

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE AT 7.00 p.m. ON TUESDAY
10 NOVEMBER 2015**

Present: Cllr Wayne Grills (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Tom Coulthard
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Sandy Gilbert
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Kate Lynn

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
County & District Cllr Rufus Gilbert
District Cllr Keith Wingate
Sgt David Green
Peter Sandover, South Devon Coastal Renewable Energy
Network
Sam Acourt, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Five Members of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

15/97 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Robin Griffin, Alisia Jennings, Chris Povey and Jax Williams.

Public Open Forum

Tom Shell, Lindy Hingley and Carol Horton made the statements at Annex A.

Members of public left the Chamber

**15/98 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

98.1 Sgt Green reported on crime for October 2015; a total of 16 crimes had been committed compared to 15 crimes during the same period in 2014. Three people have been arrested, one person given an official caution, 3 persons dealt with by Community Resolution and others were still under investigation. There had been 2 crimes of common assault both with child offenders which had been dealt with via Community Resolution, one actual bodily harm during a domestic incident and one historic rape. A commercial burglary had resulted in cash being stolen. Other offences included 6 criminal damages, one theft, one drunk and disorderly (male arrested and cautioned), one possession with intent to supply cocaine (male arrested), one dangerous dog incident and one making off from a taxi without paying. There had been no shoplifting.

November's road safety theme was 'young and emerging drivers'. The Learn To Live presentation would take place shortly at Plymouth Pavilions which was a powerful presentation to older secondary school students. The Junior Life Skills presentation had taken place on 16 October at Quayside Leisure Centre to final year primary school children. The Police Cadets had 8 new recruits bringing the complement to 30. Finally, the Police/Cadets had laid wreaths at Kingsbridge, Modbury and Salcombe at the Remembrance Sunday parades.

Cllr Jeeninga asked if the Police would be making a representation regarding Morrisons application to vary its Premises Licence by an additional hour; Sgt Green replied that from a policing perspective he had no objections.

Cllr Balkwill asked if there was any further news on the Home Office review of the Police funding formula and how to engage with the Police & Crime Commissioner's proposal for an increase in council tax to offset potential cuts. Sgt Green replied that he did not know when the current issues would be sorted and that Tony Hogg's suggestion for an increase in council tax at circa £25 for a Band D property was being promoted on his website.

Sgt Green left the Chamber

98.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council (DCC) had to manage a further 30% of cuts in the next financial year across various services. A current revenue over spend at £4m would have to be balanced by end March 2016. The following day's Cabinet meeting would discuss the new independent Library service to commence in April 2016; this was an innovative project and he wished it good luck. Finally, he thanked the Town Council (KTC) for their investment in the Pathfinder flood resilience project and suggested that funding may still be available.

98.3 County Cllr Gilbert reported that priorities for DCC were budget setting and the new library service.

98.4 District Cllr Gilbert reported that South Hams District Council (SHDC) had agreed to supply more waste bins for Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas at no cost. A new events policy was being progressed to make efficiencies for both SHDC and communities. The blue and clear recycling bags were also being reviewed as customers were not receiving them; it may be possible for the bags themselves to be recycled. New dust carts were to be introduced. He had visited Devonport waste incinerator complex which generated energy and produced no landfill. A new system for universal credits was progressing. He wished to receive KTC's comments on Morrisons' application to vary their premises licence. Finally, he thanked everyone for the Fair Week discussion during the Public Open Forum.

98.5 District Cllr Wingate reported that repair of the dangerous wall in Eastern Backway off Church Street was progressing. SHDC engineer had confirmed

repairs to the harbour wall at the head of the estuary would take place within the next 2 years. The proposal for a light railway on the Quayside footpath along the Promenade would require smaller trees to be replanted and adjustment to plans to ensure the railway did not impinge on established trees. He had noted recent representations regarding car parking in Westville. Finally, he had read the Kingsbridge Flood Study (preliminary findings report) and noted that the condition of culverts was paramount.

Cllrs Balkwill and Jeeninga reported that rubbish and abandoned cars were in the rear car park at the Kings Arms Hotel which was a public right of way to private dwellings. The building had been cleared of its contents, no maintenance was being carried out and the unsatisfactory condition of the listed building was a major issue. District Cllrs Gilbert & Wingate replied that they would follow up on the matter.

County Cllr Brazil and District Cllr Wingate left the Chamber

15/99 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman agreed to consider 2 items of Urgent Business at agenda item 15/111:

- Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan for Kingsbridge, and
- Variation to Premises Licence – Morrisons.

15/100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Fishman reported a pecuniary interest in agenda item 15/114 (sub agenda item 15/16.4).

15/101 SOUTH DEVON WOODFUEL HUB

Peter Sandover of South Devon Coastal Renewable Energy Network presented a proposal to set up a South Devon woodfuel hub. The Network had arranged a series of free events to introduce the project and flyers were distributed to members. Devon had some of the best hedged landscapes and small woodlands in the world which had considerable potential to provide a cost effective source of renewable energy. In the past hedgerows had been used as a source of affordable fuel and were laid or coppiced every 15 years or so however, such practices had changed. Under the right management the South Hams had the potential to produce sustainable and worthwhile woodfuel crops (logs or wood chip) alongside related benefits.

Members asked several questions and Peter replied that the location of the working hub had not been determined to date, commercial viability was key regarding engagement with local farmers, equipment to cut woodfuel could be shared and the Network was working with the NFU and local groups.

Cllr Grills thanked Peter for his presentation and reported that KTC would promote the proposal on its Facebook page.

County & District Cllr Gilbert and Peter Sandover left the Chamber

15/102 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

15/103 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 20 October 2015 and 3 November 2015.

15/104 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee (public session) held on 20 October 2015.

15/105 FLOOD (& WINTER) RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Flood (& Winter) Resilience Committee held on 27 October 2015.

Members received paper copies of the summary, conclusion and recommendations section of the Kingsbridge Flood Study (preliminary findings report); the report was restricted at present.

15/106 PARKS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on 30 October 2015.

Members received paper copies of the draft Tranquillity Trail leaflet which was supported to be progressed i.e. members to walk and feedback their findings, better photos, background colour and checking text with land users.

Cllr Balkwill commented, supported by fellow members, that S106 developer contributions should be prioritised in order to provide new and improved amenities to areas of the town where there was a deficit in current provision.

15/107 HERITAGE TRAIL

Cllr Balkwill reported that the Working Group had met twice to date. A stocktake was underway to determine the heritage to be included and much discussion was taking place on how to interpret historical fact alongside fun anecdotes etc. The proposal was progressing but may take some time.

15/108 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

108.1 Casual Vacancy. Cllr Steve Sidney had retired on 30 October following his re-location to Paignton. The opportunity for East Ward residents to call an election had been advertised in the Kingsbridge Gazette on Friday 6 November and on notice boards; 10 or more electors must submit a request to SHDC on or before 27 November.

108.2 Police "Have Your Say Day". To take place on Monday 23 November 10.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. with opportunities for members to join the Neighbourhood Police Team and SHDC Locality Officer assisted by Exeter University students. Members of public were to be consulted at various locations regarding how they feel about policing/local government matters.

108.3 South Hams TAP Fund. Members had already agreed a bid for illuminated stars at St Edmunds Church at circa £2k for this FY's TAP Fund (to be submitted by 18 December) and now identified that related expenditure should also be applied for. West Alvington Parish Council was likely to request KTC's support for an application for a towable gritting machine.

108.4 First Aid At Work. Laura Cregan had completed a one day First Aid At Work course on 14 October to ensure KTC complied with its revised Health & Safety policy.

108.5 Devon Highways Conference. The Town Clerk had attended the session on 21 October which had been very worthwhile. Presentations from DCC & South West Highways included: future service changes, winter service, safety inspections, community mobilisation, road warden scheme and pothole safety defects.

108.6 Quay House – Room 4. Following an advert in the Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette, Room 4 had been let to South West Nutrition with effect from 2 November.

108.7 Parking – Westville. Representations had been received recently from 2 Westville residents regarding car parking issues in the locale. In response Roger Pope, Principal, Kingsbridge Community College had:

1. written to all users that the main car park and overflow next to the 6th Form Centre should be used for any activities in the College/sports pitches and on no account to park in roads around the school, and
2. emailed staff and administration teams (for invites to parents' evenings etc.) to provide the same message.

Members noted that SHDC's resident parking permits should be promoted (allows parking 1600-1000 in any car park 7 days per week 1600-1000 at £21 per annum).

15/109 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND

AUTHORITIES

109.1 Cllr Gilbert had attended Frogmore WI to promote the Trim Trail.

109.2 Cllr Coulthard reported that FAST was redecorating Horizons with youth service provision due to re-commence shortly; members supported the group making a presentation to KTC on their services/ambitions.

15/110 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 10 November 2015. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £18,479.45 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

15/111 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

111.1 ANIMAL MEMORIAL

Members had noted Lindy Hingley's statement during the Public Open Forum. It was **RESOLVED** to support the proposal for an Animal Memorial to be positioned atop the Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial base located in Quay House grounds.

111.2 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION PLAN FOR KINGSBRIDGE

Members received Cllrs Grills & Lynn's feedback from the S106/OSSR meeting hosted by SHDC recently. It was **RESOLVED** for KTC to consult with existing clubs and the community to gather information to produce an OSSR Plan in order to document existing provision, identify shortfalls, and earmark what improved and/or new facilities are needed to meet said shortfalls and anticipated future demand from additional housing development.

111.3 VARIATION TO PREMISES LICENCE - MORRISONS

Members had noted Sgt Green's report at agenda item 15/98.1. It was **RESOLVED** to make no objections to Morrisons' application to vary its premises licence from Monday to Sunday 0600-2300 to Monday to Sunday 0600-0000.

15/112 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman.

15/113 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest, that the public and press be temporarily excluded.

Members of press left the Chamber

15/114 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee (confidential session) held on 20 October 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

..... Presiding Chairman Date

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Tom Shell of Alvington Terrace, Kingsbridge, thanked the Town Council (KTC) for exploding the myth of affordable housing in a Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette article dated 23 October and how actually unaffordable such housing is to many people. He supported KTC's plans to develop housing on land off Derby Road and would follow the authority's plans with interest. He was also in favour of the self-build project promoted in another Gazette article dated 6 November.

2. Lindy Hingley of Stoke Fleming had informed KTC of her ambition to erect a memorial to commemorate animals which served in WW1, and received support in principle, at the full council meeting held on 9 December 2014. Members were now in receipt of images of a stone and bronze sculpture and a request was made for the memorial to be positioned atop the Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial base already positioned in Quay House grounds to give an overall height at around 9 feet. The base was originally a water fountain for horses and therefore would be very fitting. If supported, then costs and fund raising streams would be worked up.

The Chairman agreed to consider an item of Urgent Business at agenda item 15/111: Animal Memorial.

3. Carol Horton of Kingsbridge Fair Week Committee stated that South Hams District Council (SHDC) was planning to invite tenders for the fun fair to be located in Quay Car Park during Fair Week. The committee had huge concerns given that David Rowland had been providing the fun fair in Kingsbridge for over 40 years, the committee had an excellent working relationship with him and his team, he was instrumental in the success of Rotaproj and gave much back to the town.

District Cllr Wingate supported Fair Week Committee that David Rowland's Fun Fair should remain. District Cllr Gilbert reported that precedence for tendering had been set elsewhere, SHDC hoped to achieve a 5 year licence and all tenders would be considered on quality alongside costs. Members asked several questions and then it was agreed: KTC should write to Kingsbridge Fair Week Committee to report it would support the committee's choice of preferred fun fair.

Cllr Grills thanked Tom, Lindy and Carol for their statements.