

Minutes of the Seaton Chamber Committee Meeting

Date: 4th September 2023 (delayed by one week from original date)

Time: 7:00 PM

Venue: Seaton Chamber Committee (online meeting)

Attendees: James, Eleanor, Carl, Ilse, Sean, Carly

1. Summer Break for 2025

Discussion: The committee agreed to introduce a summer break for the months of June, July, and August 2025. As Seaton is a popular tourist destination, the summer months are the busiest time for local businesses. During this period, the Chamber will remain available for Members matters but will pause regular meetings and major initiatives.

Decision: Meetings and initiatives will resume in September 2025 to ensure the Chamber can focus on its members' businesses and personal commitments during peak tourist season.

2. Christmas Lights Switch-On Event

Date: 30th November 2023

New Lights Installation: A brand-new set(s) of Christmas lights will be installed across Seaton. STC has taken over the responsibility and will sub-contract a specialist company to ensure proper installation.

Christmas Trees: At least several (at the moment) real Christmas trees will be installed around town along with some new holders above the shops. Permission has been sought from local landlords, and efforts are being made to install more trees.

Roundabout Power Supply: The Chamber has consulted Western Power and an electrician regarding the existing problem with the power supply, the installation of a new power supply will be required for the roundabout, ensuring it's a suitable location for festive lights and other events throughout the year. This information has been passed to the Owners (STC) to act upon when the times comes (2025)

Event Planning by the Chamber: Plans are underway to make this year's display the best yet. Live bands are being booked, Santa's grotto will be organised, and local food businesses will remain open. Light projections and other decorations will enhance the event.

Next Steps: A meeting will be held on Monday with James, Emma, and Carl to finalise further details.

Poll: A poll will be conducted to decide who will switch on the Christmas lights.

3. Harbour Road and Marsh Road Toilets

Issue: EDDC's current strategy is to close the Harbour Road and (already closed) Marsh Road public toilets. The Chamber is looking for community feedback on how to proceed, exploring financial options such as "pay-to-pee" and funding options of refurbishing the facilities.

Proposal: There could be say four toilets and a double garage-sized space in the rest of the Harbour Rd facility. One WC and the rest storage in Marsh Road? The committee is considering how to make the refurbishment financially viable and is seeking input from local businesses and residents.

4. Member Spotlight Initiative

Purpose: The Chamber is looking for businesses to feature each month. Members are encouraged to submit photos, a brief biography, and details of why they joined the Chamber and why they chose to set up in Seaton. This initiative aims to promote local businesses and foster a stronger community connection. Please email your interest

5. Seaton Trader Survey

Objective: To gather feedback from Seaton traders on how to improve business conditions and support local growth. The responses will be used to shape the Chamber's strategy for 2025.

Deadline: 20th September 2023

Status: Survey is live. Paper copies have been distributed to shops by Carl, and the survey is available online.

Tone: The Chamber is appealing for as many responses as possible to build a representative strategy. Any input is valuable, even brief notes.

STC Involvement: STC has requested access to the survey results. In principle, the Chamber agrees, but more information is being requested regarding the "Visit Seaton" organisation that would receive the data alongside STC. Carl will respond to STC.

6. Key Goals for September 2023

Main Goal: The Chamber aims to gather enough responses from the Seaton Trader Survey to develop a comprehensive strategy for the town in 2025. This will help create a collective community vision and support local economic growth.

7. AOB

Breakfast Networking Event: Scheduled for Friday, 6th September at Pebbles Café.

Community Meeting: A brainstorming session is scheduled for 12th September at Eyre Court (6:30 for 7 PM) to discuss ways to safeguard the future of Thury Harcourt toilets.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 PM

Next Meeting: 23rd October