

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE AT 7.00 p.m. ON TUESDAY  
14 OCTOBER 2014**

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

**In Attendance:** County Cllr Julian Brazil  
District Cllr Simon Wright  
Sergeant David Green  
Sam Acourt, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette  
Seven Members of Public  
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

**14/68 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Graham Price.

Public Open Forum

Andrew Keeler and Robin Walshe made the statements at Annex A.

**14/69 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL  
AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL  
REPRESENTATIVES**

**69.1** Sgt Green reported on crime for September 2014; a total of 13 crimes had been committed compared to 25 crimes during the same period in 2013. Two arrests had been made, one person cautioned, one fixed penalty notice, one cannabis warning and others were still under investigation. There had been no assaults or burglaries. There had been 2 incidents of criminal damage (1 of which had resulted in arrest and caution), one shoplifting, 4 other thefts (2 of which were outboard engines), one drunk and disorderly (a young male had received a £90 fixed penalty notice), and finally 2 cannabis offences (one arrest had been made).

October's road safety theme was pedestrian and cycle safety, given the early dark evenings, with visits to schools and other publicity. The Kingsbridge Neighbourhood Team would take part in the Junior Life Skills presentation on Friday 17 October at Quayside Leisure Centre; the theme was an age-specific

introduction to “The Honest Truth” young driver initiative. The Team was also working with partner agencies to enforce marine and environmental legislation. Ongoing work was being conducted around prevention, safeguarding vulnerable persons, education, neighbourhood problem solving, non-crime incidents such as road collisions, and sudden or unexplained deaths.

Cllr Grills, supported by members, thanked Sgt Green for his comprehensive report.

*Sgt Green left the Chamber*

**69.2** County Cllr Brazil reported that unauthorised A frame advertising boards had been removed from the town centre including outside Wills Marine. Budgetary cuts were anticipated at £49m during the next financial year. It was likely that highways and waste management (non-domestic) services would be changed; he noted such matters were on that evening’s agenda. The recycling service at Tor Quarry was a super service and a proposed charging scheme for specific items while regrettable appeared fair.

Cllr Balkwill commented that Devon County Council (DCC) appeared to be saving cash on highways services and conversely spending it on unnecessary cycle racks. She proposed that the latter proposals be shelved and expenditure be targeted on essential items such as grit bins. County Cllr Brazil noted that there was a mix of capital and revenue expenditure but he would pass on her comments.

Cllr Grills commented that a proposed VAS (vehicle activated sign) for Embankment Road had not been installed to date and a directions sign for Dartmouth at Quay roundabout required re-fixing; he requested that both items be hastened. County Cllr Brazil replied that he would progress matters.

**69.3** County Cllr Gilbert reported that DCC was concerned about lorries parking on pavements and would start leafleting drivers to earmark that the practice should cease. However, he considered that Kingsbridge may be worse off as delivery lorries would probably just stop in Fore Street itself. Therefore the policy may be good for some towns and not for others; he would keep an eye on the situation. DCC had received £9m from central government to fix pot holes. Ten libraries would be managed via trustees which could save £400k in business rates. He noted that proposed waste management cuts would be discussed that evening and congratulated Andrew Keeler for his statement during the Public Open Forum.

**69.4** District Cllr Gilbert reported that South Hams District Council’s (SHDC) recycling contamination levels were too high and the clear bags could only accept plastic bottles (alongside tins etc.). New collection practices had commenced on 1 October however, cardboard could be flattened and placed alongside blue bags.

Cllrs Balkwill, Jeeninga and Yates queried recycling practices. District Cllr Gilbert replied that information on recycling would be forwarded with council tax bills however, local residents needed to adopt good practices early. Relevant information was printed on the blue and clear sacks. The revised blue bags had a larger capacity than the originals. South Hams recycling rates were good but could be higher.

**69.5** District Cllr Wright reported that a development of 4 affordable homes in Thurlestone had won a Best Rural Development award with projected energy costs at £250 per annum for each dwelling. Torridge District Council had expressed an interest in sharing services with SHDC and West Devon Borough Council however, matters would not be progressed at present. SHDC had adopted the new Openness of Local Government regulations and its public meetings could now be filmed and recorded.

**69.6** District Cllr Wingate reported that unfortunately he had been unable to attend the last council meeting; this had been only the third meeting he had missed. Salcombe Harbour Board had refused an application for a water ski area within the estuary. He considered that the estuary walls required inspection/works and proposed that the Town Council (KTC) lobbied for action. He had met Dr Sarah Wollaston MP to discuss the district's Fire Service and particularly recruitment and retention issues. Finally, alongside others he had monitored traffic in the Quay area during a tidal flooding incident p.m. Wednesday 8 October. He considered that while local resilience was commendable it was necessary to have flashing lights with the message "Caution Flood" either side of Quay roundabout to be triggered by extreme tides and KTC should lobby for the same.

Cllr Balkwill queried the start date to commence head of estuary wall repairs following the recent collapse; Cllrs Wingate and Wright replied that tenders had been returned and the works would be underway shortly.

*County Cllr Brazil and District Cllr Wright left the Chamber*

## **14/70 URGENT BUSINESS**

Cllr Grills agreed to take 4 items of urgent business at agenda item 14/83:

- Loss of Youth Services
- Savings in Waste Management
- Offer of Community Benefit
- Casual Vacancy – Westville Ward (to be taken under confidential matters).

## **14/71 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Wingate declared a Pecuniary interest in agenda item 14/73 Planning Committee; sub agenda item 14/55.2 planning application 28/2309/14/F.

**14/72 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

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

**14/73 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 16 September 2014 and 7 October 2014.

**14/74 PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT SITES) SUB COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning (Development Sites) Sub Committees held on 16 September 2014 and 23 September 2014.

Members noted that identifying potential development sites was significant business and local residents should be made aware of the proposals given SHDC's ambitious timescale for the "Our Plan" project. Moreover, it was considered that an independent employment area was critical for Kingsbridge.

**14/75 HIGHWAYS SERVICE – PROPOSED CUTS FOR 2015/16**

Members were in receipt of DCC's consultation regarding the impacts of proposed cuts on the highways service in financial year 2015/16. The proposals were carefully reviewed and it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Object to Proposal 2 – Gritting and snow clearing routes. The proposal identified that smaller communities surrounding Kingsbridge may not be treated with salt. This which would have a huge impact on schoolchildren accessing the only secondary school in the area at Kingsbridge Community College and people living in outlying villages trying to get to work and accessing services/shopping in their area centre. Proposal 2 should be deleted.
- Object to Proposal 3 – Grit bins. The proposal identified that maintenance and restocking of grit bins would cease however, community groups could take over restocking of bins by purchasing salt through a contract procured by DCC. A full restock of the town's 6 grit bins would cost circa £300 and could be much more during a severe winter. This would have a negative financial impact on KTC. Proposal 3 should be deleted.
- Object to Proposal 5 – Grass cutting. The proposal identified that funding would only be provided for grass cutting to maintain visibility at junctions and on the inside of bends. DCC currently provided funding to cut highway verges 4 times per year which was supplemented by KTC to cut verges 6 times per year. This would have a negative financial impact on KTC. Proposal 5 should be deleted.
- Note the regrettable Proposals 1 (Gritting & snow clearing fleet), Proposal 4 (Picnic sites), Proposal 6 (Weed treatment), Proposal 7 (Parish

Lengthsmen service) and Proposal 8 (Neighbourhood highway team staffing).

- Note the deadline for feedback was 5 December 2014. Therefore the outcome of the consultation/DCC decision was unlikely to be received by town and parish councils in time for their own budget setting for financial year 2015/16. KTC had to agree its budget at the full council meeting on 13 January 2015 in order to report its required Precept to SHDC by 30 January 2015; hence KTC would be unable to consider action/react to any localised cuts.

#### **14/76 KINGSBRIDGE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN**

The plan had been successfully tested at a table top exercise managed by Contingency Planning Solutions alongside officers from DCC, Environment Agency (EA), Police and Fire Service. Suggested amendments had been incorporated into a final draft. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan dated 14 October 2014.

#### **14/77 CYCLE PARKING INSTALLATIONS**

Jacobs UK Ltd had been commissioned by DCC to deliver a Devon wide cycle parking installation project in all coastal and market towns. Members were in receipt of proposals for 13 Sheffield cycle stands (stainless steel or black powder coated) at 5 locations in town (Town Square, Bridge Street, Quay House, and Fore Street x 2). It was noted that the Town Square was a SHDC asset, Quay House grounds were a KTC asset, and Bridge Street/Fore Street locations were likely to be managed by DCC. Members carefully discussed the proposal but could not reconcile ongoing consultations regarding cuts in DCC's highways service alongside new expenditure for cycle parking. In particular, the town's topography did not make it favourable for cycling and the current cycle rack in the Town Square installed by KTC was rarely used. It was **RESOLVED** to Object, in the strongest possible terms, to the proposal to install cycle stands in Kingsbridge and to request that on no account should any stands be installed without prior consultation with KTC (response to be copied to DCC ward member and SHDC Natural Environment/Street Scene).

#### **14/78 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

It was **RESOLVED** to nominate the following members to fill current vacancies on Outside Bodies:

- Cllr Wingate – Kingsbridge Feoffees
- Cllr Williams – Dodbrook Feoffees
- Cllr Bloomer – Kingsbridge Senior Citizens Rest Centre Committee

and to advise the outside bodies accordingly.

**14/79**

**TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

Members received Cllr Grills' report of his mayoral duties from May to September 2014.

**14/80**

**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

**80.1 Visit by Robbie Craig (DEFRA Policy Officer) on Friday 17 October.**

The manager of the 13 Pathfinder projects at national level would visit KTC accompanied by Doe Fitzsimmons (DCC Pathfinder) & Kate Taylor (EA). He wished to hold discussions with a community which had benefitted from Defra funding. To be hosted by Cllrs Wingate & Griffin and the Town Clerk.

**80.2 Flood Awareness Event on Monday 3 November in the Library.**

Managed by Kate Taylor (EA Community Engagement Officer) with a request for presence from the Fire Service, Police & KTC. Rationale was to provide information, take questions etc. Key objective was to raise promote the Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan and recruitment of Flood Wardens. A static display would remain in the Library for the week. Joint EA/DCC/KTC press release to be progressed.

**80.3 Visit by Environment Agency on Friday 14 November.** EA 'away day' hosted by Cllr Wingate & Town Clerk with introductory discussions regarding Kingsbridge.

**80.4 Rain & River Gauges.** Rain gauge to be installed at Kingsbridge Community College and River gauge to be fitted at trash screen in Duncombe Street. Progressing well and installation due shortly. KTC was required to agree a Licence as the River Gauge will be attached to a DCH property. Pathfinder project would pay for first 3 years maintenance. Ongoing costs would fall to KTC. DIY maintenance was a possibility; outsourcing would be in region of £600 per annum for the 2 gauges.

**80.5 Highways Training.** Cllr Grills & Town Clerk had completed Highways Management (Community Events) training on 29 September. Upon authority from DCC or Emergency Services, KTC could now manage road closures, diversions, signage etc.

**80.6 Flood Warden Training.** A draft programme had been received to be delivered by EA, Police & Fire Service. Kingsbridge to join up with Aveton Gifford; hosted in Quay House. Dates/times to be confirmed on either 2 x evenings or a whole day.

**80.7 Meeting SHDC/Town Councils on 17 September.** Attended by Cllr Grills & Town Clerk. Agenda items included: council tax support grant 2015/16 &

T18 Transformation. SHDC had reacted very quickly to KTC's request for greater promotion of "Our Plan" via the authority's website.

**80.8 Thank You.** Kind thank you card received from Jane Henderson-Smith (mother Cllr Beryl Washington) for KTC's recent kind messages, support and use of Quay House grounds.

**80.9 Property Committee.** Re-scheduled committee meeting would take place at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 4 November 2014 on completion of the Planning Committee.

**80.10 Gordon Carling Foundation.** Invitation received from John Halliday, trustee, for any member to consider becoming a trustee.

#### **14/81                      REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES**

**81.1** Cllrs Jeeninga and Williams had attended a recent Age Concern Committee meeting. Due to increased overheads the cost of meals had risen from £5 to £6.

**81.2** Cllrs Bloomer and Jeeninga had attended a recent meeting of Dodbrook Feoffees. The organisation was in good health.

**81.3** Cllr Balkwill had attended meetings of Kingsbridge In Bloom and Kingsbridge Feoffees.

**81.4** Cllr Yates had attended a recent meeting of Cookworthy Museum's Management Committee. Finances continued to be carefully managed. The Museum was well managed and a Quiz evening was planned.

**81.5** Cllr Grills had accepted an invitation to become a full member of the Rotary Club of Kingsbridge.

#### **14/82                      FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 14 October 2014. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £19,139.28 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

*The Chairman brought forward the following agenda item:*

#### **14/84                      QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN**

There were no questions to the Chairman.

## **14/83 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD**

### **83.1 LOSS OF YOUTH SERVICES**

Members had been previously circulated and now received SHDC's letter dated 10 October 2014 regarding the loss of youth centres and youth workers across the South Hams and an invitation to a meeting to discuss options e.g. employment of a contract youth worker to work across local centres. It was **RESOLVED** for Cllrs Griffin and Sidney to attend the Youth Meeting at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 27 November 2014 at Follaton House, Totnes.

### **83.2 SAVINGS IN WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Members had been previously circulated and now received DCC's letter dated 9 October 2014 regarding 2 proposals for budget savings in waste management for financial year 2015/16. Members noted that:

- discontinuation of discretionary Recycling Credits for textiles at £55 per tonne may impact on local charities, and
- further charges for the disposal of non-household waste at Recycling Centres (estimated at £3.50 per item) may lead to greater fly tipping.

After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to raise no objections to DCC's proposals for budget savings in Waste Management 2015/16.

### **83.3 OFFER OF COMMUNITY BENEFIT**

Members had been circulated and now received TGS Renewables email dated 10 October 2014 and an offer of Community Benefit following planning consent for a solar farm development on land at Lower Slade Farm. KTC was required to confirm by signing a Community Benefit Deed document. The solar farm was anticipated to start in November 2014 with first payment circa May 2015; a 2.5MW scheme would realise circa £2,500 per annum for 10 years. It was **RESOLVED** to accept TGC Renewables offer of Community Benefit and to sign/return Deed documentation.

### **83.4 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 the public and press left the Chamber*

### **83.5 CASUAL VACANCY – WESTVILLE WARD**

SHDC Electoral Services had confirmed that a bye-election had not been called for the current councillor vacancy in Westville Ward by the due deadline of 9 October 2014. It was **RESOLVED** to invite 3 persons for an informal discussion

with Cllrs Grills & Williams and the Town Clerk; and delegated powers provided to invite a person to be co-opted as a town councillor for Westville Ward.

*The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.*

..... Presiding Chairman                      .....Date

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

## Public Open Forum

1. **Andrew Keeler** stated that he was 18 years old, lived in Kingsbridge and had attended the Community College, Exeter College and was currently undertaking a vocational skills course at South Devon College. His ambition was to be a member of the Paralympics 2016 swimming team. He trained at Quayside Leisure Centre and Plymouth Life Centre. A member of a local swimming club he was due to take part in the South West Disability Championships at Bristol shortly. He was also a member of Kingsbridge Police Cadets and enjoyed the Vibe on Fridays. His goal was to be “the best I can be”.

Cllr Grills thanked Andrew for his statement.

2. **Robin Walshe** lived in The Malt opposite the Town Square. A mobile café “The Tiny Tea Trailer” operated inside Wills Marine compound. He considered it was ghastly and let down the high standards set in Kingsbridge e.g. Kingsbridge In Bloom floral displays and the lovely café in the Recreation Ground. It was an eyesore better suited to an industrial estate. He had spoken to Wills Marine and considered it was irresponsible for a respected company to allow its operation. All his neighbours agreed with him that the café should be removed.

Cllr Grills asked District Cllr Wingate to respond. The café had already been brought to the attention of SHDC however, there were no planning regulations which forbade its operation and therefore removal could not be enforced. There had also been an issue regarding unauthorised A frame advertising boards which had involved DCC. The café had been operating that day from the Town Square as part of the SHDC managed weekday market. He had taken on board Mr Walshe’s concerns and would investigate further.