

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE AT 7.00 p.m. ON TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2014

Present: Cllr Wayne Grills (Chairman)
Cllr Amanda Bloomer
Cllr Rufus Gilbert
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Steve Sidney
Cllr Keith Wingate

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Simon Wright
Sergeant David Green
PC David Tungate
Sam Acourt, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Two Members of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

At the outset of the meeting Cllr Grills congratulated the Town Clerk on 10 years service.

14/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anne Balkwill, Matt Farrand, Robin Griffin, Beryl Washington, Jax Williams and Philip Yates.

Public Open Forum

Mr John Speed made the statement at Annex A.

14/25 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

25.1 Sgt Green reported that overall crime was down by 8% in the western South Hams during 2014. He then provided statistics for May 2014. A total of 25 crimes had been committed compared to 26 crimes during the same period in 2013. Four arrests had been made, 4 persons had been dealt with by restorative justice and others were still under investigation. There had been 5 assaults, 2 of which had resulted in injury, offenders for both were known and under investigation. The 3 minor assaults had been dealt with by either restorative justice or arrest and caution. There had been no burglaries. Five crimes of criminal damage had resulted in an arrest and caution. There had been 2 shoplifting incidents and 3 other thefts. A male had been arrested for drink driving and was currently on bail. A male had received a £90 fixed penalty notice for being drunk and disorderly. A public order offence had resulted in a male

being arrested and cautioned. Finally, an official cannabis warning had been given to an offender.

June's road safety theme was drink and drug driving to coincide with national and European campaigns. The Food & Music Festival, 30 May to 1 June in the town square, had been successful from a policing perspective. Incidents had included a common assault, a missing 2 year old girl, alcohol confiscated from teenagers, a 15 year old boy sent home for being drunk, and a Section 27 Order issued for a person to leave the area. A new scheme had been adopted to deal with complaints of anti-social behaviour relating to young persons skateboarding in the Quay area; 7 names had been recorded and the problem appeared to be decreasing. Police attention had also been focussed on the Recreation Ground.

PC David Tungate was then introduced as the new Neighbourhood Beat Manager for Kingsbridge Town. He had started his new role on 15 May and looked forward to getting to know members having previously served in Newton Abbot. PC Tungate was due to take part in an Estuary Boat Watch patrol shortly.

Cllr Gilbert requested further information regarding a cannabis warning; Sgt Green replied that minor recreational use of cannabis had realised an official warning as Police resources were targeted further up the 'food chain'.

Cllr Grills thanked Sgt Green for his comprehensive report.

Sgt Green and PC Tungate left the Chamber

25.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that the following day's Devon County Council (DCC) Cabinet meeting would consider the Youth Service Review which recommended the authority's withdrawal from running the Horizons Centre in Fore Street. If the youth centre did close he hoped that anti-social behaviour did not increase.

He was very concerned about the future of Ropewalk and Tumbly Hill Centres as there was no alternative service provision in the Kingsbridge area. He hoped this would be taken into account when the decision was made by the delegated Cabinet member otherwise the centres could close with no opportunity for redress. An external report had suggested that the consultation process had been flawed and he suggested that Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC) may wish to write to DCC to request an update as the majority of users lived in the town.

Finally, he felt the Food & Music Festival had been excellent.

25.3 County Cllr Gilbert reported that he was hopeful that Day Centre service provision could be retained albeit that it may not be at the present locations; as he had reported at the previous meeting. The decision would be made shortly and at that point KTC could decide what action to take.

KTC could consider applying to DCC for extra funding which would be provided to communities to help them develop their own local youth service. Finally, he

had been elected as the Chairman of the Investment & Pension Fund Committee which had a £3 billion portfolio.

Cllr Wingate asked if KTC would be able to challenge DCC's decision regarding its Day Centre Review if it did not bode well for Kingsbridge; Cllr Gilbert replied that he remained optimistic and that the decision would be known shortly.

25.4 District Cllr Gilbert considered the refurbishment of Fore Street Car Park and toilet block alongside the new virtual footpath looked good. The DVLA would no longer be issuing road tax discs from 1 October which would affect parking arrangements for blue badge holders. It had been agreed that blue badge holders should pay appropriate parking fees, regardless of whether or not their vehicle was tax exempt, and continue to receive one free hour's parking in addition to paid time. Quay public toilets had been earmarked for a charging scheme with a 20 pence fee; the scheme to be monitored and reviewed. Finally, a new contact listing for South Hams District Council's (SHDC) officers would be produced shortly.

25.5 District Cllr Wingate had provided his apologies for missing a recent Harbour Board meeting. The T.18 programme was progressing with a fact finding mission to Mendip District Council, further letting at Follaton House, and a staff consultation. The Food & Music Festival had been well attended and was well run similar to Fair Week. He complimented the new mosaics in lower Fore Street. Finally, the Kingsbridge Flood Plan was progressing well.

Cllr Jeeninga commented that the Classic Car Rally on Bank Holiday Monday 26 May had also been successful.

25.6 District Cllr Wright reported that he had received favourable external comments regarding Cllr Jeeninga and the Town Clerk. SHDC had appointed Cllr Bill Hitchins as its new chairman with Cllr Ian Bramble as vice chairman. An Emergency Planning event would be held at Follaton House 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. on Tuesday 1 July.

Cllrs Jeeninga and Price reported that security on the new pontoons was unsatisfactory as persons could manoeuvre around the mesh panels next to the security gates to gain access onto the pontoons i.e. outboard motors could be taken. Cllrs Brazil and Wright replied that the Harbour Master was aware of the issue however, beforehand there was no security and it was likely that persons would achieve access no matter what action was taken.

County Cllr Brazil left the Chamber

14/26 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Grills agreed to take one item of urgent business at agenda item 14/34: "Yellow Fish Campaign".

31.5 Flood Resilience Update.

- Emergency plan drafted and feedback received from Contingency Planning Solutions (Pathfinder Project consultants) and Environment Agency. Suggestions to be incorporated and then probable Flood Resilience Committee meeting to review.
- Library Garage cleared and sandbag/personnel kit purchased. Sand to be ordered.
- DCC catchment study due to report late July.
- Training package being worked up to include Kingsbridge but more local volunteers probably required.
- Rain gauge at Kingsbridge Community College being progressed.
- Town Clerk would attend the Emergency Planning session at SHDC on 1 July (*see agenda item 25.6*).

31.6 Annual Report. It was mandatory for local councils to produce an Annual Report by 30 June; KTC report had been drafted to be produced for website and paper copies for Fore Street notice board/Reception shortly.

31.7 Adult & Community Learning Litter Picks. Caroline Ross' group had conducted a community litter pick that day of various areas and would repeat on Tuesday 8 July. All gear supplied by KTC with tea/cakes on completion.

31.8 VAS - Embankment Road. DCC had confirmed the Vehicle Activated Sign would be installed week beginning 16 June.

31.9 Thank You. Received from: St Edmunds Church, Stanborough Chorus, Friends of Kingsbridge Library and South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau for recent Grant Aid disbursements.

31.10 Fair Week Car Parking. In 2013 Fair Week's highways signs to direct motorists to off-street car parks (purchased by SHDC ward member locality budgets and fixed on SHDC frames) were installed by FW volunteers. It was reported that FW Committee did not have the resources to position this year which was confirmed by Cllr Wingate. Therefore as it stood there would be no extra signs to identify car parks. Members considered that a KTC working group, maybe assisted by Kingsbridge Police Cadets, could erect the signage.

31.11 Stanborough Chorus – Storage Space. SHDC had forwarded a letter from the Stanborough Chorus which requested storage space in town. KTC did not have any free space at present. Members discussed and provided some possible options for the group; the Town Clerk would feedback to SHDC.

14/32

REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

32.1 Cllr Bloomer, standing in for Cllr Washington, had attended a recent meeting of the Rest Centre Committee.

32.2 Cllr Wingate had attended meetings of the Fair Week Committee and praised the effectiveness of the group.

32.3 Cllr Price was due to attend a meeting of Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club the following day. Kingsbridge In Bloom was progressing well with judging likely to take place during the second week of July; the new planters were now in place.

32.4 Cllr Gilbert had attended a recent meeting of Kingsbridge Feoffees; the group was progressing well.

32.5 Cllr Grills had attended the opening of the community mosaic panels and a meeting of the Rotary Club of Kingsbridge.

32.6 The Town Clerk provided Cllr Williams' report on a meeting of South Hams Home Start. The organisation was attempting to cut costs from a range of angles and the next meeting on 18 August may need to decide whether the organisation would fold.

14/33 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 10 June 2014. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £20,438.21 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**14/34 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:
YELLOW FISH CAMPAIGN**

Members received information from Nigel Mortimer, Estuaries Officer, regarding the Yellow Fish Campaign. It was a national Environment Agency project which involved stencilling Yellow Fish symbols beside drains to remind people that any waste entering them may go directly to the nearest stream, river, beach etc. causing pollution and killing wildlife. The Estuaries Officer would require DCC permission to pursue the project and it could possibly involve primary school children. It was **RESOLVED** to strongly support the proposal for a Yellow Fish campaign in Kingsbridge.

14/35 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

Mr John Speed stated that the public toilets refurbishment in Fore Street Car Park was excellent and he thanked those responsible. However, the plywood notice boards required replacement. He thanked members for attending the unveiling of the community mosaic panels in lower Fore Street and in particular thanked Michelle McQuinn-Farrand as project manager. Postcards of the mosaics were now on sale at the Kingsbridge Information Centre.

Cllr Gilbert asked if Sustainable Kingsbridge (formerly Kingsbridge & District Agenda 21) was still active. Mr Speed replied that it was indeed active and while it may fold in the future splinter groups/projects had been mooted.

Cllr Grills thanked Mr Speed for his comments and replied that refit of the notice boards was a recommendation to be received from the Policy Committee during the meeting.