

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE AT 7.00 p.m. ON TUESDAY
11 MARCH 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 Beryl Washington
Cllr Jax Williams

In Attendance: District Cllr Simon Wright
Sergeant David Green
Sam Acourt, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Four Members of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

13/153 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Matt Farrand, Steve Sidney, Keith Wingate and Philip Yates, and County Cllr Julian Brazil.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

**13/154 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES**

154.1 Sgt Green reported on crime statistics for February 2014. A total of 22 crimes had been committed compared to 24 crimes during the same period in 2013. Six arrests had been made, 12 crimes had been dealt with by caution or restorative justice and others were still under investigation. There had been 4 assaults which had all resulted in arrests including an assault on a police officer with the offender charged to court. 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 buildings had all been dealt with via restorative justice. Four incidents of shoplifting had resulted in an arrest and 2 others had been dealt with by restorative justice. Three cases of drug possession had been dealt with by caution or warning. Finally, the National Road Safety Campaign theme for February was 'Driving Standards' with an emphasis on education through the media, talks to schools and other groups, and leaflets had been left in petrol stations. Enforcement activities had been carried out with a number of drivers for a variety of offences. March's theme was seat belts.

Cllr Price referred to tidal flooding in early March and commented that it was beneficial if officers were available to authorise road closures; Sgt Green noted the request.

Cllr Griffin commented that the Neighbourhood Team were performing very well despite being one officer down for some time.

Cllr Bloomer commented that the Police Cadets were well established and requested an update on their activities; Sgt Green replied that the Cadets had supplied the High Sheriff of Devon's Police Cadet for 3 out of the last 4 years and were ably led by PCSO O'Dwyer.

Sgt Green left the Chamber

154.2 County Cllr Gilbert reported that central government had provided £140m additional funding for highways and Devon County Council (DCC) could tap into the Bellwin scheme for emergency financial assistance. Thirteen pothole defect teams had been increased to 34 so performance should improve. There was much ongoing work for DCC following recent severe weather e.g. South Milton and Thurlestone. DCC would take over enforcement of on-street car parking from South Hams District Council (SHDC) from 1st April.

154.3 District Cllr Gilbert reported that SHDC had achieved a 5 year supply of housing in allocated areas which ensured that the authority was not exposed to developers making planning applications on greenfield sites. Recycling hours at Tor Quarry had been reduced from 0800-1800 to 0900-1700 for 7 days per week.

154.4 District Cllr Wright reported that retail shops with rateable values less than £50k would automatically be credited £1k via the business rate support scheme. The Boundary Commission had released their final recommendations for remodelling SHDC and he noted the report was on the notice board for members' attention. The previous evening's Southern Cluster Meeting had determined TAP Fund applications. He had attended a recent seminar by Eric Pickles MP (Secretary of State for Local Government); SHDC would not receive any revenue support grant funding by 2020. A consultation was underway regarding the validation of planning applications. Finally, candidates for the position of Harbour Master had been interviewed and an appointment was anticipated shortly.

13/155 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

13/156 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

13/157

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the full council meeting held on 11 February 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13/158

PLANNING

158.1 It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 18 February 2014.

158.2 The following planning applications were considered:

28/0358/14/F – Householder application for erection of porch and study.
Rollright, Belle Hill, Kingsbridge TQ7 1NJ.

Mr S Davey

(Case officer: Jenny Draper)

Recommend APPROVAL

28/0468/14/F – Householder application for glazed extension.
Appleford, Bowcombe Road, Kingsbridge, TQ7 2DJ.

Mr B Fletcher

(Case officer: Donna Crabtree)

Recommend APPROVAL

It was **RESOLVED** to forward the findings of the above planning consultation to SHDC Development Management.

13/159

FLOOD RESILIENCE

159.1 It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the minutes of the Flood Resilience Committee held on 11 February 2014.

159.2 Members were in receipt of a report on the tidal surge 1 to 4 March 2014 which had been forwarded to DCC's Flood Risk Team. A roster for members, staff and volunteers had been organised to manage flood events i.e. positioning of warning signs and advice to motorists/pedestrians. No road closures were required, Fire Service personnel/vehicle had attended on 3rd March, raw sewerage had been deposited in Mill Street and was cleared up by South West Water. Properties in Bridge Street and Devon Square had flooded. Next spring tides were forecast week beginning 8th September.

159.3 Members received the following additional updates:

- KTC had been awarded £2,503 by DCC from the Pathfinder Project to purchase flood resilience equipment to be housed in the Library Garage,
- a new trash screen had been fitted at the end of the Western Backway leat,
- DCC, SHDC, Environment Agency and Jacobs Engineering officers had met with Cllrs Griffin, Grills, Wingate and the Town Clerk on 6th March. A

walkabout of all watercourses had been conducted to feed into the Kingsbridge Catchment Study, the scope of the study was discussed and an outcome would be to evaluate specific elements of the system for capacity and potentially provide a wish list of future works.

13/160

REVIEW OF DAY CENTRES FOR ADULTS

At the previous full council meeting members had been signposted to DCC's Review of Day Centres for adults aged 18 plus and particularly to Consultation Documents and Impact Assessments regarding Ropewalk and Tumbly Hill Day Centres in Kingsbridge. The criteria for the review had been noted: alternatives, underused and costly services, future needs, and cost effective use of resources. The consultation ended on 19 March 2014. It was proposed to retain Ropewalk and to close Tumbly Hill.

Subsequently Cllrs Gilbert and Jeeninga, alongside County Cllr Brazil and the Town Clerk, had attended a meeting at Tumbly Hill on 25 February 2014 to receive a presentation from DCC's regional Health & Social Care General Manager and to discuss the proposals with clients and carers.

Members now received: reports from County Cllr Brazil, Saltstone Caring and South Hams CVS, recent letters printed in the Kingsbridge Gazette, and quotations from clients and carers. All objected to the proposal to close Tumbly Hill.

County Cllr Gilbert reported: he had requested a meeting with Cllr Stuart Barker (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health Services), asked for entry criteria, acknowledged the aim was to provide an excellent but cheaper service, and he was opposed to a reduction or removal of the service.

On completion of a full discussion it was **RESOLVED** to reply to DCC's consultation regarding the proposal to close Tumbly Hill Day Centre:

- Kingsbridge Town Council objected to the proposal for the Tumbly Hill service being withdrawn from Kingsbridge,
- there was no equivalent service provision in the Kingsbridge area,
- the current service was considered pivotal by clients and carers,
- to query why referrals were not coming through (41 referrals in last 3 years with 25 current users at 43% capacity),
- to note that if Tumbly Hill were fully occupied the current unit cost at £110 per day would fall to £47 making it far more cost effective,
- should the current service close it was vital for future service provision to be no less than at present and for it be up and running before closure of Tumbly Hill,
- any new service should stay in Kingsbridge as a hub/area centre,
- Kingsbridge Town Council should be kept informed on matters as the Day Centre Review progressed.

13/161

FORE STREET CAR PARK

At the previous full council meeting members had agreed to support SHDC's proposal for a revised exit point onto Fore Street and to request priority for traffic entering from Fore Street rather than Cookworthy Road. SHDC had endorsed KTC's suggestion and members now received a revised plan/proposals identifying the same which would be actioned as soon as possible.

Members had noted a statement during the Public Open Forum that the car park was long neglected in the locale of the above re-designed access route. It was **RESOLVED** to request SHDC to repaint the toilet block and walls on the opposite side of the access route, and for new plywood to be fixed on to existing notice boards.

District Cllr Wright left the Chamber

13/162

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

162.1 Immediate Property Matters.

- **Decorative Lights.** South West Distribution had replaced the cut-out in the supply cabinet along Embankment Road which was damaged during tidal flooding. The fault in the festoon could now be investigated and a fix was anticipated shortly.
- **Fallen Tree – Cemetery.** Holm Oak chopped up, wood removed and area cleared. Owners of adjoining garage/boat store had commissioned a tree surgeon to fell the remainder of the tree shortly.

162.2 School Clearway Amendment Order. Current 'keep clear' markings across the Primary School entrances in Belle Cross Road were advisory only; to be replaced with 'no stopping at any time' which would allow enforcement. Identified to members via email with nil negative feedback.

162.3 Electoral Review of South Hams – Final Recommendations. The Boundary Commission proposed a reduction from 40 to 31 councillors to represent 11 x single member wards, 7 x 2 member wards, and 2 x 3 member wards with 6 wards to be re-named. The report had been positioned on the Council Chamber notice board.

162.4 Road Closure. DCC Temporary Restriction Order had been confirmed for Church Street from Tuesday 25 March with anticipated finish Thursday 27 March for repairs to burst pipe by May Gurney Ltd.

162.5 Library/Quay House Vandalism. A male person has been identified for the recent smashed window at the Library and broken downpipe at Quay House; the latter had been fixed. DCC as the primary victim has agreed for the crime to be dealt with via restorative justice. KTC would receive damages and an apology. Cllr Balkwill requested that the apology be made in public; the Town Clerk would investigate.

162.6 Grant Aid. KATS thanked KTC for last year's £300 grant. Due to shopping around the group had managed to purchase more kit than envisaged.

162.7 Community Awareness Exhibition. KTC had been invited to the exhibition on Thursday 3rd April at the Market Hall.

162.8 Elections of Town Mayor/Deputy Town Mayor. A Memorandum for election arrangements for mayoral year 2014/15 was distributed to members.

162.9 John Cowling. Members were informed that John had passed away recently. He had served on KTC from October 2004 to May 2007. A condolences card had been delivered to John's family. The funeral would take place 2.00 p.m. Friday 14th March at Dodbrooke Church; Cllrs Balkwill and Washington would attend to represent KTC.

162.10 Southern Cluster Meeting. The previous evening's Cluster Meeting held in Quay House had considered applications to the Town And Parish (TAP) Fund. One application was withdrawn and it was agreed by member councils and SHDC to support all other applications at 95% pro-rata as total bids had exceeded available funding. KTC and West Alvington Parish Council would receive £4,157.41 (bid £4,352) leaving a £194.59 shortfall. The hedge cutting in West Alvington Hill and Cookworthy Road would commence immediately due to the wild bird nesting season which provided a window until the end of March only.

13/163 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

163.1 Cllr Washington had attended a Rest Centre meeting; the organisation was in good health.

163.2 Cllr Price had attended several meetings of Kingsbridge In Bloom and the group was working towards the South West In Bloom competition.

13/164 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 11 March 2014. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £7,983.40 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

13/165 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was no business brought forward.

13/166 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

166.1 Cllr Griffin asked if the Chairman was aware of a large SHDC administration fee to be paid by David Rowland's Fun Fair during Kingsbridge Fair Week. Cllr Gilbert replied, on behalf of the Chairman, that the fee was for a

2 year licence for use of Quay Car Park which had required much legal input. He had already informed Carol Horton, Fair Week Committee.

166.2 Cllr Bloomer suggested that a thank you letter be sent to community volunteers who had helped during tidal flooding incidents in early March. Cllr Jeeninga replied that a letter had already been sent.

166.3 Cllr Balkwill asked when the official opening of the new berthing pontoons would take place. Cllr Jeeninga replied that the opening would be held at 6.00 p.m. on Monday 31st March.

166.4 Cllr Jeeninga, supported by members, suggested a leaving card and thank you be sent to Richard Sheard, SHDC Chief Executive, who retired at the end of the month.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

..... Presiding Chairman Date

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Mr John Speed distributed photographs and stated that the top section of Fore Street Car Park (entrance/exit route to Fore Street) was neglected and unkempt. It gave a dreadful impression to visitors and needed to be spruced up before summer. In particular, the toilet block required painting, hanging baskets could be positioned, the properties on the opposite side of the access route also required painting, and notice boards in old window recesses needed to be replaced. With the backing of Kingsbridge In Bloom it may be possible for a couple of hanging baskets.

Cllr Jeeninga thanked Mr Speed for his comments and replied that Fore Street Car Park was an agenda item at the meeting (13/161).

2. Mr Lawrence Townsend thanked PC Paul Chesworth for dealing with a domestic issue at Devon Square recently.

Cllr Jeenniga thanked Mr Townsend for his statement.