

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

Present: Cllr Irene Jeeninga (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Amanda Bloomer
Cllr Rufus Gilbert
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Wayne Grills
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Steve Sidney
Cllr Beryl Washington
Cllr Keith Wingate
Cllr Philip Yates

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Simon Wright
Inspector Adrian Leisk
Sam Acourt, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Two Members of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

13/135 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Jax Williams.

Public Open Forum

There were no statements from members of public.

**13/136 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES**

136.1 Insp Leisk had already met with some members and now introduced himself to the full council as the new Sector Inspector for Ivybridge & Kingsbridge. He had inherited a great team of police officers with an excellent work ethic; the majority of whom lived locally. He reported on crime statistics for January 2014. A total of 21 crimes had been committed compared to 23 crimes during the same period in 2013.

Four arrests had been made, 2 crimes had been dealt with by caution or restorative justice and others were still under investigation. There had been 5 assaults including 2 non-injury and 3 minor injury assaults of which 2 were domestic related and resulted in arrest. There had been no burglaries, either dwelling or non-dwelling, and the last burglary of any sort in the town occurred on 2 October 2013 and the burglar had been arrested. Three crimes of criminal

damage to cars, one shoplifting, one indecent exposure and one drug possession had been recorded. A monthly road safety campaign was operated; the theme for January was 'vehicle and road user visibility'. Officers gave advice and where required enforced the law on mandatory lights. Talks were given to schools, cubs, scouts, riding stables and cycle clubs about being visible on the road. Finally, a large number of enquiries were received regarding impacts of extreme weather i.e. flooding, fallen trees and dangling power cables. Where roads had to be temporarily closed local people had been patient and the Police had been grateful for their understanding.

Cllr Wingate commented that speeding along Embankment Road was a historical issue and a visible Police presence at key times of day would be welcomed. Insp Leisk replied that the Police did give warnings if motorists were driving in an anti-social manner and he noted the comments. A vehicle activated sign had recently been deployed by Devon County Council (DCC) opposite the Crabshell Inn.

Cllr Griffin enquired whether PCSO posts were safeguarded. Insp Leisk replied that there were no plans to reduce PCSO numbers and their role was highly valued. Indeed, a consultation was ongoing which sought to consider increasing PCSO powers.

Insp Leisk left the Chamber

136.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that DCC and the Environment Agency were impressed with the council's (KTC) Flood Resilience Committee. The following day's Cabinet would recommend the authority's budget for financial year 2014/15. The current review of Day Centres proposed for Tumbly Hill to close and for Ropewalk to remain open. A public meeting would be held at Tumbly Hill. No services would be shut until all clients had been sorted alternative provision. People had to be referred to Tumbly Hill and it was a much appreciated resource. He was delighted to hear the Police Inspector's report regarding how well Kingsbridge fared regarding crime. DCC was reviewing its youth service provision and Tresillian was likely to close. Joint work between the Youth Service, Police and voluntary sector was pivotal for preventing crime. DCC was also reviewing its residential care homes however, there were none in the Kingsbridge area. The Meals On Wheels contract completed in July 2014 and it was proposed for the service to end. Local residents concerns had been received by Cllr Gilbert and himself. Vulnerable people required services and the question was how best to deal with DCC cuts in Kingsbridge.

136.3 County Cllr Gilbert reported DCC's Youth Service provision was likely to be diluted and more effort would be directed towards vulnerable people following guidance from Ofsted. The authority had to make huge savings in the following 2 financial years and universal support was likely to change to targeted support. For example, the Meals On Wheels service was proposed to end as there were now other sources available for hot meals. Effectively it was only the method of delivery which was proposed to change. The education/schools budget for Devon was very low compared to other areas in the UK some of which received 400% more; savings had been made on staffing budgets. DCC faced cuts in

central government grant at £50m in FY 2014/15 and £40m in FY 2015/16. It was crucial however, not to desert those in need.

136.4 District Cllr Gilbert reported that South Hams District Council (SHDC) had been very busy with flooding matters e.g. Torcross. He anticipated that KTC would receive feedback on new modelling charges for off-street car parks shortly.

136.5 District Cllr Wingate reported that SHDC would be debating its budget for FY 2014/15 on 13 February; the authority was under pressure to make savings. He had attended the Harbour Board meeting on 3 February; sewerage had entered the estuary following flooding and the issue would be raised with South West Water. Proposals to repair the Slipway were progressing.

136.6 District Cllr Wright reported that 2% capping of council tax had been confirmed however, there were no current restrictions for local councils. SHDC's website was one year old and there had been 161,000 hits. Storm damage had affected the sea wall at the head of the estuary in Kingsbridge. The Harbour Board had confirmed only minor damage to boats during recent severe weather however, some abandoned tenders at the Pump House Slipway had been badly damaged and subsequently removed to be disposed of if not claimed.

County Cllr Brazil left the Chamber

13/137 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

13/138 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

13/139 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the full council meeting held on 14 January 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13/140 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 21 January 2014 and 4 February 2014.

13/141 POLICY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Policy Committee held on 21 January 2014.

13/142

PARKS & GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Parks & Green Spaces Committee held on 24 January 2014.

13/143

FORE STREET CAR PARK

Members noted SHDC's original proposal, supported by KTC, for a new one-way access system had been dropped due to extant covenant issues. However, there was a requirement to progress with re-surfacing works due to litigation matters and an opportunity therein to improve the current 2 way access to/from Fore Street. Members received a proposal to re-position the exit point onto Fore Street to provide an enhanced splay and provide priority for traffic entering from Cookworthy Road. However, it was considered that traffic priority/markings be reversed within the access link. There was concern that the proposal was likely to lead to a back-up of vehicles entering the car park from Fore Street leading to congestion in the main highway. It was **RESOLVED** to reply to SHDC:

- providing support for a revised exit point onto Fore Street, and
- requesting priority for traffic entering from Fore Street rather than Cookworthy Road.

District Cllr Wright left the Chamber

13/144

FLOOD RESILIENCE

A Flood Resilience Committee meeting had been held immediately before the full council meeting and a briefing was provided. KTC had developed a good working relationship with DCC's Flood Resilience Team, Pathfinder Project, Environment Agency, Police, Fire Service and volunteers. Lessons learnt had been shared from the tidal flooding experienced 31 January to 5 February and it was noted similar high spring tides were anticipated in early March. A funding bid to the Pathfinder Project would be worked up shortly for flood resilience equipment e.g. new highways signage. An exploratory meeting with local residents had taken place on 4 February which had been very useful and further knowledge had been gleaned. It was **RESOLVED** to organise a roster for staff, members and volunteers to manage potential tidal flooding 2 to 4 March 2014 in the Quay area.

13/145

REVIEW OF DAY CENTRES FOR ADULTS

Members had been signposted to DCC's website regarding a review of Day Centres for adults and consultation documents for Ropewalk and Tumbly Hill; the Town Clerk held paper copies. Cllr Gilbert provided the rationale for the reviews with Ropewalk proposed to stay open and Tumbly Hill proposed to close once an assurance had been provided that clients had access to alternative support. It was noted that a public meeting would be held at 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 25 February in Tumbly Hill. It was **RESOLVED** for members to study the Day Centre review documentation and to provide comments to the Town Clerk for collation.

146.1 Civic Service. The Civic Service would be held 10.45 for 11.00 a.m. on Sunday 23 February at St Edmunds Church.

146.2 Annual Town Meeting. Under Local Government rules an Annual Town Meeting must take place between 1 March and 1 June and should not commence before 6 p.m. In 2013 the meeting was given a radical shake-up and held in the Town Square on a Saturday morning (alongside a Farmers' Market) with a focus on Dog Orders and members talked to well over 100 people. Members agreed for the format to be repeated in 2014 (date to be confirmed) and for the focus to be: Flood Resilience matters and Trim Trail proposals/public consultation. Effectively KTC would be breaching regulations again however, the notice for the meeting would identify that the Chairman and Town Clerk would be available on the following Tuesday evening 6.00 to 7.00 p.m. to take further enquiries.

146.3 DCC Service Reviews. Further to agenda item 13/145 (Review of Day Centres) DCC was seeking comments on a further 3 services as part of its Tough Choices programme:

- Heritage Service Review until 7 April 2014:
<http://new.devon.gov.uk/heritagereview/>
- Meals Service Review until 19 March 2014:
<http://new.devon.gov.uk/mealsreview/>
- Adult Residential Care Services until 26 March 2014:
<http://new.devon.gov.uk/residentialreview/>

146.4 Fore Street Car Park – Benches. Members were thanked for their forbearance that timescales did not allow for full consultation regarding the disposal of benches in Fore Street Car Park which was deemed to be immediate on Health & Safety grounds.

146.5 Hire of Council Chamber. Members' email communications mid-January were confirmed that all community groups recognised on KTC's listing of Outside Bodies will have use of the Council Chamber free of charge. This would help to formalise some historical procedures. The listing included: Sustainable Kingsbridge, Fair Week, Twinning, Chamber of Commerce, Kingsbridge In Bloom and Home Start South Hams.

146.6 Bridleway No.5 (Rear of Ilton Way). DCC had organised a further temporary closure as a result of damage to the surface caused by a fallen tree. SHDC would action repairs.

146.7 Mosaic Panels – Update. Michelle McQuinn-Farrand and Rosemary Speed (Sustainable Kingsbridge) were progressing the mosaic panels to be fitted into the recesses at Peacocks store. The group had provided a heads-up that it may request KTC to:

- take on ownership/maintenance
- agree to a sponsorship plaque being installed

- part-fund a small reception in Quay House on completion of an official opening by the Town Mayor in June 2014.

146.8 Cemetery – Fallen Tree. A very large Holm Oak had fallen into the cemetery on 10 February. Damage to headstones was difficult to assess at present as the tree canopy covered a large area. A warning notice for members of public had been positioned on the main gates and the area cordoned off with hi-viz tape. A quotation from SHDC for a full tree survey had been previously arranged and was awaited. Members agreed to provide the Chairman and Town Clerk with delegated authority to action removal of the tree.

Members of public left the Chamber

13/147 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

147.1 Cllr Wingate had attended meetings of the Fair Week Committee.

147.2 Cllr Balkwill had attended a meeting of Kingsbridge Feoffees; Ken Court had stood down and John Donovan had been elected as new Chairman. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Ken Court for his long service.

147.3 Cllr Yates had attended a meeting of the Twinning Society. Plans for the trip to France in May were progressing and the German visit to Kingsbridge would take place in September/October.

147.4 Cllr Price had attended meetings of Kingsbridge In Bloom; plans were well advanced for summer 2014 and new baskets and planters had recently been delivered.

147.5 Cllr Jeeninga had attended a recent meeting of Dodbrook Feoffees.

13/148 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 11 February 2014. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £9,364.60 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

13/149 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was no business brought forward.

13/150 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman.

13/151

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED** due to the nature of the business about to be transacted for the public and press to be temporarily excluded.

Members of the press left the Chamber

12/152

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2014

Members received 3 applications. It was **RESOLVED** to select Mr Roger Tyler as Kingsbridge Citizen of the Year 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

..... Presiding Chairman

.....Date