



## Minutes of Committee Meeting

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 5.45pm in Quay House, Kingsbridge

Chairman: James Spencer  
Treasurer: Peter Richardson  
Secretary: Nicola Coulson  
Marketing Manager: Kim Willis - Apologies

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### 1. Welcome & Apologies

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PRESENT: James Spencer, Peter Richardson, Nicola Coulson, Sarah Burnett, Alison Theaker, Scot Baston, Georgie Leonard, Cllr Rufus Gilbert, Cllr Nikki Turton, Catherine Gillen

APOLOGIES: Kim Willis, Cllr Mark Long, Cllr Philip Cole

JS referred to the tumultuous political landscape, expressed his hope of a more stable economic environment for business. He drew committee's attention to the 2022/23 strategic priorities.

1. Staffing shortage & the housing crisis
2. Transport links to and through our area
3. Accounting for the Climate Crisis in Business
4. Handling the energy crisis in business

He introduced Jane Tyler, The Winking Prawn, and Jess Denny, NIKA, both from Salcombe, and Gerry McAllister, Mr McAllister's Amazing Toy Soldier Emporium, from Modbury.

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### 2. Minutes & Actions from 05.10.22

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- Action #7 Breakfast club - *carried over to January.*
- Action #8 PR to produce report for December's meeting.  
SBA asked how much Chamber money went into awards - 90% of funding came from SHDC.
- Action #9 SB to upload DCC grants spreadsheet - *carried over to December.*  
SBA asked RG for updated grants spreadsheet - agreed that SBA would contact Jasmine Jones, DCC's Economic Development Officer, cc'ing RG.  
JS asked Rufus is there would be future funding. Rufus foresees consolidation - and reduction - of funding streams available. *To update website with current funding available every quarter.*
- Action #10 Executive page on website to be updated - *carried over to December.*  
CG asked if we could add Gerry McAllister, Modbury, to the committee.
- Action #11 To discuss website - *carried over to January.*
- Action #12 SB to invite Gazette representative to join Committee.  
Amy Taylor, journalist for The Gazette, has agreed to become a committee member and reintroduce the Chamber column if we produce the copy.

Minutes approved.

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<b>Action #1:</b>	SB to invite to Amy Taylor to December meeting; to add to agenda and add as a Chamber committee associate?  KW to pick up provision of copy for Gazette column/article	SB/JS/ KW
<b>Action #2:</b>	Action to publish minutes on The Green Room	NC/ KW

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### 3. Council reports

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

District

Rufus spoke about a business that would like to set up a co-working space in Kingsbridge. Possible units are WH Smiths (?) and Barclays Bank.

Rufus updated committee on **Investment Zones (IZ):**

- IZs are a government-backed scheme announced in September as part of Kwasi Kwarteng's mini-budget, which will mean lower taxes for businesses and relaxed planning regulations for new developments.
- South Hams District Council (SHDC) is a key stakeholder in Plymouth and South Devon Freeport (a private/public partnership with key stakeholders hoping to create a national hub for trade and investment, where normal tax and custom rules do not apply) and has submitted an expression of interest for the Freeport to become one of dozens of possible IZs across the country. The aim is to gain additional economic incentives for the Sherford, Langage and South Yard sites which form the Freeport project.
- RG is director of Plymouth and South Devon Freeport. It is well funded, has its own website (<https://pasdfreeport.com>) and is currently recruiting for a CEO and Chair. Whilst it won't necessarily benefit Kingsbridge, the outlying wealth might positively impact on Modbury.
- Jane asked Rufus about Freeports. RG is not sure what the future holds for IZs under the new government and predicted that they will go but Freeports are "here to stay".

## Road closures

### Modbury

- RG agreed that whilst the 3-month closure will be devastating to Modbury, its Victorian sewage system needs to be updated and the work is unavoidable.
- RG is committed to help minimise the impact and thanked Gerry, Catherine and the whole of Modbury for being so engaged.
- Gerry thanked committee and introduced himself. Modbury trader and former parish councillor and local government officer, he is heading up a group of concerned Modbury traders and businesses in response to the works.
- He explained that they had hoped that Modbury would bounce back after Covid, but they haven't had the footfall. This coupled with the roadworks has created "a perfect storm". They accept that the work needs to be done but the impact will be disastrous and far reaching for deliveries, parking and people trying to get to and from Plymouth.
- He expressed concern that, although the commitment is to complete work within 3 months, realistically it may roll on. How will businesses survive this and bounce back, particularly after 4 years of roadworks?
- Works will be staged. He foresees issues with the logistics of traffic management and little roads accommodating volumes of traffic. When Phase 2 starts and Church Street is closed, small traffic can cut through, but if people aren't familiar with the cut throughs, traffic will grind to a standstill quickly.
- Gerry mentioned the chaos that large vehicles - lorries and buses - cause.
- NT asked whether, if SW Water are going out to retender (the cost of the works has risen by 30%), will this impact on the start date? Could it be pushed to the Spring/Summer? In which case it would impact on 2023 celebrations (eg May Fair and the Coronation).
- CG suggested that the focus should be on stopping the heavy vehicles coming through Modbury, perhaps a campaign?
- Gerry concurred that large heavy industrial vehicles travelling on roads that weren't built to accommodate them means it will likely happen again in 5-10 years.
- RG confirmed that you cannot legally stop vehicles using the roads.
- JS stepped in and asked about potential compensation. Gerry said that compensation is dependent on showing profit and loss for the last 5 years, which for many businesses is impossible.
- JS offered Chamber help - anything practical we can do to help? Gerry thanked committee. The first meeting is on 8<sup>th</sup> November, when they are hoping to formalise into a proper working group combining traders and business people.

### Frogmore

- Closes from Monday for 3 weeks

### Loddiswell

- Closes from 28<sup>th</sup> November for 1 week for resurfacing

### Rufus departs

### SHDC

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No council representatives in attendance.

### **Salcombe Town Council**

NT reported that:

- Maritime Museum is being granted new lease in Council Hall.
- Discussions ongoing with TIC.
- Met with Tally Ho regarding Park and Ride for next year - feeling hopeful that they will provide the service and they're coming back with costing. NT can't make any promises but is feeling "hopeful".
- JS suggested that the Chamber could be a channel for business in Salcombe to promote/sponsor Park and Ride.

### **Kingsbridge**

No council representation in attendance.

### **Modbury**

CG reported that:

- Modbury had a very successful Rooster Ramble; Rooster Auction raised over £4.5k which will be the start of a "battle fund" for the campaign.
- CG explained that this clever, simple fundraising idea was thanks to the tremendous contribution from the artists. A lot of strands came together to make this event a success - a great template for future events.
- Gerry added that they'll need to be extremely innovative in terms of future events.

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## **4. Matters newly arising from committee members**

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### **Salcombe TIC closure threat - update**

- Jane Tyler and Jess Denny spoke about the future of the TIC.
- They have moved forwards by formalising / creating a community interest company (CIC). They have registered CIC, but the process is slower than setting up Ltd company. Once that is formalised, they will advertise for people to apply to join an advisory panel.
- There will be two directors - Jane and Jess.
- Looking to continue The Salcombe Guide but in a potentially different format - there may be a delay whilst they consider how this moves forward.
- A meeting on 3 November will determine whether CIC will have a premises, although they intend to keep it going with or without premises. Jess expressed that they realise that the building is limiting in terms of access, but it's visible, a focal point, a foundation to build from.
- JS asked if they will be employing anyone? Longer term, they confirmed that they would need to employ someone to share the load.
- JS asked if their hope is to remain in the council hall, as in previous years? They confirmed that would be the hope, at least for the next couple of years whilst they establish.
- They want to provide a community information centre for residents and visitors alike and formulate much more of a solid, inclusive community relationship with local businesses, residents and second homeowners, who are important to the success of this enterprise, and to the future of Salcombe.

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## **5 Strategic Theme #4 at next event: *Handling the energy crisis in business***

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How we might support local businesses on this theme, esp. at November's Business Club:

1. What can local businesses do to help themselves?
2. What products or services can help local businesses?
3. Ideas for a speaker

JS invited committee to join the discussion around how businesses can help with the above.

- Gerry suggested inviting an energy expert - possibly renewables?
  - AT suggested Totnes Renewable Energy Society (TRESOC) - an IPS formed by residents to empower the local community to develop and control its own renewable energy supplies.
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- PR suggested an insulation expert. Draft excluders, roofing insulation, cavity wall insulation - are asked if there might be grants available.
- SBa suggested a speaker on solar energy, although conceded this was a long-term solution, not an immediate return. Could we find experts to explain how we can rethink our traditional approach on energy?
- SBa also suggested a marketing professional - an expert in shop front signage to counter shops' open-door policies in case they lose footfall.
- A general discussion ensued about creative ways businesses might respond to the current climate, eg. pubs diversifying by repurposing premises into shared workspaces for those looking for the facilities and amenities of a traditional workplace, but don't want to commit to the costly overheads of a physical office.
- It was agreed that the Chamber could promote innovative initiatives such as Harbour House's Come in from the Cold, using an available room to provide "a warm space and a friendly face", where people can bring laptops and connect to Harbour House's WIFI, or just come in from the cold.
- SB said we should be promoting awareness of these schemes and a discussion ensued. It was suggested that a page on the Chamber website could advertise a list of venues offering formal and informal co-working spaces. NT suggested stickers for establishments who will welcome freelancers, with QR codes leading to Chamber website.
- Could Amy do a feature?

**Action #3:** Need committee member to work with designer - SBa suggested Anna Ventura - SBa will let her know the principle and see if we progress.

SBa

## 6. Member forums, general

### Business Club

1. Soar Mill sold: New Business Club venue required for 24<sup>th</sup> November OR ref a Breakfast Club OR cancel until January event OR...
  - Jane happy to host at Winking Prawn with hotspot for CIC
  - Content needs to be targeted - Alison suggested invited the chair of Tresoc?
  - James asked committee to think of potential speakers.
  - JS would like to see practical takeaways
  - SB - asked if we'd had feedback from grant recipients? Could we invite some of them to update us?
2. January theme/venue/speaker early bird ideas
  - Any ideas - might try and use Soar Mill

**Online Members Only platform 'THE GREEN ROOM'** - update KW - to be carried over to December

## 7. Data Foundation - Update NC on non-Direct Debit additions & prospects function

**Action #4:** To action swap of Standing orders to DD GoCardless

NC

## 8. Treasurer's update - PR

Subs - PR estimates we'll have about 10k by end of year.

Peter requested that all outstanding invoices are paid by end of December.

## 9. AOB

Kingsbridge Does Christmas have approached Chamber about helping publicise their need for sponsors - committee agreed that we can promote on newsletter and Facebook page.

**Action #5:** KW to add request to newsletter and Facebook group/page

KW

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022