

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

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

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Simon Wright
Detective Inspector Ian Ringrose
Sgt David Green
Sam Acourt, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Eight Members of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

14/164 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

Citizen of the Year 2015

Cllr Grills read out a testimonial for Dennis Holwill and presented him with his prize for Kingsbridge Citizen of the Year 2015; a large framed photograph of the town and estuary.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

**14/165 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES**

165.1 Sgt Green reported on crime for March 2015; a total of 24 crimes had been committed compared to 34 crimes during the same period in 2014. Nine people had been dealt with by either arrest, caution, restorative justice, sectioned under the Mental Health Act, cannabis warning, penalty notice or summons. Crimes included 3 assaults; 2 of which had resulted in injury. One burglary to a

dwelling where nothing had been stolen and one attempted burglary to a commercial premises. Five criminal damages; 4 of which were to parked cars. Seven shopliftings; 2 offenders had been arrested, 2 dealt with by restorative justice and 2 others were known to be the same offender. Finally, there had been 3 cases of drug possession; all dealt with by summons, cannabis warning or penalty notice. The National Road Safety Campaign theme for March was 'seatbelts'. The Kingsbridge Policing Team had conducted enforcement activities with drivers either warned or reported for not wearing seatbelts. April's theme was 'speeding'.

The major event for March had been the trial, conviction and subsequent sentencing of Lee Dent for the murder of Alex Peguero Sosa on 6 July last year. He reported that the long term interests of the community was to regard the guilty verdict and lengthy prison sentence as a springboard to a more positive future. Kingsbridge was an inherently good place, populated by inherently good people and when a bad thing happens it will be highly visible. However, Kingsbridge was also a resilient place with a high degree of natural social cohesion and from the start he had an unshakeable faith that in time the community would recover which it had. This was due in part to a cohesive town council (KTC) and the ongoing support and cooperation from the council which provided a strong sense of teamwork with the Police and other local organisations. It inevitably made it easier for everyone to pull together; the morning of a crisis is no time to start forging relationships between community leaders. The crime was largely about young people. In Spiritulized the town was very fortunate to have an army of volunteer youth workers who could be mobilised at short notice. This was an asset that any community would rightly be proud of. Young people in the town had been inspirational and a source of comfort to Alex's family. Roger Pope, Tina Graham and their team at Kingsbridge Community College had worked tirelessly behind the scenes to provide pastoral support to their students. Finally, he considered Alex's family for whom no verdict and no sentence could undo the events of 6 July 2014.

Insp Ringrose reported that he had been the senior detective on the case but was one member of a very large team. It had been a nervous time in court leading up to conviction and sentencing. He was grateful for the community coalition's support and it was good to meet members.

Cllr Grills, supported by members, thanked the Police for their absolute professionalism throughout the trial.

Detective Insp Ringrose & Sgt Green left the Chamber

165.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council (DCC) was in purdah due to the general election. He provided his 100% support to retain the Tresilian building for community use. That day he had attended a meeting which had identified plans to close the Kingsbridge Children's Centre in Belle Cross Road with a consultation to begin shortly. A hub had been earmarked for Totnes with link centres in Dartmouth and South Brent.

Cllrs Grills and Coulthard queried the proposed closure and suggested that service users should be asked what they wanted; Cllr Brazil replied that services were proposed to continue but they may have to be delivered in a different way. Similar changes had been introduced successfully in North Devon. Central government funding cuts were enforcing tough choices across the county.

Finally, he thanked all members who were standing down for their endurance, for their time and effort without remuneration, and congratulated them on everything they had achieved.

165.3 County Cllr Gilbert reported that DCC funding had reduced from £1b to £750m and therefore cuts in service provision were inevitable. He considered the new red tarmac repairs to the pedestrian courtesy crossings in Fore Street to be a success. Diversion signs and related items at Palegate Cross needed to be picked up and the local highways officer was on the case. He noted the Town Clerk's report that KTC would be replying to DCC's public transport review consultation shortly. Finally, DCC was to introduce a Parking Dispensation Scheme via a Traffic Regulation Order to allow contractors to park their vehicles within restricted/no waiting areas. An annual application would be required and it was likely to be in force for autumn 2015.

165.4 District Cllr Wingate reported that he had met with Grant Shapps MP recently and had got the message across regarding the lack of funding to rural areas.

165.4 District Cllr Wright reported that he had corresponded with Richard Jackson, DCC Highways Officer, regarding the new outline planning application for allocated site K5. In particular, the lack of visibility splay for pedestrians at the zebra crossing to negotiate traffic driving up West Alvington Hill; he had suggested that either a pedestrian crossing with traffic lights or a footbridge should be provided. DCC had replied that regulations did not permit a signalled crossing as it could not be closer than 20m to a side road junction which was why the zebra crossing had been installed. Moreover, there would be insufficient footfall from the proposed development to justify a footbridge to the college and accident statistics did not support the same.

He would now represent SHDC in the Salcombe & Thurlestone ward as the 2 nominated candidates were unopposed. He had thoroughly enjoyed his 4 year term and hoped he had served Kingsbridge well; he wished all members good luck in the future.

Cllr Grills, supported by his fellow members, thanked Cllr Wright for all his efforts on behalf of townspeople.

14/166 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

District Cllr Wright left the Chamber

14/167 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Grills declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 14/169 "Planning Committee"; sub agenda item 14/130.5 in the Planning Committee minutes dated 7 April 2015.

14/168 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the full council meeting held on 10 March 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14/169 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 17 March 2015, 31 March 2015 and 7 April 2015.

Cllr Griffin, supported by members, thanked the diligence of Cllr Yates during his tenure as Chairman of the Property Committee.

14/170 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

170.1 Public Transport Review. Feedback to KTC's press release outlining the proposed cuts had been good with personal stories forwarded from both the town and outlying villages affected. KTC was therefore in a suitable position to write a lobbying letter to DCC with supporting evidence.

170.2 Future of Tresilian/Horizons. A tour had been conducted by Lorna Pitts (nursery manager) on 24 March for Cllrs Coulthard, Gilbert, Griffin & Price and Town Clerk which revealed:

- Tresilian is a vast building with numerous large individual office
- an almost independent Horizons building next door (save current electrics/heating complications)
- Tresilian has a difficult internal geography which could be challenging to make fit for mixed use occupancy
- only one suitable 'front door' access from Fore Street to the whole of Tresilian with inherent complexities given current ground floor occupancy by DCC nursery
- probable structural survey required to establish/prioritise works i.e. visible rendering cracks and damp issues
- probable requirement for re-decoration of the whole
- requirement for re-instatement of plumbing/toilets
- probable requirement for a 'business case' to number crunch income/expenditure and to include supply/demand estimates for small businesses/community use
- a need to establish the current situation with DCC

Members agreed for KTC to request Charlotte Reynolds, DCC Assets, to attend an on-site meeting with invites to County Cllr Julian Brazil, Laura Underhill & James Highet (FAST), and Lorna Pitts (nursery).

170.3 Decorative Lighting Extension. The project to extend the festoon lighting (along the Embankment Road from the current end position to the Memorial Shelter) had been halted due to the worsening condition of the estuary wall. KTC had sent a letter identifying above matters to SHDC Head of Assets and Paul Taper, SHDC engineer, had met with the Town Clerk recently. SHDC agreed that the wall appeared unsatisfactory in places which was likely to be aggravated by the above ground works. KTC would need to provide an assurance that damage would not take place and that the columns were safe which could not be provided. SHDC Assets planned to conduct a survey but a timeframe could not be provided at present. To add to the mix Wales & West Utilities had programmed a new gas main along the Quayside footpath and SHDC were seeking clarification. Therefore KTC could either await the outcome of the survey which could be negative, and too great a risk for KTC to go ahead as planned, or adopt a Plan B. Plans were distributed to members for the extension to be transferred to the opposite side of the estuary footpath with lighting columns erected within the grass area to be set 400m back from the edge i.e. outside the reach of the proposed quayside train. This would not impact on the estuary wall so the main concern would be deflected and therefore would gain SHDC Assets approval. From the opposite side of the estuary, and further afield, there would be no visual difference and the reflection in the water was likely to be similar.

Members considered it wise to consider other options but agreed that Plan A to install the lighting extension alongside the estuary wall was the most suitable. It was further agreed to lobby SHDC strongly for estuary wall repairs to be carried out.

170.4 Elections, Committees and Meetings' Calendar. The new administration from the annual general meeting on 12 May would include 7 members and an initial matter would be to discuss co-option of new members. However, given the available resource at present members agreed for:

- Finance and Planning Committees to remain as existing given the mandatory quarterly reports and consultation feedback turnaround period.
- Parks and Property Committees to reduce to 2 meetings per annum with more frequent Town Clerk's reports on such matters and independent agenda items of importance to be considered by full council.
- Policy Committee to be suspended and all agenda items to full council.

170.5 Kingsbridge Triathlon. Organised by Quayside Leisure Centre on Sunday 14 June.

14/171

REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

171.1 Cllr Yates had attended Plymouth City Council's Interfaith Gathering on Sunday 12 April which had been very interesting.

The Twinning Association would host a French party the following week with an informal reception in Quay House.

Kingsbridge Playspaces Group would hold its annual general meeting the following Thursday with a new committee to be chaired by Cllr Tom Coulthard.

171.2 Cllr Farrand had attended the Phil Dart under 11s rugby tournament on Sunday 12 April.

171.3 Cllr Griffin had attended the Good Friday Fun Day held in the Recreation Ground; over 300 people had attended and the event had been very successful.

171.4 Cllr Price had met Kingsbridge In Bloom's mentoring judges for the national championships on Friday 10 April; the next visit would take place in June. The latest RHS Grassroots magazine featured a photograph of Kingsbridge.

171.5 Cllr Grills provided his Town Mayor's report for his mayoral duties October 2014 to March 2015:

- 26 October - SHDC Chairman's Civic Service
- 14 November - Fish Friday at South Sands Hotel
- 27 November - Learn 2 Live at Plymouth Pavilions (with Sgt Dave Green and Sam Acourt, South Hams Newspapers)
- 5 December - Green Flag Award in the Recreation Ground
- 6 December - Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas
- 12/ December – presented prize to winners of town mayor's Primary School Christmas card design competition
- 2 March - Blind Club talk
- 8 March - Civic Service at St Edmunds Church
- 17 March - Trim Trail opening
- 24 March - Oliver by KATS at Malborough Village Hall

Moreover, he had a series of events programmed for April.

14/172

FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 14 April 2015. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £45,915.79 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

14/173 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was no business brought forward.

14/174 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman.

Cllr Grills then took the opportunity to thank all members who were stepping down following the elections in May and for whom this would be their last full council meeting. He provided a summary of KTC’s achievements since 2007 and wished all departing members well in their future pursuits.

14/175 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.

14/176 STAFFING

Further to the last meeting Cllr Grills and the Town Clerk had conducted a review of staffing and determined that the 2 Administrator/Receptionist posts should be identical in terms of job description and remuneration.

The vacancy had been advertised on notice boards and in the Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette which had achieved an excellent response. Four candidates had been interviewed on Friday 10 April and Laura Cregan had been appointed with a start date of 6 May.

It was **RESOLVED** for the new Receptionist/Administrator to work 16 hours per week.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Tom Shell, a Westville resident, stated that West Alvington Parish Council had unanimously objected to planning application 28/0508/15/O (outline planning application for erection of 60 dwellings, 0.5 hectares of employment land, 2 vehicular accesses, open space, play provision and drainage at allocated site K5 off West Alvington Hill, Kingsbridge). He considered that the proposed western access would pose a danger to Community College students crossing the road to the school playing fields and would lead to greater traffic congestion on the main route into Kingsbridge. He suggested that there should be only one point of access into the eastern field which would provide safety for all. This had been the view of Westville residents for some time. He objected to the proposed 250m access road into the western field and to further development beyond the allocated site boundary. One point of access had been approved by the authorities previously.

2. Martina Edmonds stated that members had a very important decision to make regarding the outline planning application for K5 and the outcome would affect many parts of the community. The Planning Inspector's report (which dismissed an Appeal for Refusal by SHDC of the original outline planning application 28_59/1232/13/O) cited legislation which protected such development. The new proposal would cause damage to the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), a public right of way and present a safety concern. She suggested one point of access only into the eastern field which would not require the loss of a bank, no loss of views, safe passage for pedestrians and safeguarding of a heritage asset. She did not consider that it should be the legacy of the current administration to support the proposals.

Cllr Yates, Chairman of the Planning Committee, responded to the statements regarding K5. He considered that Tom and Martina were good people and good residents of Westville. From 2010 onwards allocated site K5 had been one of the options for residential/employment development and had been well consulted upon. The current proposals represented a smaller development than had been refused by SHDC and the Planning Inspectorate at Appeal and the planning inspector had produced a very good report. The latter had reported that there was insufficient scope for meeting development outside the AONB in Kingsbridge. Waterside and other parts of town had been developed within the AONB. The inspector referred to 'K5+' which effectively had invited other proposals for development and which had realised the new outline planning application 28/0508/15/O. The proposals were for 'up to 60 dwellings' rather than the previous 'around 75 dwellings'. The top of the site was visible from viewpoints such as St Edmunds Churchyard. The proposed access road into the western field would be small and would not take a lot of traffic at circa 200 trips per day and peak time trips at 23 per hour according to the Traffic Assessment. DCC had not raised objections to the proposals and KTC had subsequently confirmed with Richard Jackson, highways officer, that no ancillary highways improvements were required. A mix of affordable housing at 30% had been

earmarked. He read out sections of SHDC's "Local homes for local people" which explained the definitions and parameters of affordable housing. The development would provide 18 affordable dwellings. In Loddiswell and Marlborough the affordable housing on recent developments had all been taken up and were well liked. The Planning Committee held on 31 March had supported the proposals conditional on the Section 106 agreement between the landowner, SHDC and DCC to include a commitment to erect a footbridge over the A381 (West Alvington Hill) to provide safe passage for students between Kingsbridge Community College and the College sports pitches. He hoped that Tom and Martina would reconsider their position.

3. Dennis Holwill stated that car parking around the Primary School and Fosse Road area was poor with cars often blocking access and parked up on pavements when dropping off/picking up children from school. He suggested that the situation was often perilous and children were in danger of being killed. He lobbied that something should be done to address the current situation.

Cllr Wingate supported the above statement and found it extraordinary that parents/carers drove short distances to drop off their children at school. He suggested that the Police should visit and pay attention to the matter.