

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

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

**In Attendance:** District Cllr Simon Wright  
Inspector Adrian Leisk  
Sam Acourt, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette  
Five Members of Public  
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

At the outset of the meeting Cllr Jeeninga reported:

- the sad news that a man in a wheelchair had died after entering the estuary on 7 April; her thoughts were with the person's family,
- the new estuary pontoons looked very well, had created headlines for Kingsbridge, and she thanked the Harbour Board for their efforts,
- her thanks to fellow members for their support at her civic event Kingsbridge Celebrates Kingsbridge on 22 March for which she had received much positive feedback.

**13/167 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Robin Griffin and Beryl Washington.

Public Open Forum

A presentation from the Rotary Club of Kingsbridge on proposals for Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas 2014 and statements from members of public were made at Annex A.

**13/168 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL  
AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL  
REPRESENTATIVES**

**168.1** Insp Leisk reported on crime statistics for March 2014. A total of 34 crimes had been committed compared to 23 crimes during the same period in 2013. Nine arrests had been made, 12 crimes had been dealt with by summons, caution, warning or restorative justice and others were still under investigation.

There had been 6 assaults; 3 had resulted in injury. Three people had been arrested, 1 cautioned and 1 offence dealt with via restorative justice. Two attempted burglaries had taken place; one at a commercial premises and the other at a dwelling. Four criminal damages had included 2 windows broken at the same building. Four shopliftings has resulted in 2 arrests and 2 dealt with by restorative justice; success had been due to using Facebook. Eight cases of drug possession had been dealt with by various means. Other crimes of note were the arrest of a drink driver and another person disqualified from driving. The National Road Safety Campaign theme for March had been 'seatbelts' with input provided by primary schools around the area and meetings with driving instructors to promote "The Honest Truth" campaign. Enforcement activities had been conducted with a number of drivers reported for not wearing seatbelts and other safety related matters. April's theme was speeding. On 22 April Kingsbridge Police were holding a multi-agency Marine Awareness Day at Whitestrands car park in Salcombe. Lots of information would be available on marine crime prevention alongside safety on the water. Representatives would be present from the RNLI, National Coastwatch Institute, Kingsbridge Boat Watch, Devon Air Ambulance and the Harbour Authority. Anyone who used the estuary or coastal waters was invited.

Cllr Wingate noted the current safety campaign regarding speeding and commented it was a particular issue along Embankment Road; Insp Leisk replied that design solutions could be investigated and the Police would enforce speed limits. The Town Clerk reported that after teething problems it was anticipated that Devon County Council (DCC) would install a temporary VAS (vehicle activated sign) shortly in Embankment Road to alert motorists to their speed.

*Insp Leisk left the Chamber*

**168.2** County Cllr Gilbert reported that there was no feedback to date regarding DCC's Review of Day Centres. The Youth Services Review proposal was for Horizons Young Peoples Centre in Fore Street to be withdrawn. The area at the bottom of West Alvington Hill was due to be re-surfaced. The Bellwin scheme for emergency financial assistance from central government was progressing which would assist with pothole repairs. Stentiford Hill would be surface dressed shortly. The Review of Library Services had identified that Kingsbridge Library was safe however, it was anticipated that costs would be cut. Enforcement of on-street car parking had been taken over by DCC from 1 April; the Town Clerk had details on how to report such issues. Signature of a permissive footpath agreement between landowners was anticipated shortly for the coastal footpath around Hope Cove; DCC expenditure on maintenance works had been supplemented by local traders.

**168.3** District Cllr Gilbert reported that South Hams District Council's (SHDC) refit of Fore Street public toilets was progressing well. Litter around the bin area at the side of Peacocks store in Mill Street was being addressed and it was anticipated for the area to be cleaned up shortly. He looked forward to receiving feedback from the current meeting regarding suggested changes to off-street car parking charges and proposed Fore Street road closure.

Cllr Jeeninga asked when the top car park would be resurfaced. Cllr Gilbert replied that the tender had been awarded and it would be actioned after Easter as the contractor had been unable to guarantee for the works to be finished before then.

**168.4** District Cllr Wingate reported that the new Harbour Master would be appointed shortly. He welcomed the new pontoons at the head of the estuary; the public consultation had worked well with various versions worked up before the final model had been agreed upon. He was delighted to see the Environment Agency and DCC working hard on Kingsbridge's behalf regarding flood resilience matters and he considered the community was being very well supported.

**168.5** District Cllr Wright reported that SHDC had adopted central government's initiative for businesses affected by flooding to claim monies back from business rates. The review of leisure centres was ongoing and soft market testing was being conducted.

Cllr Farrand commented that he had met with representatives from SHDC and the Community College to discuss future management of leisure centres and had been informed that income streams for Quayside Leisure Centre could not be supplied due to confidentiality. Cllr Wright replied that costs were being investigated and the review was progressing with more information to follow in due course.

*Cllrs Gilbert and Wright left the Chamber*

#### **13/169                      URGENT BUSINESS**

Cllr Jeeninga agreed to take 2 items of urgent business at agenda item 13/179: "Art in the Park" and "Recreation Ground – Pond".

#### **13/170                      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **13/171                      MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the full council meeting held on 11 March 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **13/172                      PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 18 March 2014 and 1 April 2014.

**13/173**

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 18 March 2014.

It was agreed to bring up the Skateboard Park at the next committee meeting.

**13/174**

**OFF-STREET CAR PARKING CHARGES**

Members were in receipt of a proposal to alter Kingsbridge car parking tariffs and had been supplied with background information from a working group of KTC members, traders and Kingsbridge Information Centre which had met on 2 occasions to discuss the matter; the second session had met alongside SHDC's Street Scene Officer. Six options had been worked up however, it had been suggested that the main problem was the £2.00 high season overnight charge from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m. which was very confusing for motorists and pay meters alike. It was proposed to withdraw the overnight charge and to compensate a loss of revenue by the day charging structure being lengthened from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. i.e. an 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. charging schedule. Analysis by SHDC had suggested some ancillary changes. It was **RESOLVED** to request SHDC to make the following changes to Kingsbridge off-street car park tariffs:

- delete the current high season overnight charge from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m. at £2.00 in Fore Street and Quay car parks,
- lengthen current day charging schedules all year round from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.,
- reduce the 3 hour charge from £2.70 to £2.40 in Cattle Market, Fore Street, Lower Union Road and Quay car parks,
- increase the 4 hour charge from £3.60 to £3.70 in Cattle Market, Lower Union Road and Quay car parks,
- introduce a 4 hour charge in Fore Street car park at £3.70,
- increase all day charges from £6.00 to £7.00 in Cattle Market, Lower Union Road and Quay car parks,
- delete the low season charges in Cattle Market car park and revert to current high season charges (save above changes to 3 hour, 4 hour and all day charges), and
- delete coach charges in Cattle Market car park.

**13/175**

**PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE – FORE STREET**

Members were in receipt of Oakway Limited's work sheet for a proposed road closure in Fore Street for a maximum of 3 days in order to excavate and clear blockages from BT ducts. Preliminary questions had already been addressed by the company: the entire highway would be required to be closed off, it could not be re-opened until the works were complete, and the works would be actioned within the business day during weekdays. It was noted that major utility works in Riverview Place, off Fore Street, involving crane work had recently been conducted overnight. The Chamber of Commerce had been alerted to the proposal at a recent meeting and did not support it. It was **RESOLVED** to

respond to Oakway Limited (copy to DCC's Kingsbridge Neighbourhood Officer) that KTC objected to the proposal for the following reasons:

- insufficient justification had been provided for the immediacy of the works and for the road to be closed for 3 days, and
- should notice be provided that duct clearance was immediate any works should be conducted on completion of the working day post 6.00 p.m.

**13/176**

## **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

**176.1 Flood Resilience.** The following report was received:

- Flood Plan – Town Clerk to progress alongside Jackie Lloyd (Contingency Planning Solutions).
- Rain Gauge – Environment Agency (EA) had negotiated with KCC to install alongside the school's existing rain gauge and a site meeting would be held shortly.
- Equipment - £2.5k Pathfinder funding had been received by KTC and stock could now be purchased in the new financial year.
- KTC/Volunteer training – being worked up by DCC/EA with the likelihood for Kingsbridge to join up with other communities e.g. Aveton Gifford and Modbury.
- Catchment Study – John Galt (DCC), Lee Hock (Jacobs) & Paul Taper (SHDC) were due to visit the following day to conduct a further survey of the town's watercourses. The Kingsbridge Flood Defence Scheme Pre-Feasibility Study dated 2004 was being reviewed to inform the current study.

**176.2 Room 4.** SHDC Parking Division had given notice to terminate its lease of Room 4 with effect from 3 July 2014. The room would be advertised shortly.

**176.3 Cluster Meeting/TAP Fund Project.** Notes from the Southern (Kingsbridge and surrounding) Area Parish Cluster Meeting held on 10 March had been received. The KTC/West Alvington PC project funded by the TAP Fund was progressing well i.e. hedge trimming/vegetation cutback, new public seating and highway barrier repaint.

**176.4 Community Awareness Event.** KTC had manned a stall at the event held on 3 April at the Market Hall. There had been a steady flow of visitors throughout the day and some interesting consultation feedback comments were distributed for members to sight.

**176.5 Bench Seats – Fore Street Car Park.** SHDC Property Services had suggested the remaining 4 x bench seats recently removed from Fore Street car park could be relocated at the head of the estuary on grass verges. It was agreed that the forthcoming Parks Committee should consider the invitation.

**176.6 Library Services.** DCC Library Service Review and Children's Centres Review would be consulted upon from 17 April until 10 July. Kingsbridge

had been earmarked as one of 22 Devon Library Centres. The proposals for the Library Service would be received by the Cabinet meeting the following day.

**176.7 South Hams “Our Plan”.** A launch event to discuss the new strategic plan for the South Hams would be held 1000-1300 on Friday 2 May at Follaton House, Totnes. It was agreed for KTC representation to be discussed at the following week’s Planning Committee.

**176.8 Off-Street Parking Places Amendment Order.** SHDC’s pan-district Order dated 1 April related to Garden Mill industrial estate, off Derby Road, in Kingsbridge.

**176.9 Current Highway Business.** The following report was received:

- Pedestrian courtesy crossings in Fore Street required repair work to the brick paving. DCC’s Neighbourhood Officer had reported serviceability defects.
- Local residents had requested enforcement of parking restrictions in Westville and Welle House Gardens which had been forwarded to DCC’s CEO manager.
- Poor condition of the road surface at the bottom of West Alvington Hill had been included in programmed works to be rectified. Potholes would continue to be filled in the meantime.

**176.10 Twinning.** Kingsbridge’s twin town of Weillerbach in Germany was celebrating the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its charter in 2014. It was agreed for a letter of congratulations to be sent to the Town Mayor.

**176.11 Restorative Justice.** Prior to the meeting several members and Insp Leisk had met with a young person who had apologised for his part in a recent act of vandalism at Quay House. All parties agreed that rather than paying for the costs of repair to a drainpipe the person would carry out some maintenance work e.g. painting or sweeping.

## **13/177 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES**

**177.1** Cllr Yates reported that the Twinning Association was to visit France shortly.

**177.2** Cllr Wingate reported that the Fair Week Committee had chosen a queen, lady in waiting, 2 princesses and a prince.

**177.3** Cllr Price reported that Kingsbridge In Bloom was on target for the 2014 south west competition and new planters would be installed on Ilbert Road roundabout the following day.

**177.4** Cllrs Jeeninga and Washington had attended a recent meeting of Dodbrooke Feoffees.

**13/178**

**FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 8 April 2014. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £5,144.37 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**13/179**

**BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN**

**179.1**

**ART IN THE PARK**

Cllr Wingate reported his liaison with Kingsbridge Community College regarding sculpture in the Recreation Ground and the following proposals were received:

- a stainless steel sculpture commissioned by Kingsbridge In Bloom to be installed in the centre of the pond,
- colourful painted sheep sculptures to be exhibited in the park at a location to be determined,
- a brick built seating sculpture to be built and installed in the park at a location to be determined, and
- a community dance performance “passing memories on” to be performed to link with the memorial park/introduce the new sculptures.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the Art in the Park project in the Recreation Ground and to discuss further detail/locations at an on-site meeting shortly.

**179.2**

**RECREATION GROUND – POND**

Members received copies of email correspondence between Cllrs Price & Wingate and SHDC regarding saline leakage in the pond. It was **RESOLVED** to respond to SHDC that KTC highly valued the strong working partnership enjoyed between the 2 authorities and to request a progress report.

**13/180**

**QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN**

There were no questions to the Chairman.

**13/181**

**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*

**13/182**

**PROPERTY BUSINESS**

**182.1** Members were in receipt of a letter from a member of public dated 17 March 2014 which reported that a piece of mortar had fallen from the roof of Quay House on to the roof of their stationary vehicle parked outside. A



## **Public Open Forum**

### **1. Mr John Binns**

Mr John Binns stated:

- his support for Cllr Wingate's comments regarding speeding along Embankment Road,
- dog faeces was not being cleaned up in Britton's Field, Duncombe Park and the Recreation Ground and several people had discussed the issue with him,
- pot holes at the bottom of West Alvington Hill were growing and needed repair, and
- the Friends of Kingsbridge Library had considered DCC's Library Service Review and identified a possible loss of employment and service should some of the proposed options be confirmed i.e. proposal to reduce staffing and running costs by up to 25%.

Cllr Jeeninga thanked John for his statement; pot holes and the Library Service would be addressed during the meeting.

### **2. Rotary Club of Kingsbridge**

Mr Binns, accompanied by other Rotary members, stated:

- the Rotary Club had considered options for the Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas (KcK) 2014,
- the club had managed the event for the last 2 years
- their inaugural event in 2012 had consolidated the previous format and addressed contracts, liaison with other contributors and issues,
- the 2013 event, while clashing with a similar Dartmouth celebration, had expanded the event with improved advertising and much positive feedback had been received,
- funding the 2<sup>nd</sup> year had proved difficult with less than a sixth received from Fore Street traders (less than KTC contribution) however, there had been significant input from programme advertising and the main funders had been local building trades,
- after much deliberation and consideration of several factors it had been proposed to hold the event on Saturday 6 December 2014 alongside Born Hectic Events,
- this would provided an acceptable risk/price, take forward an existing contract with a predictable quality and proven track record, and provide further consolidation with some new events e.g. a formal opening and final procession/carols at the Bandstand,
- a request for continuing support from KTC and comments were requested.

Cllr Jeeninga thanked John and the Rotary members for their continued management of KcK; the plans for 2014 were very exciting. Cllr Wingate proposed that the community should continue to invest in KcK which was supported by his fellow members.