

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

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
Cllr Kate Lynn
Cllr Chris Povey
Cllr Jax Williams

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
County & District Cllr Rufus Gilbert
District Cllr Keith Wingate
Sgt David Green
Chris Derrick, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Three Members of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

15/82 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from District Cllr Ian Bramble, South Hams District Council (SHDC) Chairman.

Public Open Forum

Andrew Keeler made the statement at Annex A.

**15/83 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

83.1 Sgt Green reported on crime for September 2015; a total of 19 crimes had been committed compared to 14 crimes during the same period in 2014 resulting in a 35% increase. Six crimes had resulted in someone being arrested and charged, one crime had been dealt with by Community Resolution, and others were still under investigation. There had been 2 crimes of common assault and 2 actual bodily harm. The Evangelical Church had been burgled. Three shopliftings (one of which was a charity box) had resulted in a person being arrested and charged. Three criminal damages (including one to Quay toilets) had resulted in a person being arrested and charged. Other offences included theft, harassment, aggressive dogs and a historic sexual assault.

Cllr Jeeninga reported that a mobile pizza van drove on to, parked and traded from the pavement outside Wills Marine on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday evenings and queried if an offence was being committed. Sgt Green replied that the pavement in question was highway maintained at public expense (HMPE) and therefore under Section 72 of the Highways Act an offence was being committed.

Cllr Griffin queried whether doom-like forecasts of Police cuts were true. Sgt Green replied that he did not have any specific information regarding Kingsbridge however, the force was facing enormous changes. In particular, combatting cyber-crime and exploitation of vulnerable people were key areas where a Police resource was required. Devon & Cornwall Police had to make savings of £54m during the current financial year on top of previous savings; £19m had already been identified via an alliance with Dorset. With 80% of the budget spent on people and 3,000 police officers; cuts were likely to reduce the force to circa 2,800. Police staff, which included PCSOs, could also not be ruled out for cuts. The comprehensive spending review was due to report in December 2015 when further news was anticipated. There was a freeze on recruiting within the current financial year and only 40 new officers would be recruited the following year. Tony Hogg, Police & Crime Commissioner, had challenged central government's funding formula where municipal authorities outstripped rural authorities for funding. He would updates to members as further information became available.

Sgt Green left the Chamber

83.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that Children's Centre services had been put to tender but he had no further updates. Volunteer groups which cut grass verges would not be charged for disposal of their green waste. He noted Sgt Green's comments that it was an offence to park on the pavement and therefore enforcement action should be taken in Fore Street. Finally, the Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable would be addressing a public meeting at County Hall on 22 October with a Q&A session on completion.

83.3 County Cllr Gilbert reported that the Town Council's (KTC) bid for the Ropewalk Resource Centre to be entered on the List of Assets of Community Value had been granted by SHDC following liaison with Devon County Council (DCC). The site had been mooted for a new nursery and Cllr Wingate and himself were assisting Kingsbridge Community College. The Boundary Review for Devon had been delayed due to issues in North Devon. Repairs to potholes at the entrance to the Tesco superstore would be repaired shortly. He was very pleased that West Alvington Hill had been added to the programme for road repairs in financial year 2016/17. Fore Street pavements were also due for minor repairs. The library was progressing well to its new status as Kingsbridge Community Library.

83.4 District Cllr Gilbert reported that CCTV had captured vandalism incidents at Quay toilets and a person had been arrested. Some unsatisfactory installation of the pay-to-use hardware had been addressed, quarterly usage statistics would

be maintained commencing 1 October and cleaning improvements would be introduced for summer 2016. Madeline's Restaurant in Church Street had been granted a temporary weekend alcohol licence while their application for a premises licence was being progressed. A planning application for 2 new dwellings in Belle Cross Road did not contain a site plan for parking arrangements; he had discussed with the allocated planning officer and reported that KTC was not content. Finally, SHDC's Band D council tax was £145 which equated to 9% of the overall household sum which he considered to be good value; an average town or parish council was £45 at over 4%.

83.5 District Cllr Wingate reported that he had received complaints that the foreshore along Embankment Road was being damaged; his investigation revealed that works were being conducted on boathouses and the builder had gained all relevant permissions from the Harbour Authority and Estuaries Officer. He had carried out a visual inspection of Madeline's Restaurant and the extractor system appeared to be installed correctly. The dangerous section of wall in Eastern Backway was awaiting an engineering report to address the way forward. He had been informed that the damaged harbour wall towards the head of the estuary was actually satisfactory however, he had queried such feedback. He was a member of the Audit Committee and pension provision for officers at SHDC was on a sound footing however, it had been mooted that all principal authority pension pots may have to be amalgamated which could disadvantage SHDC; Cllr Gilbert replied that it was very unlikely that pension business would be amalgamated between authorities.

Cllr Griffin commented that Kingsbridge In Bloom was struggling with its green waste and compost arrangements and the green bins at the Recreation Ground positioned on concrete did not work. District Cllr Gilbert replied that there was an approved plan to install compost bays in the park but the project did not have funding at present; he had copied Graham Price (i/c KIB) on all emails. Cllr Brazil stated that DCC may be able to collect green waste given the authority's new routines addressed in his own report. Cllr Grills commented that the Parks & Green Spaces Committee would bring up the matter. Cllr Balkwill advised caution regarding any proposal to introduce an unmanned community compost scheme.

Cllr Coulthard reported that a SHDC refuse lorry had hit a wall in Waterloo Road; the wall was bulging and DCC had issued a letter to the landowner advising that the wall should be surveyed with the aim of carrying out works as it may collapse.

County Cllr Brazil left the Chamber

15/84 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

15/85 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15/86 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

15/87 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 6 October 2015.

District Cllrs Gilbert & Wingate and Members of Public left the Chamber

15/88 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

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

15/89 POLICY COMMITTEE

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

15/90 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

90.1 Flood/Winter Weather Resilience Meeting. To be held at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 27 October with invitations to Flood Wardens, Police and D&SFRS.

90.2 SHDC Section 106 funding – Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan. Training session to take place 10.00 a.m. Wednesday 4 November at SHDC; Cllrs Grills & Lynn to attend.

90.3 Oliver Place, Fore Street. The passageway to nos.1-6 Oliver Place at 76/78 Fore Street had been closed off by the landowner(s) via the installation of a doorway marked 'private'. The passageway was not HMPE.

90.4 “Have Your Say” Survey Day – Monday 23 November. Sgt Green had organised to commence with a briefing at 10.30 a.m. at the Police Station. Exeter University students, Dan Taylor (SHDC Locality Officer) and Neighbourhood Police officers would work in 4 groups at various locations to conduct surveys with local residents; completion and reconvene at 3.00 p.m. KTC had been requested to take part and information would be emailed to members.

90.5 Overgrown Trees – Town Square & Quay Car Park. SHDC had given a commitment to surveying trees with a view to crown thinning.

90.6 Highways Walkabout – 8 October 2015. Cllrs Fishman & Grills, Adam Keay (DCC Highways Officer) & Town Clerk had walked Ilbert Road, Cookworthy Road, Plymouth Road, Old Plymouth Road, Northville Park, Archery Close, Stentiford Hill, Piggy Lane, Wallingford Road, Duncombe Street and Fore Street. Twenty four action points had been raised; some were for KTC consideration. Largely positive DCC feedback had been received that day. All information would be emailed to members.

90.8 Town And Parish Fund. West Alvington Parish Council may request support from KTC, and other neighbouring parish councils, for a bid to fund a towable gritting machine to service several communities.

90.9 Twinning Arrangements. KTC had been requested to provide its position on Twinning should the Kingsbridge Twinning Association fold. The Town Clerk had replied that Twinning arrangements with its French and German counterparts would remain however, it would be inactive. If the group did fold then it may be wise for KTC to review the situation in 12 to 18 months' time.

5/91 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

91.1 Cllr Edmonds promoted Cookworthy Museum's Open Day on Thursday 29 October which had much to interest a range of age groups.

91.2 Cllrs Jeeninga & Williams had attended a recent meeting of Dodbrooke Feoffees; all business was progressing well.

91.3 Cllr Balkwill reported that Kingsbridge Feoffees had a new tenant at the Town Hall.

91.4 Cllr Coulthard reported that DCC had provided a lease to FAST for Horizons to be used for youth services and related business; it was anticipated to open 6 days per week.

15/92 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 13 October 2015. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £10,023.39 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

15/93 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was no business brought forward.

15/94 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman.

15/95 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 press left the Chamber

15/96 QUOTATIONS

Options/quotations were received regarding the following proposed works/projects:

96.1 Flashing Flood Warning Signs. It was **RESOLVED** to accept a revised quotation for groundworks, electrical supply, installation and commission of 2 flashing flood warning signs along the A379 which DCC had approved.

96.2 Christmas Lights. It was **RESOLVED** to accept a quotation for anchor point repairs and replenishment of all catenery wires for the Christmas Lights display.

It was further **RESOLVED** to investigate charges for use of the catenery wires to hang banners to advertise community events and commercial business.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Annex A to
Kingsbridge Town Council minutes
dated 13 October 2015

Public Open Forum

Andrew Keeler, supported by his parents, reported on his latest swimming achievements. At the South West Masters Championships he had won 5 Gold Medals and at the South West Disability Championships he had won 3 Gold, one

Silver and one Bronze Medal. He was training hard for the forthcoming national championships and thanked members for their continued support.

Cllr Grills thanked Andrew for his feedback. Members gave Andrew a warm round of applause and congratulated him.