

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE AT 7.00 p.m. ON TUESDAY
12 JANUARY 2016**

Present: Cllr Wayne Grills (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Tom Coulthard
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Sandy Gilbert
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Alisia Jennings

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
County & District Cllr Rufus Gilbert
District Cllr Keith Wingate
Insp David Hammond
Sam Acourt, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
One Member of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

15/131 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Kate Lynn and Chris Povey.

Public Open Forum

There were no statements from members of public.

**15/132 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

132.1 Insp Hammond reported on crime for December 2015; a total of 17 crimes had been committed compared to 12 crimes during the same period in 2014. Three people had been arrested, one person charged, 3 crimes had been dealt with by Community Resolution and others were still under investigation. There had been 4 assaults: one minor injury (domestic incident with male arrested) and 3 non-injury (2 were domestic incidents). One burglary (non-dwelling) at the Evangelical Church however, nothing had been stolen; 3 miscellaneous thefts (nil shoplifting); 6 criminal damages (compared to one in 2014) including scratches to parked cars and damage to the town Christmas Tree for which a male was dealt with by Community Resolution. Finally, a male had been arrested for drink driving and had been charged. January's road safety theme was 'road user visibility' encouraging drivers to check lights and for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to be more visible. Educating all road users that improving their visibility in gloomy weather conditions could be the difference between life and death. Christmas and New Year had been successful from a policing perspective; additional staff had been on duty

particularly on New Years Eve. It was always difficult for the emergency services during the festive season with a need to boost cover whilst allowing officers time with their families. Shoplifting preventative work had been actioned throughout December with visits to shops providing crime prevention material alongside assistance from the Police Cadets. Finally, work continued with licensed premises to maintain and where necessary improve standards of stewardship.

132.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that he had been made aware of blocked drains in the town centre which could exacerbate flooding. He had received feedback that they had been unblocked on 21 December however, members did not consider that the works had been actioned so he would investigate. He considered that Devon County Council (DCC) should take proactive action on receipt of flood warnings and the Town Council (KTC) alongside local volunteers may be able to assist via the community road warden scheme. The Children's Centre tender had been resolved and Action For Children would take over management of the Kingsbridge facility. He suggested that the new provider may wish to make a presentation to KTC regarding their future intentions. DCC Cabinet would meet the following day to consider a 2% increase in next financial year's budget plus an additional 2% for adult social care.

Cllr Coulthard commented that if KTC assisted in drain clearance then DCC could make the assumption that the local council would always undertake such works; Cllr Brazil replied that local councils could continue to make representations on such matters or encourage community resilience.

132.3 County Cllr Gilbert reported that Kingsbridge Community College would not be pursuing its initial interest in DCC's Ropewalk Resource Centre due to high demolition costs. A period of good weather was required in order to drain the high water table; freezing would have a major negative impact on the roads. Totnes Cross was in an unsatisfactory condition and required action. The new Library service was progressing well.

132.4 District Cllr Gilbert reported that there had been a good standard of Town And Parish (TAP) Fund applications received by South Hams District Council (SHDC). There had been a few incidents of vandalism at Quay toilets which were not replicated elsewhere; one incident had resulted in a successful prosecution. It was noted that Police had interrogated CCTV and incidents had occurred during late afternoon which were unlikely to be alcohol-related. Therefore Cllr Gilbert reported that the toilets would remain open 24/7 rather than a suggested closure in the evening. Insp Hammond identified that a re-design of the door locking mechanisms may be required.

Cllr Coulthard commented that revenue was likely to be offset by expenditure on repairs at Quay toilets; Cllr Gilbert replied that he did not have the figures at present.

Cllr Edmonds commented that the footpath on West Alvington Hill further up from the zebra crossing had been muddy for several weeks; Cllr Gilbert replied that

this was within West Alvington's Parish Council's boundary and he would investigate.

132.5 District Cllr Wingate reported that David Rowlands Fun Fair had been granted a 5 year licence during Kingsbridge Fair Week. Therefore recent issues had been resolved however, no party had emerged in a good light. He was Vice Chairman of the Audit Committee and the external auditor had reported that house prices were set to double in the next 10 years which was very worrying. He considered that there was too much process in delivering local government monies and that systems should be simplified; in 2 years' time SHDC would be able to determine its own audit process. A proposal for the installation of electric charging points in car parks was to be reviewed. He was aware of local residents' parking issues in Westville and felt that DCC, SHDC and KTC should review matters. Finally, members noted that dredging would take place at the head of the estuary shortly but were concerned that the height of non-dredged areas would be increased; Cllrs Wingate and Brazil, as members of the Harbour Board, would raise the issue at the next meeting.

Cllrs Brazil, Gilbert & Wingate and Insp Hammond left the Chamber

15/133 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman agreed to consider one item of Urgent Business at agenda item 15/142: CCTV System – Annual Review.

15/134 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15/135 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record; subject to minor amendment.

15/136 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 15 December 2015 and 5 January 2016.

15/137 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 15 December 2015

15/138 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 5 January 2016.

15/139 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

139.1 TAP Fund Applications – determination. The meeting to determine disbursements would be held Thursday 14 January in the Repton Room at Follaton House, Totnes. Local councils had been invited to give an outline of their applications but could no longer vote at the table. No members were available to attend and it was agreed to provide KTC's apologies.

139.2 Devon Air Ambulance Trust (DAAT) – community helipad assistance. DAAT aimed to extend its flying operations from autumn 2016 and local communities were being asked to identify Community Helipads. The Town Clerk would liaise with DAAT.

139.3 Animal Memorial – BBC Spotlight. The proposed memorial supported by KTC had featured on Radio Devon that morning and BBC Spotlight had followed up by interviewing Lindy Hingley (co-ordinator), Holly Trubshawe (Cookworthy Museum) and the Town Clerk. Lindy needed to raise circa £40k to realise the bronze and granite sculpture.

139.4 Policy Committee – cancelled. The Policy Committee scheduled for Tuesday 19 January had been cancelled by the Chairman. Members last reviewed KTC's Priorities & Ambition for 2015-2019 in October 2015 and were requested to consider progressing working group meetings to discuss: Fore Street audit, busking event Saturday 30 April, engagement with youth, promotion of the local economy and reduction of the town's carbon footprint.

139.5 Grant Aid & Citizen of the Year – promotion. Promotion had just commenced for the Citizen of the Year Award 2016 (deadline 26 February; determination full council 8 March) and Grant Aid (deadline 1 April; determination Finance Committee 19 April & full council 10 May) via press releases, posters, Facebook and website.

139.6 Licensees, Police & KTC – liaison meeting. Held on 7 January and notes would be circulated to members.

139.7 Community Road Warden Scheme. DCC and KTC had recently signed up to the scheme. Training to operate in the highway would be required for community volunteers.

15/140 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

140.1 Cllr Balkwill had attended meetings of Kingsbridge In Bloom. There was a new committee with officer changes, a revised colour scheme and lots of ideas for 2016.

140.2 Cllr Coulthard was due to chair a Kingsbridge Playspaces Group meeting on Friday 15 January.

15/141 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 12 January 2016. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £21,140.86 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**15/142 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:
CCTV SYSTEM – ANNUAL REVIEW**

Members conducted an annual review of the CCTV System as advised by the Home Office and Information Commissioner. It was **RESOLVED** to retain the existing operations of the KTC managed CCTV System.

15/143 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman.

15/144 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 press left the Chamber

15/145 CASUAL VACANCY

SHDC had reported that an election had not been called for the latest (and second) vacancy in East Ward by the due date of 11 January. KTC had received 3 expressions of interest; 2 persons remained very keen to be co-opted and feedback was awaited from a third person. It was **RESOLVED** to delegate the co-option of 2 new town councillors for Kingsbridge East Ward to Cllrs Edmonds, Gilbert, Griffin and Grills and, if required, for Cllr Grills to be the Chairman of an interview panel.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate