

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2017**

Present: Cllr Chris Povey (Chairman)
Cllr David Baisie
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Tom Coulthard
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Sandy Gilbert
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Graham Price

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

16/156 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mike Jennings, Kate Lynn and Jim Romanos.

Public Open Forum

Carol Distin, Frances Peters and Rosemary Dunstan made the statements at Annex A.

16/157 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

157.1 Sgt Green reported on crime for January 2017 a total of 21 crimes had been committed compared to 26 during the same period in 2016 and 19 in 2015. There had been 5 arrests, 5 summons, 3 community resolutions and others were still under investigation. Crimes included 7 assaults with 2 minor injury/5 non-injury (latter from 2 incidents), 1 miscellaneous theft, 6 criminal damages, 1 drink driving (person summonsed to court), and other offences including: threatening letters, possession of class A drugs with intent to supply, failure to stop following a road collision, fraud and blackmail.

Kingsbridge Police business had also included protecting vulnerable persons, safeguarding young people and related operations which did not appear in the crime figures. The Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable had recently announced an increase in the number of police officers over the next 4 years while current numbers of PCSOs would reduce to 150 over the same period. This would

mean losing 189 PCSOs and clarification was awaited regarding how the reduction would take place. There may be an opportunity for PCSOs to develop/transfer to police officers.

He totally shared the frustrations of Kiln House residents' comments, during the Public Open Forum, regarding anti-social behaviour in Quay Car Park. A Section 59 notice, which lasted for 12 months, had been given to a young driver recently and a repeat offence could mean confiscation of his vehicle. The Police attended Quay Car Park as often as possible given their resource. Unfortunately, the previous Thursday when Police were alerted to an incident, all available officers were already on business at remote locations. He was also aware of incidents of anti-social behaviour at Stumpy Cross. The following week he was due to meet with John Ward, South Hams District Council's (SHDC) Anti-Social Behaviour officer, and Quay Car Park was already on the agenda for discussion. Thereafter, he would arrange a meeting with Kiln House residents.

Cllr Coulthard commented that there could be potential multi-agency solutions alongside youth workers.

Sgt Green & 5 Members of Public left the Chamber

157.2 District Cllr Wingate reported that SHDC had not supported the introduction of a Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC); the vote had been 5 versus 3 and he had voted to object to the proposal. A wash-up meeting would take place to consider efficiencies which SHDC and West Devon Borough Council could make. It had been a difficult decision but he considered that the outcome was right.

District Cllr Wingate left the Chamber

157.3 County Cllr Brazil reported that he did not recognise the portrayal of a sinister night time Kingsbridge alleged during the Public Open Forum; he had always found the town to be safe and friendly. Devon County Council (DCC) would consider the budget for financial year (FY) 2017/18 that week with a 5% rise in council tax proposed i.e. 2% general and 3% allocated for adult social care. DCC was now likely to pursue an insurance claim for the damaged planters in The Promenade however, he advised that this did not mean the matter was closed. He requested an amendment to the previous minutes which reported Devon attracted £100 less per pupil in government education funding as the figure was actually £264. Referring to the Public Open Forum, Stumpy Cross had an access only sign and it was likely to be local people who drove into town via Belle Hill off the A381. He attended dementia friendly sessions and Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC) was likely to be invited to participate in shortly.

157.4 County Cllr Gilbert reported that DCC had received £1.8m from central government for pothole repairs. The authority had to make £22m in savings the following financial year but had received an extra £8m for highways from central government which would mean no cutbacks for the first time since 2008.

157.5 District Cllr Gilbert reported that the proposed inclusion of Fore Street Car Park in the Joint Local Plan had been deleted. Moreover, SHDC's car permit review proposal for a 10% permit capacity in car parks had also been deleted; the review was likely to be received for further feedback. Car park charges would increase by 2% and KTC would be invited to comment. He considered that the additional income could be realised by increasing the current 90p one hour charge (Quay & Cattle Market car parks) to £1.00 as 40% of people already paid the latter sum. Local councils would receive further news shortly regarding SHDC's events policy review; proposals were for gatherings to be free and for events to increase from £50 to £55. It would be for Ward Members to decide if a fee should be paid and whether their locality budgets should pay for the same i.e. a local decision. Most of the current public assets in Dartmouth would be transferred to the town council including public toilets and the Quay toilets were likely to be part of the allocated site K2 Masterplan therefore the dynamics of the district's pay-to-use toilets may change.

Cllr Coulthard commented that KTC had recommended an inflationary rise only for residents parking permits and Cllr Gilbert replied that there had been little opposition for the proposed rise from £21 to £40 across the district.

County Cllr Brazil & County/District Cllr Gilbert left the Chamber

16/158 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Povey agreed to take one item of urgent business at agenda item 16/171: Quay House – Property Matters (under confidential matters as a quotation would be received).

16/159 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Griffin declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 16/171.

16/160 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record; subject to one minor amendment.

16/161 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 7 February 2017.

16/162 POLICY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Policy Committee held on 17 January 2017.

16/163 PARKS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on 27 January 2017.

16/164 TOWN AND PARISH (TAP) FUND

KTC had submitted a TAP Fund bid for £3,638 for groundworks and supply of a portable vehicle activated sign (VAS) to earmark the speed limit to motorists at 5 sites in town. SHDC had approved 50% funding leaving a shortfall. It was **RESOLVED** to support the purchase of a VAS and associated groundworks, utilising a TAP Fund grant, and for the balance at circa £1,819 to be funded from the revenue budget or Reserves.

16/165 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

KTC had held the Annual Town Meeting in the Town Square during the Farmers' Market for several years which flouted regulations but provided much wider interactive participation with townsfolk which was what the event was all about. Members noted several topical conversations including: Fore Street entry into the Great British High Street competition, Joint Local Plan site allocations, residential developments, K2 (Quayside) Masterplan and the draft Kingsbridge Open Space, Sport and Recreation plan. It was **RESOLVED** to hold the Annual Town Meeting 2017 in the Town Square on a Saturday morning with the date to be confirmed to tie-in with public consultations on topical matters.

16/166 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Several Members had attended a working group meeting on 31 January, alongside Tom Jones (SHDC planning officer), which had discussed the merits of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. It had been agreed to propose to full council for a very focussed plan to address local housing however, much research was still required i.e. plan funding, housing needs, land availability etc. External assistance would be required and the plan should be realised as a joint KTC/community effort. It was **RESOLVED** to investigate/progress a Kingsbridge Neighbourhood Plan to focus on local homes for local people.

16/167 DEFIBRILLATOR

Members received a request from the Rotary Club of Kingsbridge Estuary (letter dated 7 February 2017) for KTC to cover the indemnity conditions of Well Pharmacy to install a defibrillator/cabinet on the external wall of their building in Ilbert Road. It was **RESOLVED** to provide public liability insurance for a defibrillator/cabinet at the Well Pharmacy.

16/168 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

168.1 Coastal Community Team. Cllrs Balkwill & Povey would now represent KTC on the group; next meeting to be held at 10.00 a.m. Wednesday 15 February in Quay House.

168.2 Cemetery Tree Surgery. Tree surgery from the foreshore had been completed at circa two thirds of the way along the cemetery's estuary perimeter. A large number of trees had been felled moving from east to west which now revealed estuary views from the cemetery itself. The following financial year's budget at £2k would cover the felling of remaining medium-high risk trees along the perimeter and also some surgery along the western boundary wall bordering Widegates. SHDC's locality officer and Harbour Authority had been very supportive and had been thanked.

168.3 Property/Works to FY end. An original listing of 21 items had reduced to 12 with remaining earmarked projects ongoing.

168.4 Road Closures. A listed of forthcoming DCC planned road closures in town was circulated to Members.

16/169 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

169.1 Cllr Fishman had met with the Kingsbridge Natural History Society to discuss a potential Nature Trail around the north of the town and there were enough items of interest to progress the concept. Cllrs Fishman and Price would meet to discuss further.

169.2 Cllr Gilbert had attended a dementia group meeting alongside Saltstone Caring and a volunteers' course was likely. Dr Sarah Wollason MP would be speaking at the President's Lunch for Saltstone Caring "building a dementia friendly society" at 12.30 p.m. on Friday 3 March.

169.3 Cllr Jeeninga had attended a recent meeting of Dodbrook Feoffees; the group was in good health.

169.4 Cllr Price had attended meetings of Kingsbridge In Bloom; the It's Your Neighbourhood had grown from 12 to 18 projects.

16/170 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 14 February 2017. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £13,615.20 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

16/171 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

Taken under confidential matters.

16/172 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Jeeninga proposed a thank you letter to South West Highways for their excellent work in repairing the Fore Street eastern pavement, and introduction of bollards, which was supported by the Cllr Povey and her fellow Members.

16/173 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the nature of the business about to be take place that it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded.

The Press and 2 Members of Public left the Chamber

16/174 CCTV UPGRADE

Members received a covering report and 3 specifications/quotations for a CCTV upgrade which had previously been considered by Property Committee members. It was **RESOLVED** to accept a quotation from Sound & Visual Limited to provide an upgrade to the current CCTV system.

16/175 INTERNAL AUDIT

Members received a report on the requirement for an Internal Audit and received a specification/quotation. It was **RESOLVED** to accept a quotation from IAC Audit & Consultancy Limited to provide an Internal Audit service.

**16/171 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:
QUAY HOUSE – PROPERTY MATTERS**

Members received a report that a previously agreed quotation to redecorate sash windows and Bandstand stanchions would no longer go ahead as the contractor was no longer available. Members now received a new specification/quotation. It was **RESOLVED** to accept a quotation from Darrell Day Decorating to repair and repaint 8 sash windows on the front elevation of Quay House via scaffolding.

Members received a report that a roof inspection was required as a water stain had appeared in the 2nd floor kitchen ceiling and all guttering required inspection. There was no current allocated budget but Members considered that the works should be actioned as soon as possible. It was **RESOLVED** to contract a roofing company to investigate potential roofing repairs and clear the guttering at Quay House.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Carol Distin & Frances Peters made statements that car drivers and passengers regularly met in Quay Car Park, directly outside their homes at Kiln House, and behaved in an anti-social manner. A report was distributed to Members; the salient points were:

- The situation has been ongoing for 15 months.
- Cars drove at high speed in the car park, performed 'donuts', reckless driving, skidding, constantly revving engines and beeping horns.
- Car park wall has been damaged.
- Swearing/shouting and playing loud music.
- Deliberately staying outside Kiln House to antagonise residents.
- Shining headlights directly into windows.
- Throwing litter out of car windows e.g. cans, food cartons and bottles.
- Kingsbridge was safe by day but sinister by night.

Residents' patience was running out. In the last 12 months they had gathered car registrations, kept a daily log of incidents, taken photos and video, contacted the Kingsbridge Gazette and made over 20 non-emergency 101 calls to the Police. They had also written to Sarah Wollaston MP on 2 occasions to request assistance. They considered they had done everything possible but that the authorities had done nothing. How much longer had they to endure sleepless nights and unacceptable anti-social behaviour?

Cllr Povey thanked Carol and Frances for their statements and replied that the Town Council (KTC) would consider their issues as a priority alongside the Police.

2. Rosemary Dunstan stated that when Church Street was closed to enable essential sewer works Kingsbridge had not ground to a halt. She had previously submitted a traffic survey to KTC and was very concerned at the volume of traffic and large lorries which travelled down Church Street. The solution was to allow access only for residents at Stumpy Cross. Satnavs were also a problem and lorries started accessing from 4.00 a.m.

Moreover, she did not support the concept to re-develop the Quayside as part of the K2 Masterplan project.

Cllr Povey thanked Rosemary for her statements and replied that KTC would bring up Stumpy Cross/Church Street traffic matters with Devon County Council (DCC). The K2 Masterplan would be subject to a full public consultation.