

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE AT 7.00 p.m. ON TUESDAY
13 JANUARY 2015**

Present: Cllr Jax Williams (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Amanda Bloomer
Cllr Tom Coulthard
Cllr Rufus Gilbert
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Steve Sidney
Cllr Keith Wingate

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

14/117 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Matt Farrand, Wayne Grills and Philip Yates.

Public Open Forum

There were no statements or questions from members of public.

**14/118 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES**

118.1 Insp Leisk reported on crime for December 2014; a total of 13 crimes had been committed compared to 23 crimes during the same period in 2013. Six people had been arrested and all were currently on bail, one person had been given a cannabis warning, and others were still under investigation. Crimes had included 2 assaults: domestic common assault and actual bodily harm regarding a dispute between neighbours. There had been no burglaries. Two criminal damage crimes related to parked cars and one shoplifting incident had led to a male from Plymouth being arrested. Finally, there had been 4 drugs offences following proactive Police work resulting in one cannabis warning and 5 arrests.

January's road safety theme was "road user conspicuity" to encourage drivers to check lights and for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to be visible. Policing over the Christmas/New Year period had been successful with additional staff on duty at peak times particularly New Years Eve; party-goers had enjoyed a good time while staying on the right side of the law. It was always a difficult task over

the festive period for the emergency services to meet the need to boost cover while allowing officers time with their own families. Proactive drug work had realised the execution of a search warrant issued under the Misuse of Drugs Act which had led to the above arrests. If the community fed the Police with intelligence about 'who is doing what' the force would act wherever possible. A crime prevention officer based at Newton Abbot had visited shops to provide advice and deliver material to combat shoplifting. Heart Radio had ran 110 adverts over a 2 week period making it clear to shoplifters "we are watching you". Work was ongoing with licensed premises to maintain, and where necessary improve, standards of stewardship. There were some uncertainties regarding the policing budget however, Kingsbridge was not on the agenda at present to be reviewed and members gave their whole hearted support to Sgt Green and his team. Lastly, Torbay had piloted RU2drunk which breathalysed people entering pubs and clubs if they appeared to be drunk in order to cut down on 'pre-loading' where large amounts of alcohol is consumed before going out in an effort to save money. Alcohol crime had diminished and there was no negative economic impact on pubs therefore the campaign may be rolled out to the South Hams.

Cllrs Griffin, Jeeninga and Price made statements and asked questions:

- The town council (KTC) was totally supportive of the Police initiative to stop drugs in Kingsbridge and applauded the pre-emptive work around shoplifting.
- There had been a series of petty anti-social behaviour incidents i.e. graffiti and 6 Kingsbridge In Bloom (KIB) hanging baskets had been trashed over the festive period.

Insp Leisk would pass on the above information to the Neighbourhood Team.

Insp Leisk left the Chamber

118.2 County Cllr Gilbert reported that Devon County Council (DCC) had to make budget cuts at almost £1 million per week in the next financial year. Superfast broadband in town was 50% complete with new cabinets installed and was likely to be finished in spring. The drain in Ilbert Road adjacent to Betfred and the Bus Station had been fixed by South West Water and the highways direction sign to Dartmouth at Quay roundabout had been re-erected by DCC.

He recognised the traffic chaos last week caused by the A379 roadworks at Chuchstow which had led to delays for motorists, long tailbacks, and gridlock through West Alvington. The diversion had not been well organised, West Alvington village had not been informed and the amount of traffic at peak times had been completely underestimated. Members and County Cllr Brazil made several comments to support his view and suggested, amongst others, that the Police could have got involved. West Alvington Parish Council and Kingsbridge Chamber of Commerce would be writing to DCC's Highways to express their dissatisfaction and members agreed that KTC should also write to request much greater effort should a similar situation arise.

Repairs to Duncombe Street were also anticipated shortly and the Town Clerk would glean further information for members. He had no report to make from South Hams District Council (SHDC).

118.3 County Cllr Brazil reported that DCC budget cuts would impact on grass verge cutting and the management/filling of grit bins. The cuts from central government to principal councils was unprecedented and would lead to a gradual decline in services. There had already been a scare in Kingsbridge relating to day centre care and the most vulnerable people were beginning to suffer however, it was because of central government action and not DCC. Mooted cuts to bus service subsidies may also affect the town in due course. Finally, he had submitted a Motion to the following day's Cabinet meeting to lobby central government to allow local councils to charge a premium council tax for second homes in order to deliver more revenue.

118.4 District Cllr Wingate reported that the T18 programme was progressing with staff changes and new roles being introduced; SHDC would work differently to generate savings. He had attended Brixham Town Hall on 6 January alongside representatives from the Environment Agency and Torbay Council to meet with the Brixham Flood Prevention Group and explain how Kingsbridge had delivered its Community Emergency Plan. Flood warden training would take place at Quay House on Saturday 17 January. Lastly, Steve Mammatt and himself would attend a meeting at SHDC on 20 January to present proposals to re-introduce a Quayside passenger train; KTC had provided its support at the full council meeting on 11 November.

118.4 District Cllr Wright reported that the West Alvington community could have been proactive in ensuring there were no parked cars on the main road (A381) to prevent the traffic chaos caused by the roadworks at Churchstow however, it had not been informed. SHDC was to adopt new governance arrangements with the Executive moving from 7 to 6 members, the 2 Scrutiny committees would combine into one with 13 members, Development Management to remain at 12 members and overall current complement of 40 members would dilute to 31 who would all sit on one committee only. The authority's grant from central government had reduced by 14.8%. Further to Cllr Wingate's report the T18 programme would help to maintain frontline services as the authority could not keep absorbing huge cuts. Finally, he referred to Insp Leisk's report regarding people 'preloading' alcohol and stated he was SHDC's representative on the area Community Safety Partnership which also addressed such matters.

County Cllr Brazil & District Cllr Wright left the Chamber

14/119 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

14/120 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14/121 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the full council meeting held on 9 December 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14/122 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 16 December 2014 and 6 January 2015.

14/123 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 6 January 2015.

14/124 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

124.1 Trim Trail. An order had been placed with Caloo following agreement at the last meeting. Cllr Grills and Sandy Gilbert had met Keith Rennells (SHDC Greenspace Projects Officer) on 7 January to fine-tune locations and orientation of exercise equipment in the parks.

124.2 Committee Dates. The Property Committee postponed pre-Christmas had been re-arranged for Tuesday 27 January at 6.00 p.m. and the Parks & Green Spaces Committee re-scheduled for Friday 6 February at 9.30 a.m.

124.3 Flood Warden Training. To take place on Saturday 17 January 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. There had been excellent take up from Kingsbridge alongside representatives from Aveton Gifford, Modbury and Yealmpton.

124.4 Internal Audit. Ken Abraham (South & West Internal Audit) would conduct an internal audit on 20 January and then return to inspect the end of financial year accounts on 1 May.

124.6 Super Cluster Meeting. The next meeting would take place on Wednesday 11 February at 6.30 p.m. at Follaton House, Totnes. Primarily arranged to enable each Cluster to assess their TAP Fund applications.

124.7 "Is Parliament Good For Our Health". Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair of the Health Select Committee, would host an open forum on Friday 16 January at 2.00 p.m. at Quayside Leisure Centre.

124.8 Renewable Energy Projects. Ben Eardley (Devon Association for Renewable Energy) had liaised with Cllr Farrand and the Town Clerk regarding his work with other councils on projects funded by the Rural Community Energy Fund. Members agreed to invite Ben to make a presentation at a full council meeting.

