

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Wednesday 1st July 2026 at 5.45pm in Quay House, Kingsbridge

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present	Cllr Sam Dennis Scot Baston Kim Willis Bex Webster Cllr Steve Mammatt Bradley Gerrard Adam Taylor	Chair Associate Committee Member, SHDC Vice-Chair, Kingsbridge Cornerstone Photography Committee Member, Marketing Manager Secretary Committee Member, Action West Committee Member, Freelance Journalist Copywriter Committee Member, Taylored Games
Apologies	Gerry McAllister Cllr Sarah Wyatt Mark Goodey Cllr Jasper Evans Dawn Blundell Laura Campbell Jane Tyler Georgina Turner	Committee Member, Mr McAllister's Toy Soldier Emporium Associate Committee Member, Modbury Parish Council Committee Member, Winking Prawn Group Associate Committee Member, Salcombe Town Council, Mayor Associate Committee Member, Kingsbridge Information Centre Committee Member, Operational Excellence SW Associate Committee Member, Experience Salcombe Committee Member, Not So Typical

Sam Dennis welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies. **Bex Webster** joined as the Secretary and all members in attendance introduced themselves.

2. Minutes and Actions

The minutes of the previous meeting, **10th June 2026**, are outstanding and will be sent with the minutes from **1st July 2026** meeting. Members noted that the AGM had been successful, with positive networking opportunities despite the challenging acoustics. The presentation from Devon & Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service was well received and provided valuable information for local businesses. It was suggested the speaker could be contacted to attend future events.

3. Round the Table Reports

Scot Baston noted the dry weather had been beneficial, but it had been a challenging year for generating business.

Adam Taylor provided an update on the culvert works, highlighting concerns from local businesses about the impact of the Prince of Wales Road closure and the perceived reduction in trade. Members acknowledged that while footfall may have decreased, the safety improvements were understood and

supported. **AT** advised that businesses had been informed the road would reopen once this phase of the works was complete. **Steve Mammatt** confirmed that the contractors were ahead of schedule and hoped to complete the works earlier than anticipated. Access outside Peacocks is expected to improve shortly, benefiting pedestrians and mobility scooter users. Contractors will provide two weeks' notice of completion, after which Kingsbridge Town Council intends to hold an opening ceremony. **AT** also confirmed that Taylored Games had successfully relocated to its new premises. With regards to other shop closures, one business is leaving the town, while two others are transitioning to online-only trading.

Sam Dennis asked what support the Chamber could provide to local businesses. Previous discussions regarding lobbying for reduced business rates had been revisited; however, research indicated that relatively few businesses are liable for business rates, and several qualifying organisations already receive charitable rate relief. **SD** also confirmed that South Hams District Council remains committed to the revised parking tariff arrangements, making further changes unlikely.

Kim Willis suggested running a summer *Love Kingsbridge* competition, which was supported and agreed to proceed. It was reported that surrounding areas and local hospitality businesses, particularly Stokeley Farm Shop and Salcombe, had experienced strong visitor numbers. Holiday letting bookings continue to increase. Members discussed developing closer links with Finest Stays to improve information sharing. It was also noted that Devon has benefited from increased visitor numbers, partly due to reduced tourism promotion in Cornwall and its accessibility from other parts of the UK. Two new vacancies have recently been added to the Chamber Jobs Board, and there is scope to increase content across the Chamber's social media channels.

Bradley Gerrard reported that he plans to visit the Slapton Line area to meet residents and businesses and obtain an update on current issues. Members noted that £20 million has been allocated towards repairing sea defences protecting properties, while Devon County Council has submitted a separate bid of approximately £20 million for road repairs, although this would not cover additional sea defence works required to protect the road.

Members also discussed public reaction to the second homes council tax premium, noting that approximately £25 million has been raised across nine councils, with the majority of funding allocated to county council services, the fire service and the police. **BG** advised there was nothing to report on in terms of the culvert works, it was agreed that the one-way system was more effective but a continued lack of communication from DCC was frustrating.

Steve Mammatt suggested that trading remained relatively quiet but was expected to improve. He also noted the positive promotional impact of a well-known local public figure, who has agreed to become a trainee driver on the Kingsbridge Light Railway. Planning for Kingsbridge Fringe Week is progressing well and would be similar to last year in terms of volume of events. It will be held in the first week of September 2026.

Jane Tyler (written update) advised that the town bunting had been installed and that Salcombe Information Centre had welcomed strong numbers of both UK and international visitors. Several businesses had reported a particularly positive June. Members noted the forthcoming *Rediscovering Cliff House* event on 12th July 2026, organised by the Cliff House Friends, together with the Rotary Club event taking place on the evening of the Regatta fireworks. The Regatta programme is now available, and the new Experience Salcombe website has been launched. It was suggested that the Chamber Committee's September meeting be held at Cliff House, with the Cliff House Trustees invited as guest speakers.

Sam Dennis provided an update from Modbury. The Chamber has historically arranged insurance for the Barrow Market, and this support has been requested again. However, as the event is now held within the

car park, the existing policy no longer meets SHDC's requirements, meaning additional insurance would be needed at increased cost. **SD** has advised organisers that they will need to arrange their own insurance and has obtained quotations on their behalf. Members discussed the possibility of increasing stallholder fees to meet these costs and considered whether a Chamber contribution might be appropriate. **SD** will continue to investigate the available options.

SHDC update – a meeting is due to be held with Chris Shears regarding funding opportunities and managing the applications.

4. Membership and Finance Report

Future membership reports will provide more detailed information. Existing members will be migrated from the GoCardless system to the new membership system over the coming months. Membership levels remain stable, with the majority of non-renewals relating to businesses that have ceased trading.

The finance report and accounts were presented at the AGM. Members were advised that a Treasurer has not yet been appointed. An accountant was approached regarding the role but declined; however, they have offered to assist by preparing financial forecasts. Whilst it would be good to have a Treasurer, this was resolved not to be urgent and will stay in progress.

5. Networking Events

The next event is the **Breakfast Club at The Regal** on **9th July 2026**. **Bex Webster** will action listing the event on event and networking websites. Attendees do not need to be Chamber members, and it is a relaxed, informal networking event.

The Wardroom, Salcombe – a date for the first Breakfast Club will be agreed along with prices. It was suggested that this could happen on the third or fourth week of the month.

The Curator, Modbury – a coffee morning breakfast club will be set up once a first date had been finalised. The third Tuesday of the month was suggested – **BW** to contact to confirm.

Verse – a business club event has been booked for **29th July 2026**. The menu and prices are to be finalised and then the event can be promoted.

Provisional Future Events – Cliff House in September, Gara Rock in October, Salcombe Brewery in November and a Christmas event in December. All details to be confirmed.

Village Farm, East Portlemouth – this venue is keen to host an event but easier for a daytime event. There are two workshops in the pipeline, one about AI and one about bid writing for CICs, which may suit being held at Village Farm and/or Tumbly Hill. Village Farm has a number of business units and parking, as well as space for remote workers.

Taylored Games – there is a possibility in the Autumn to hold a team building games event at the shop.

6. Marketing Opportunities

SD explained it was important to keep the South Hams element of the Chamber and to ensure all areas are serviced and promoted. Important not to miss opportunities in areas outside of Kingsbridge to promote the Chamber. It would be useful to connect with Totnes Chamber and see if we can be collaborative with our promotion.

SB stated it was important to have a financial forecast as grant applications are expected and it would be good to promote Chamber activity in terms of other businesses. Kingsbridge Creative Network are not expected to meet in summer months – **SB** to follow up when they start meeting again. **KW** queried if there were any potential sponsorship opportunities to explore.

7. Any Other Business

SD asked that all members be aware of any business planning applications and bring them to committee so comments can be submitted if appropriate.

SB noted that the two new jobs on the job board were a result of the service being promoted at the AGM. **SD** suggested some funds could be used to promote this and **KW** will action advertising the job boards – any business can advertise not solely Chamber members.

Action Tracker

Action	Owner	Status
Promote Business Information Point services, workshops and mentoring to Chamber members.	SD	In Progress
Deliver Business Club at Verse on 29 July and continue developing the wider networking programme.	SD	In Progress
Explore suitable dates for a September Business Club event at Cliff House.	SB / JE /SD	In Progress
Continue partnership and funding discussions regarding the Kingsbridge Information Centre.	SD	In Progress
Run Love Kingsbridge Summer competition	KW	New
List the Breakfast Club on business networking websites	BW	New
Finalise further networking events for 2026	SD/BW	New
Connect with Totnes Chamber of Commerce	SD	New
Promote the Jobs Board on South Hams Chamber website	KW	New