

Seaton Chamber Public Meeting Minutes

Date: 12th September

Time: 6.30 PM

Committee Attendees: Carl Northcott, Ilse, Tom G, Emma G, Eleanor Carr

Apologies: James and Carly Tribble, Steve Waite, Steve Taylor (resigned from committee)

Attendees: 16 members of the business and local community

Meeting opened: 7:00 PM

1. Chair Update

Launch of Seaton Market:

Led by Caroline and Amy (Seaton Traders).

The market will be held once a month at Windsor Gardens (WG) or The Gateway.

First market: September 28th at The Gateway. Future dates: October 26th and November 30th (lights switch-on).

Trading times: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

Gazebos will be supplied by traders.

Market name: Seaton Chamber Independent Market.

Marketing: Chamber flags will be used, and Mark offered to do the printing. Eleanor to forward logo info.

Finances are still to be formally sorted with Anna (Chamber treasurer).

2. Bus and Coach Parking Problem

School buses are occupying spaces in the free coach park, which was originally intended to attract visitor coaches. This has caused frustration among local businesses.

The Chamber will write to Cllr Del Haggerty to address the issue and ensure parking is available for tourist coaches.

3. Christmas Lights Switch-On

Date: 30th November 4-7 PM.

Event Details:

Seaton Lions will host Santa's Grotto at Lloyds Bank.

Brand-new lights funded by STC.

Live band and carol singing at Eyre Court Hill.

Christmas tree holders: Aim for 50 in the long term; 16 out of 24 booked for this year.

Larger trees for public areas like Windsor Gardens and The Square are anticipated.

4. Public Toilets Discussion

Harbour Road Toilets:

EDDC plans to close the toilets this year and has placed them back on the market.

EDDC prefers a commercial concession (lease) to help cover maintenance costs.

The Chamber is exploring options for self-sufficient, unmanned kiosks or vending sheds.

Refurbishment cost: Approx. £50,000. Income from concession: Approx. £5-6k.

Community engagement, GoFundMe, or angel investors were suggested for funding.

Marsh Road Toilets:

Consider refurbishing one toilet and using the rest for storage.

Refurbishment cost: Approx. £24,000.

Crowdfunding and donation boxes were discussed to raise funds.

New West Walk Toilets:

Rebuilding is expected to begin before the end of this year, with new sea defences planned for The Chine to Seaton Hole over the summer of 2025.

Potential to promote the project as a tourist attraction.

5. Bus Shelters on Seafront

DCC is using leftover COVID funds to upgrade bus shelters.

The bus stop near the gardens was condemned due to compliance issues.

The bus shelter adjacent to the Vault Bar has long-standing hygiene issues and is being used as a smoking shelter.

Relocating the bus stop to the seafront could help alleviate these concerns.

Moving the bus bay may enhance the entrance to the town, with pedestrian crossings added, improving beach access as well.

6. Storm-Damaged Flowerbeds on Seafront

The flowerbeds are owned by EDDC but maintained by STC.

A request may be made to Marcus Hartnell to use the locality budget to repair them.

AOB

Council Co-option: The Chamber asked if any members were interested in joining STC. No strong interest was expressed.

Christmas Lights Switch-On Hero: Suggestion to have a community poll to choose an unsung hero to switch on the lights.

Temporary Toilets: Question raised about the availability of temporary toilets during West Walk's reconstruction. Chamber to inquire.

No Christmas Party this year, with the focus on the lights switch-on. Plans to bring back the annual ball in 2025.

Meeting closed: 8:38 PM

Next Meeting: 12th December