

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2016**

Present: Cllr Chris Povey (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Sandy Gilbert
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Irene Jenninga
Cllr Mike Jennings
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Jim Romanos

In Attendance: County & District Cllr Rufus Gilbert
District Cllr Keith Wingate
Sgt David Green
Sam Court, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Two Members of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

At the outset of the meeting Cllr Povey:

- *Thanked Cllr Price and the Kingsbridge in Bloom team for their outstanding efforts which had resulted in a Gold Medal in the South West in Bloom competition 2016. Members supported a vote of thanks.*
- *Reported that the Kings Arms had been sold to Vision Residences; a company which specialised in the development of listed buildings. The stated ambition was for commercial/restaurant on the ground floor and residential on the upper floors. The company appeared to be enthusiastic rather than sitting on the property as a land bank.*
- *Thanked Cllr Balkwill for deputising as Chairman in his recent absence and Cllr Jenninga for attending the Chairman of South Hams District Council's (SHDC) Harvest Festival, and the Twinning Association Dinner, on his behalf.*

16/87 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Tom Coulthard, County Cllr Julian Brazil and Inspector Chris Tapley.

Public Open Forum

Gill Cox made the statement at Annex A.

16/88 REPORTS FROM POLICE AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

88.1 Sgt Green reported on crime for September 2016; a total of 18 crimes had been committed compared to 19 during the same period in 2015 and 14 in 2014. There had been: 2 arrests/charges, one person summonsed to court, 3 community

resolutions, one youth caution and others were still under investigation. Crimes included: 2 common assault, 2 actual bodily harm, 3 thefts, one shoplifting and 5 criminal damages. Other offences included: blackmail, using violence to secure entry, petrol station bilking, drink driving and racially aggravated harassment. The Police were aware of speeding complaints on West Alvington Hill and would focus resources as available. October's national road safety theme was vehicle roadworthiness. On Friday 14 October "Junior Life Skills" would take place and Police input related to child online exploitation which would be delivered in an age appropriate manner. Finally, he supported Members' thanks to Kingsbridge in Bloom; the group brought quality to the town in all their efforts.

Cllr Povey asked if the Police were aware of fires to litter bins in Fore Street during the previous evening; Sgt Green confirmed that the incidents had been reported and would be investigated.

Sgt Green left the Chamber

88.2 County Cllr Gilbert reported that Devon County Council (DCC) had selected Skanska for its road maintenance contractor. The broadband phase 2 contract would be awarded shortly; 8 expressions of interest had been received. The £40m contract affected villages outside Kingsbridge and a phase 3 programme would follow. Devon's recycling rate was 54%. The new structure for Libraries had been a great success and Kingsbridge Library was performing very well. Devolution proposals for Devon & Somerset were ongoing however, the concept of mayors was off the agenda. Finally, he would be attending a Green Party conference shortly.

Members asked several questions regarding recycling. Cllr Gilbert replied that SHDC's recycling rate was similar to DCC, West Devon achieved better results but was more expensive to operate, Devon performed very well when compared to the rest of the UK and a tour of Plymouth's recycling plant was being arranged which town councillors would be invited to.

88.3 District Cllr Gilbert reported that he was aware of Members' concerns regarding the requirement to pollard Town Square trees and hoped to feedback shortly. The recently introduced mechanical road sweepers produced good results and the public perception was encouraging. More news regarding cleaning zones and related business would be provided to local councils in due course. SHDC's policy for events on their assets had been considered by a Task & Finish Group; it was a work in progress and likely that further consultation would take place.

Cllr Fishman requested a progress report on disability access at the Bus Station. Cllr Gilbert replied that his statement at the previous meeting had not changed i.e. the K2 Quayside masterplan was likely to incorporate changes to the Bus Station. He noted that Quay House and Fore Street were also not disability-friendly and underlined that SHDC was reluctant to spend monies at present.

Members then asked several questions regarding the K2 Quayside masterplan. Cllrs Gilbert and Wingate replied that a further stakeholder meeting would be called for late October/early November however, impacts on a potential Tumble Hill development and Public Footpath No.1 could not be discussed until such time.

88.4 District Cllr Wingate had been critical of SHDC's K2 Quayside master planning process but was warming to it. He remained on the fence regarding a proposed Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) and some key issues required resolution i.e. state aid, pensions and VAT. Further news would be known shortly and it was about 'clearing red lines' and risk analysis. A final decision was likely to be made in spring 2017.

Cllrs Gilbert & Wingate left the Chamber

16/89 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Povey agreed to take one item of urgent business at agenda item 16/102: "BT Payphone Kiosk Removal – Consultation".

16/90 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16/91 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

16/92 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 20 September 2016 and 4 October 2016.

16/93 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 20 September 2016; subject to one amendment that an extension of the decorative lighting along the quayside footpath at Embankment Road should be considered at the next full council meeting.

16/94 POLICY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Policy Committee held on 4 October 2016.

Members agreed to hold an additional mid-term Policy Committee in late November to discuss in closer detail the Priorities & Ambitions 2015-2019 and in particular to break down into action points some key projects i.e. Fore Street improved street scene, sustain/promotion of the local economy and shops, greater engagement with young people, age friendly goals and town promotional video. Date/time to be confirmed.

16/95 DOG ORDERS

Members were in receipt of a consultation from SHDC regarding the operation of Dog Control Orders and their conversion to Public Space Protection Orders. It was noted that the Town Council (KTC) had conducted its own local consultation in 2013 and there was now an opportunity to suggest amendments to the existing Orders. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to recommend the Dogs On Leads Order 2013 schedule for Kingsbridge:

- be retained for dogs to be kept on leads in the following: areas with retail premises (2 or more), car parks, cemeteries and churchyards, marked sports fields (whilst organised sport is in progress), Quayside, Market Square (including Bandstand), Recreation Ground, Embankment footpath and grass strip to include the Town Square;
- for the above to be amended to make it easier to read;
- to add the following: Slipway (end of Quay Car Park), Quay House grounds, Britton's Field, Bus Station, all pavements within the town boundary (and adjacent grass strips), all paved/tarmac public footpaths; and
- for Public Space Protection Orders to clearly identify the dogs on leads zones by signage alongside maps.

16/96 VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN

Members received a report that DCC would be prepared for KTC to manage a vehicle activated sign (VAS) to identify the highway speed limit at locations in town which had been surveyed via a speed compliance action review forum (SCARF). Ground excavations would be required at each location for a temporary VAS column; these would be capped-off when not in use. Several companies had been investigated to supply a VAS and costings for groundworks/column were awaited from DCC. It was **RESOLVED** to support, in principle, the supply and purchase of a VAS plus related groundworks and column.

16/97 SOUTH HAMS TAP FUND

Members were in receipt of SHDC's information regarding Town and Parish (TAP) Fund applications for 2016/17; the total amount available for the Southern Cluster of parishes was £16,800.30. Members made suggestions for a bid which included: the supply of a VAS, Memorial Shelter refit and Bowcombe Creek public seating improvements; the Town Clerk would contact neighbouring local councils to gauge the appetite for a VAS project. It was **RESOLVED** for Members to consider potential projects for a TAP Fund application and to re-consider as an agenda item at November's full council meeting.

16/98 COUNCIL TAX REFERENDUM PROPOSALS FOR PARISHES

Members were in receipt of the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement technical consultation paper dated September 2016 regarding council tax referendum principles for town and parish councils. Members noted related information from the National Association of Local Councils. It was **RESOLVED** to respond to DCLG's consultation that KTC strongly opposed the proposal to introduce referendum

principles for all local precepting authorities and to defend its current position to determine its precept.

16/99 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

99.1 Feedback full council meetings 2 August & 13 September:

- A plan for Fore Street bus stop improvements had been submitted to DCC.
- Fore Street current loading bay signage to be replaced by "goods vehicles loading only" would be included in the following financial year's Traffic Regulation Order for consultation.
- Proposals for Fore Street micro-seating/gardens had to be worked up.
- Embankment Road drains clearance would be provided free of charge as a goodwill gesture by Exjet.
- A holding reply had been received from the Prime Minister's office in response to KTC's letter regarding social housing.
- The Fore Street pavement repairs project was ongoing and funding applications had been made to County Cllrs Brazil & Gilbert and District Cllr Wingate; dialogue continued with DCC's local highways officer.
- Salcombe Harbour Board had considered KTC feedback to its business plan 2017-22 and a revised plan had been forwarded to Members.
- Open Space, Sport & Recreation plan progress had been reviewed by Cllrs Balkwill & Griffin and agreed to be on the right track; further consultation would be required for a final draft.
- A provisional programme for South West Water essential sewer works had been received, identifying road closures and traffic lights, which had been forwarded to Members. SWW had issued a press release which included a quotation from Cllr Povey, Town Mayor.
- A press release identifying West Aldington Hill speeding had been sanctioned by DCC and was anticipated to feature in the Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette shortly.
- Feedback was awaited from neighbouring parish councils regarding flood warden training.
- A vegetation cut had been completed at the Plymouth Road bus stop area.

99.2 Portable goalposts. A rear stay had broken off one of the goalposts in the Recreation Ground; the goalpost had been removed because it was beyond repair however, the net had been salvaged.

99.3 Traffic Regulation Order. Received from DCC for proposed extension of no waiting at any time/no waiting restrictions at: Embankment Road, Highfield Drive, Warren Road, Redford Way, Montagu Road, Fosse Road, Backwell Road and Montagu Close. The plans had been forwarded to Members.

99.4 Defibrillator. KTC's defibrillator at Kings Market foyer had been added to the NHS' 999 system; KTC had to report monthly that the defibrillator was operational.

99.5 SHDC update briefing for Town & Parish Clerks. A range of subjects had been covered in a 3.5 hour session and had proved very worthwhile.

99.6 Have your say public survey day. Managed by the Police with assistance from SHDC, KTC & Plymouth University students to be held on Monday 14 November with a briefing at the Police Station at 10.00 a.m.

99.7 Bandstand. The Police had requested for the security lights to be switched off and picnic benches removed.

99.8 Graffiti. Two picnic benches had been heavily daubed with graffiti (Recreation Ground and Quay House grounds); the incidents had been reported to the Police.

99.9 Grit Bin. Paul Brizio of Stentiford Hill, a KTC Snow Warden, had installed one of the 2 new grit bins, free of charge, as a community goodwill gesture.

99.10 DCC Highways Conference. Four events were being held across the county; nearest was at Buckfastleigh on Wednesday 16 November.

99.11 Trim Trail. Annual maintenance (year 2 of 3 purchased from Caloo) would be carried out on 12 and 13 October.

16/100 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

Cllr Jeeninga had attended a recent meeting of Dodbrook Feoffees.

16/101 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 11 October 2016. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £12,984.33 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

It was agreed to suspend Standing Order 3w. to extend the meeting beyond a period of 2 hours and 30 minutes.

16/102 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: BT PAYPHONE KIOSK REMOVAL – CONSULTATION

Members were in receipt of SHDC's information regarding proposed BT kiosk payphone removal at Redford Way and outside the Police Station in Fore Street. Options available were: to adopt a phone box, reject BT's proposals or confirm that KTC was content for a phone box to be removed. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the BT payphone kiosk in Fore Street and to consider the adoption of the kiosk in Redford Way subject to local consultation.

Cllr Jennings left the Chamber

16/103 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman.

16/104 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 public and the press left the Chamber

16/105 QUOTATION

Members were in receipt of a quotation to install rubber matting around the Trim Trail equipment in Quay House grounds (to bridge the footpath and Bandstand) and underneath the swings in the children’s play area in the Recreation Ground plus related ground works. Members noted that a sinking fund was available for play and Trim Trail equipment. The swings were a SHDC asset however, maintenance at other play areas in the district were a priority for the authority and immediate works would not be undertaken in the Recreation Ground. It was **RESOLVED** to accept a quotation for the installation of rubber matting and associated groundworks.

16/106 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

Members received a report from Cllrs Edmonds, Griffin and Jeeninga regarding interviews held the previous day and it was then **RESOLVED** to invite David Baisie to be co-opted as a town councillor for North Ward, Kingsbridge.

Cllr Romanos left the Chamber

Cllr Jeeninga requested all Members to consider their attendance at St Edmunds Church service on completion of the Remembrance Sunday parade/service at the War Memorial on 13 November.

Cllr Price thanked all Members for providing their support to Kingsbridge In Bloom during 2016 which had culminated in a Champion of Champions Gold Award.

The meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

..... Presiding Chairman Date

Annex:

- A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

Gill Cox, of The Malt Mill, Ebrington Street stated her concerns regarding skateboarding in Quay Lane. The noise level was extreme for local homes. Moreover, the alleyway was a busy thoroughfare and there was potential for accidents. Local residents wished to have some peace and the skateboarders were being disrespectful. She provided internet links to information/regulations and hoped that her concerns would be taken seriously.

Cllr Povey replied that a group of teenagers were working with the Town Council (KTC) to identify potential improvements to the Skate park at the Slipway. Other Members noted that skateboarding was problematic at other locations too. The Town Clerk commented that self-propelled vehicles on pavements were technically illegal, e.g. skateboards and bicycles, but effectively it came down to local discretion to manage. It was the type of issue which was likely to be swept up by the introduction of public space protection orders. Sgt Green had not been made aware of the issue of skateboarding in the locale and would discuss with PCSO Hawkes.