitment method - members encouraged to bring guests.
- Clear mission statement needed to help members promote the Chamber confidently.
- Consideration of a structured "guest invite" scheme using coupons or QR codes.
- New website will clearly outline the benefits of membership. Emphasis on the community and social value of membership, not just financial return.

2. Events & Engagement

- Mixed feedback on recent events: speaker dominance was a concern; however, positive networking experiences were noted.
- Suggestions to return to shorter, timed "hotspot" presentations to keep events dynamic and engaging.
- Consider making select events free for guests, especially if invited by a member.
- Need to improve logistics for walk-ins and on-the-spot sign-ups.

3. Marketing & Materials

- Business cards with QR codes to aid promotion are in development.
- Once rebranding is complete, marketing materials (e.g. postcards, stickers) will be refreshed.
- Important that all members know how to articulate Chamber benefits clearly.

4. Event follow-up

- Improvements needed for handling sign-ups at events (e.g. via website or app) and follow-up with potential new members (e.g. Metro Bank contact).

5. Retail Sector Engagement

- Traders in town remain hard to engage.
- AT requested list of current retail members to support peer outreach.

6. Upcoming Events

- AGM scheduled for 26th June at Velarde Gallery, Kingsbridge.
 - Rebrand and website launch expected within the next month.
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Actions:

Finalise and share mission statement with members.	All
Consider structured guest invite mechanism (coupon or QR).	
Refresh business cards and marketing materials post-rebrand.	KW
Improve on-the-day event registration and payment setup.	SBa/NC
NC to provide retail member list to AT for outreach.	NC
Promote benefits of membership on website and in communications.	KW

Jobs Board

No update

6. The month ahead

7. AOB

1. Tesco Planning Application - Parking Duration

- NC raised a query about the Tesco planning application, which has been on the agenda for around three months.
- The issue concerns the reduction of parking duration:
- Original planning permission was based on a 3-hour limit. The limit has since been reduced to 1.5 hours, though it's unclear how or if this was formally approved. SD believes it "snuck through," though she's not on the planning team.
- Status: Still under consideration, despite the public consultation ending in November.

2. Mayoral Transition | Salcombe

- MG announced he will no longer be Mayor after next week, completing his two-year term.
 - Jasper Evans is expected to become the next Mayor.
 - Representation responsibilities are not yet confirmed; it's unknown if JE will take them on personally.
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Date of next meeting: Wednesday 2nd July 2025
