

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 11 JULY 2017

Present: Cllr Chris Povey (Chairman)
Cllr David Baisie
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Dena Bex
Cllr Tom Coulthard
Cllr Samantha Dennis
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Jim Romanos

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Rufus Gilbert
District Cllr Keith Wingate
Sam Acourt, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
6 Members of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

At the outset of the meeting Cllr Povey reported that this was Cllr Coulthard's last meeting and thanked him for his huge energy and passion for Kingsbridge.

He also congratulated Kingsbridge In Bloom for their incredible efforts which made the town look so stunning.

17/48 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

It was confirmed that a Declaration of Acceptance of Office had been received from co-opted member Cllr Samantha Dennis.

17/49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mike Jennings and Graham Price.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

17/50 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

50.1 County Cllr Brazil reported that new road surfacing at Totnes Cross had been completed to a good standard. Alongside Cllr Gilbert he had funded local bus services at £3.5k total however, as the sole Devon County Council (DCC) ward member for Kingsbridge he would be unable to contribute the whole sum and therefore liaison with Tally Ho and Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC) was required to explore a long term solution. At the previous day's Harbour Board running of the

Rivermaid Kingsbridge-Salcombe ferry has been acknowledged and hopefully it would run throughout summer however, Board Members were not complacent and sought long term security of the ferry operation.

County Cllr Brazil left the Chamber

50.2 Sgt Green presented the Police report for June 2017. A total of 43 crimes had been committed; 18 crimes had been recorded during the same period in 2016 and 17 in 2015. Six crimes had resulted in arrest, 3 summons, 1 caution, 4 community resolutions, for 6 crimes the offender was known but the Police were unable to take further action (e.g. victims' wishes or mental health issues) and other crimes were still under investigation. Crimes had included: 5 assaults (all involving minor injury), 1 historic sex offence, 1 dwelling burglary and 2 non-dwelling, 5 threats/public order, 11 damages, 7 shopliftings (4 involving a national chain), 6 other thefts, 1 fraud, 2 drug offences and 2 dog incidents. Church thefts had started to re-emerge. A local officer had been injured in Dartmouth but was anticipated to return to back-office duties shortly. Additional officers would be deployed during Fair Week.

Following a recent collision at Sorley Cross the Police Road Casualty Reduction Officer, and Traffic Officer at the scene, had reported highways defects (worn paint markings and a slipped sign) to a SCARF meeting and that visibility at the junction should be improved by alterations to the hedge line. However, DCC had informed the Police that there were no current plans to change the junction layout. He noted the subject was an agenda item for Members. Cllr Gilbert commented that government funding to change road layouts was formulaic and therefore frustrating but supported the Police and KTC's efforts to lobby for improvements. Cllr Wingate noted his attendance at Sorley Cross on several occasions during his Fire Service.

Cllr Romanos requested information on dog incidents; Sgt Green replied that this could be an aggressive dog resulting in a possible range of actions from Police advice for the dog owner to a dog control order.

Cllr Povey asked what actions the Police took given an uplift in crime; Sgt Green replied that trends and clusters were identified however, no further Police resource was available. Ultimately, Kingsbridge remained a safe town in a safe area.

Sgt Green left the Chamber

50.3 District Cllr Gilbert noted Members were due to discuss South Hams District Council's (SHDC) consultation on Public Space Protection Orders. The planning Appeal for 14 Allotment Gardens had been dismissed. A suggested merger between SHDC and West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) would be progressed. A planning application to redevelop the Kings Arms had been received. He had requested SHDC officers to comment on the current obstruction of Footpath No.1. The Quayside development public consultation had been extended by 2 weeks to Sunday 23 July and he considered that KTC had done a good job hosting the public meeting at St Edmunds Church on 3 July to inform the local community.

Cllr Edmonds asked if the new routine for residents parking permits 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. had been introduced; Cllr Gilbert confirmed that it had.

50.4 District Cllr Wingate considered that SHDC and KTC were working well at promoting the Quayside development consultation. He intended to read all the feedback received to inform his own position. A potential SHDC/WDBC merger had been reported in a 'One Council' report to be considered by both authorities shortly. It would mean South Hams' residents council tax being increased however, greater efficiencies could be made by merger.

Members asked several questions about the potential SHDC/WDBC merger and Cllr Wingate replied:

- Costings would be thoroughly scrutinised.
- Although SHDC had greater reserves than WDBC they were allocated e.g. for capital replacement.
- A potential cash surplus i.e. extra council tax over funding gap could be used to build more affordable homes.
- If WDBC went bust it would impact on SHDC as the 2 authorities already shared services.
- Current senior management would be slimmed down.
- A boundary review was likely to be triggered.

Cllr Romanos reported that KTC had successfully lobbied for safety improvements in Quay Car Park a few years ago however, the new pedestrian diversion at the head of the estuary was unsatisfactory. Cllr Wingate acknowledged the comments and would feedback.

District Cllrs Gilbert & Wingate left the Chamber

17/51 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Povey agreed to take 3 items of urgent business at agenda item 17/64:

- Kingsbridge Footpath No.1 – obstruction,
- Quay Car Park – pedestrian diversion, and
- Potential Co-option (to be taken under confidential matters).

17/52 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Bex declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 17/60.

Cllr Griffin declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 17/67 (sub agenda items 17/20.1 & 17/20.5).

17/53 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

The minutes of the previous week's extraordinary meeting included an undetermined Resolution for agenda item 17/45: Kingsbridge Quayside. Following a full discussion, it was then **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman to incorporate the following:

It was **RESOLVED** to provide the following feedback as Kingsbridge Town Council's response to South Hams District Council's Kingsbridge Quayside Consultation:

- We do not support the development as it stands.
- Greater community engagement is required within Kingsbridge for the whole scheme. No further action should be contemplated beforehand. The rapid pace to progress is not understood nor beneficial.
- There should be no residential development within Areas 1 and 2 and no open market housing within the whole scheme.
- Areas 3 and 4 should be an independent project for affordable and community housing. This should be addressed as a priority given Kingsbridge's need. We formally ask that if this is not likely to happen then that land be given to Kingsbridge Town Council to allow us to develop truly affordable and community homes.
- The on-line questionnaire still presents leading questions, does not actually work in places and the deadline was too tight.
- SHDC should be aware of Pell Frischmann's Kingsbridge Catchment Study (anticipated completion September 2017) which will identify the town's flood risk.

17/54 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4 July 2017.

17/55 FLOOD & WINTER RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Flood & Winter Resilience Committee held on 27 June 2017.

17/56 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Property Committee (public session only) held on 4 July 2017.

17/57 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS

Members received SHDC's consultation on Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) which had a deadline for feedback at 28 July 2017. New government legislation in 2014 introduced a power for principal local authorities to issue PSPOs and for Alcohol Designation Orders to be repealed after 3 years unless replaced by a PSPO. It was noted that PSPOs were discretionary powers for the Police and other authorised officers to use when required. Members considered the following:

57.1 The current Alcohol Designation Order required the surrender of alcohol in open vessels at the request of a Police officer or other authorised officer within a defined geographical area and information/maps were supplied to Members. It was **RESOLVED** to support the replacement of the current Alcohol Designation Order for Kingsbridge with a Public Space Protection Order and to request the current zone be extended to include: Duncombe Park, Britton's Field, Quayside east & Memorial Shelter, all children's play/amenity areas, all SHDC car parks and lower town centre 'nightclub/pub run' i.e. Lower Union Road–Mill Street–Duke Street–Bridge Street–Church Street.

57.2 Skateboarding was managed by Byelaws made in 2001, revised 2003, however, the Police used other methods to curb inappropriate skateboarding. Members noted representations made to KTC from local residents regarding skateboarding. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that a Public Space Protection Order should not be introduced for skateboarding and to request for the current Byelaw to be revoked given other methods available to manage anti-social behaviour.

57.3 Numerous complaints had been received from residents of flats relating to anti-social behaviour in Quay Car Park. SHDC's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer and the Police had proposed a blanket restriction on certain activity within the car park following an example introduced in Tamworth which had proved successful to date. It was **RESOLVED** to support the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order to manage anti-social behaviour in Quay Car Park.

57.4 It was reported that ball games in the Town Square area could become excessive at times to the detriment of other users' amenity. Indeed, there had been reports of anti-social behaviour over the previous weekend. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to request the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order to manage ball games in the Town Square, Bandstand and Quay House grounds/car park.

17/58 SORLEY CROSS

Members noted Sgt Green and Cllr Gilbert reports and had previously received information identifying 6 collisions with 11 casualties in the last 5 years at Sorley Cross. DCC's Road Safety Officer had reported that a cluster review was underway and the junction had met the criteria to be included; 68 sites across Devon were being investigated. It was **RESOLVED** to:

- support DCC's review of Sorley Cross junction given the high number of collisions and casualties since 2012,
- request priority repair of current defects as identified by the Police Road Casualty Reduction Officer at a recent SCARF meeting,
- strongly request for improvements to make the junction safer e.g. alterations to the current hedge line/visibility splay, and
- for a DCC officer to attend a council meeting to feedback on the review's findings.

Standing Orders 3w. was agreed to be suspended (meeting time limit of 2.5 hours) for the meeting to continue

17/59 CLOSURE OF SANTANDER BRANCH

Members received notice of the closure of the Santander bank branch, Fore Street, in November 2017. Cllr Fishman had met with the branch manager. He had been informed that circa 40% of branch customers were over 65 and the Post Office could only conduct basic banking functions for customers. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to write to Santander to express KTC's strong objection to the closure identifying Kingsbridge as a core market/hub town, with an entrepreneurial economy and closure was at odds with the bank's interests leading to personal and business hardship.

17/60 ADVERTISING BOARDS

Members received recent photos of A-frame advertising boards in Fore Street which had been positioned in contravention of DCC guidelines and were deemed to be obstructions. It was **RESOLVED** to re-issue a KTC public notice dated June 2016 to shops in Fore Street, and its environs, to report when an A board is illegal and the duty of local authorities to ensure pavements are clear, safe and accessible for all users.

17/61 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

61.1 Air Quality. SHDC had agreed to monitor air quality in Church Street for 6 months in the first instance. Suitable monitoring locations to be earmarked but to commence as soon as possible. SHDC could not justify monitoring Fore Street again as it was satisfied no homes were at risk of exceedance of the air quality objective.

61.2 Events Policy. SHDC had approved a revised Events Policy effective from 1 April 2018. KTC had received a response to its feedback which had been circulated to Members.

61.3 Kingsbridge Open Spaces, Sport & Recreation Plan (OSSR). A draft had been forwarded to over 50 local sports/amenity groups and several responses were received by the deadline of 30 June. Such comments needed to be incorporated into the OSSR then a full draft would be uploaded to KTC website/Facebook and advertised for public comments.

61.4 Have Your Say Survey. Sgt David Green had organised this year's Survey for Monday 13 November. Police officers, Plymouth University students and KTC would work together via walkabouts to complete questionnaires with local residents regarding community safety/public realm matters.

61.5 Thank yous. From Citizens Advice South Hams and Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas for recent Grant Aid cash awards.

61.6 Dr Sarah Wollaston MP open meeting. Members had received an invitation to the meeting to take place at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday 26 July 2017 at Kingsbridge Community College.

61.7 Kingsbridge Fair Week. KTC's Premises Licence for the Bandstand would cover the first few days of entertainment in lieu of a SHDC temporary events licence.

17/62 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

62.1 Members received a report from Cllr Griffin on his attendance at the Community Safety Partnership Forum held on 7 July. In particular, the meeting had aired major concerns about the announced reduction in Police Community Support Officers.

62.2 Cllr Fishman reported that he was satisfied with current progress to improve access arrangements and reconfigure the Bus Station. The bus shelter walls had been repainted however, the notice boards also required painting. Better information was required on the notice boards themselves.

17/63 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 11 July 2017. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £12,568.68 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

17/64 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

64.1 FOOTPATH NO.1 – OBSTRUCTION

Members received a report that Footpath No.1, which skirted the western perimeter of Quay Car Park and onwards to Tacketwood, had not been delineated and was obstructed by parking bays along its route. The matter had been ongoing for 10 years but had yet to be determined. It was **RESOLVED** to request DCC (copy to SHDC) to delineate and have parking bay obstructions removed from Public Footpath No.1 Kingsbridge between the steps leading to Quayside Leisure Centre and the bottom of Tumbly Hill.

64.2 QUAY CAR PARK – PEDESTRIAN DIVERSION

Members received a report that recent ground marking of a pedestrian diversion at the head of Quay Car Park caused a conflict between people and vehicles i.e. cars overhung the disabled bays causing people to walk outside the highlighted footway into the path of cars entering/exiting the car park. It was deemed to be a cheap/quick solution which countered safety solutions introduced some years previously. It was **RESOLVED** to make SHDC aware of a potentially dangerous situation in Quay Car Park regarding a recently marked pedestrian footway and to request a solution to the same.

17/65 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions for Cllr Povey.

17/66 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

Members of public and the Press left the Chamber

17/67 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Property Committee (confidential session only – quotations) held on 4 July 2017.

17/68 LAND OFF DERBY ROAD

It was reported that Kingsbridge Feoffees had submitted a planning application for 6 affordable rented dwellings on KTC owned land off Derby Road; the Feoffees held an option agreement to purchase the land until 12 August 2018. It was agreed for a meeting between relevant parties to be arranged to address any potential matters.

17/64 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

64.3 POTENTIAL CO-OPTION

Members noted that a Casual Vacancy would be advertised for North Ward (following Cllr Coulthard’s departure) on 14 July and the deadline for ward electors to call a by-election would be 3 August 2017. If an election was not called; it was **RESOLVED** to delegate the co-option of a new councillor to an interview panel of Cllrs Fishman, Griffin & Jeeninga alongside Cllrs Balkwill & Povey; the panel had already interviewed 4 persons recently and would invite a further 4 for interviews.

The meeting closed at 10.45 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

David Lavender of Church Street thanked KTC for its successful request to SHDC to commence air quality monitoring in his locale. However, he noted that KTC had recommended approval for a housing development off Belle Hill conditional on a noise pollution survey being conducted but this had not taken place. The Town Clerk explained that the planning application (0299/17/OPA) had not been determined so whether such a survey would take place was unknown. District Cllr Gilbert reported that the development was likely to be approved shortly. Cllr Povey thanked David for his statement.

Hazel Donovan of Fore Street commented on the current Kingsbridge Quayside Consultation:

- a proposed net loss of 57 parking spaces was incorrect when all car parks were considered,
- it appeared that SHDC wished future developers to take on the cost of harbour wall repairs, and
- the extended consultation deadline to Sunday 23 July required promotion.

Cllr Povey thanked Hazel for her statement and the Town Clerk reported that KTC would be promoting the new deadline from the following day.