

Seaton Chamber CIC
Minutes of Community Meeting
11th February 6.30pm @ Pebbles

Committee members present: Carl Northcott (CN), Anna Leggett (AL), Emma Grigg (EG), James Tribble (JT), Carly Tribble (CT), Jackie Calcroft (JC).

Opening Words: CN thanked everyone for coming. This is the first meeting of 2025 – catch up meeting to let everyone know what we have achieved and our plans for 2025.

Christmas Celebration: Chamber organised the Christmas Celebration for 2024 – big success. We have a debrief with Seaton Town Council (STC) shortly to tweak a few things for 2025. Thanks to everyone who attended.

Shipshape: This year we have partnered with Keep Britain Tidy who are celebrating their 10th anniversary of The Spring Clean Up. We have lots of paperwork to get through and are working with STC and East Devon District Council (EDDC) before we can publish a date for 2025 clean up.

VE Day: We have been asked by STC to help with the town's celebration for VE day. Seaton Lions are doing the majority of it but we will help in any way we can. We will publish more information when we have it.

Toilets:

Thury Harcourt toilets have been taken off the market and are back with EDDC who are currently requesting planning permission for change of use with the idea of marketing them again afterwards as toilets and possibly a concession. Until this has happened, they will stay open and remain as they are. Dave Parkin has a letter from leader of EDDC basically confirming the above in writing.

The renovation of the toilet block on the seafront has ground to a halt due to problems with the retaining wall behind the block. Waiting for engineering/structural planning to be done before work can commence.

Marsh Road toilet block behind the Town Hall is likely to be sold by EDDC very soon and we are currently trying to raise funds to purchase these if possible as we believe it is incredibly important to have public toilets at the top end of the town.

Market: We have received recognition from Devon County Council (DCC) about how well the market has done. Three markets were held in 2024 up at Windsor Gardens – started with 8 stallholders and ended up with 22 at the last market. There will be 10 markets in 2025 starting on 8th March 2025 with 10-15 confirmed stalls. The market team need volunteers to help man the market so if you have any spare time available however small, please contact us.

The Grizzly: We have met with the Grizzly team and are trying to make something out of that weekend for the town. We know from our survey in 2024 that visitors thought the town was tatty and there were not enough places to eat. We will therefore be holding a food market on Grizzly

day at the Amphitheatre next to the Tramway to try and keep people in the town. The market will run from 12-6 with about 6 food vendors confirmed so far.

Seaton Hospital: Jack Rowland, who is on the hospital steering committee, gave an update. Unfortunately, things have been delayed due to the general election and the introduction of new policies. A business plan has been put together and the next meeting is hopefully in March.

The Gateway: Ken Newland, Gateway Trustee, thanked the Chamber and the public for the moral support they have received. They will be holding an open meeting on Weds 19th Feb at The Old Picture House where everything will be fully explained. The situation moved so fast that they haven't been able to keep people updated as much as they would like to. There is lots going on behind the scenes and thanks were expressed to the other venues who have held The Gateways events whilst they have been closed. The Chamber will fully support The Gateway in any way that we can.

Membership: Now that we are fully established, membership from 2025 will be £25 per year for individuals/couples/community groups/charities and a flat rate of £50 per year for businesses. Membership uptake has been slow so mailings will be sent out in the near future to try and encourage new members. We want everyone to be involved and for all voices to be heard.

AOB:

- STC have agreed to enter Seaton for the South West in Bloom awards which would tie in well with our Shipshape campaign.
- Breakfast networking meetings: CT has agreed to take these on. We will publish dates when we have them.