

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

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

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Simon Wright
Sergeant David Green
Roger Pope, Principal, Kingsbridge Community College
Anji Chant, Spiritulized
Toby Leigh, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Three Members of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

At the outset of the meeting Cllr Grills requested all present to observe a period of silent reflection following the tragic death of Alex Peguero Sosa.

14/36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Anne Balkwill.

Public Open Forum

Carol Horton and Roger Pope made the statements at Annex A.

**14/37 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES**

37.1 Sgt Green reported that he would not provide a standard report that evening and crime figures for June, July and August would be received at September's full council meeting. Instead he wished to provide an update on the community input following the tragic death of Alex Peguero Sosa in the early hours of Sunday 6 July. Lee Dent had appeared at Torbay Magistrates Court, had been charged with murder that day, and remanded to custody for the foreseeable future.

The strength of a community and its ability to recover from such an event was influenced by clear and consistent leadership. Within 10 hours of the crime, a coalition of community partners was formed including Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC), Kingsbridge Community College (KCC), Spiritulized youth workers and local Police. These organisations had been working hard over the last 4 days to support people who had been affected by Alex's death. It was very apparent that Kingsbridge had a naturally high degree of social cohesion. Local people had been supporting each other and volunteering to help in numerous ways including shop keepers bringing refreshments to the emergency services, free items being provided for Alex's vigil in Plymouth, and large numbers of people posting positive messages on Facebook. The time to test the resilience of a community was not in times of calm but in times of turmoil. Kingsbridge had met that challenge well and he was confident would continue to do so.

In particular he wished to acknowledge the contribution of Spiritulized and their volunteers. Within 30 minutes of contact on Sunday morning their bus had been positioned on the Town Square and had remained offering company and support to young people. To have an army of volunteer youth workers which could be mobilised at short notice was a resource any town would welcome. Kingsbridge was lucky to have them and everyone must always remember that. Also Fire Station volunteers were phoned personally and requested to assist with fencing to shield the incident scene; it was truly a community fire station.

There were challenges ahead when feelings would run high again: forthcoming Saturday night, Alex's funeral, the court case and possibly others. He appealed to the whole community to remember the quiet dignity set by many KCC students who had attended the scene to pay their respects.

It was very important that as a community a return to normality was sought. That process of normalisation had begun with the removal of barriers on the Quay and scaling down of the Police presence. A return to normality was also well under way at KCC. That did not in any way undermine the right of individuals to grieve but it was essential for the long term health of the community.

Of primary importance, it was essential that people understood that what happened in Kingsbridge was an isolated incident and was not indicative of a deeper malaise within the town. Sometimes bad things happen in good places and to good people. When a bad thing happens in a good place it is more visible because of that.

Roger Pope and Anji Chant acknowledged Sgt Green's report.

Cllr Grills thanked Sgt Green for his well considered message, KCC for their exceptional support, and Spiritulized for their outstanding pastoral work; his sentiments were fully supported by fellow members.

Sgt Green, Roger Pope and Anji Chant left the Chamber

37.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that there was a collective sense of shock and horror following the death of Alex Peguero Sosa which had been felt in the rural areas surrounding Kingsbridge. He was pleased that the Tumbly Hill Day Centre service had been retained which would be integrated with the Rope Walk service; he would be taking a keen interest as matters progressed. The Youth Service at Tresilian had been withdrawn and he had not heard of any other agencies stepping in to date. Kingsbridge Library had to make savings; it was important for the community to work up innovative solutions otherwise it was likely that opening hours and service would be reduced. Any alteration to Children's Centre services would be made in 2015 and the community had to be realistic that changes were likely however, if it was considered that a local service was unique then it should be fought over.

Cllr Washington was concerned that when the youth service at Tresilian closed young people would have nowhere to go. Moreover, some years ago public donations were made to provide the service. Cllr Farrand asked if Devon County Council (DCC) owned Tresilian outright.

Cllr Brazil replied that DCC did own the building which was likely to be surplus to requirements and currently housed the only DCC owned play group. He acknowledged that the town youth service had been valued but it was fact of life that some services would cease in the current climate.

37.3 County Cllr Gilbert expressed his deepest sympathy to Alex Peguero Sosa's family and friends. Kingsbridge was a low crime area and the incident was unique. He was delighted that Tumbly Hill Day Centre service had been saved; to be integrated with Rope Walk. DCC had approved additional road signs to earmark car parks during Fair Week. Devon had been funded £9m to repair pot holes. Cabinets around town had been replaced in order to provide a faster Broadband service however, no.1 remained. He agreed with Cllr Brazil that the Library had to find savings.

Cllrs Bloomer and Williams reported that they had spoken with Maria Johnson, Library Manager, and would be holding a meeting shortly to consider some radical proposals for a future library service.

37.4 District Cllr Gilbert reported that Simon Hughes MP, Minister for Justice, had replied to Dr Sarah Wollaston MP's letter requesting the department to introduce a policy for reuse of grave space; the matter was being kept under review. He confirmed that trees outside Peacocks were owned by neither DCC nor South Hams District Council (SHDC). There had been no news regarding the development of a Morrisons petrol station in Higher Union Road; seemingly the company had a number of approved planning permissions throughout the UK but was not progressing developments at the present time. Finally, a general strike on Thursday 10 July was anticipated to have a negligible affect on SHDC services.

Cllr Yates asked why SHDC had started to charge a £50 administration fee for community groups to hold events on the authority's assets. Cllr Gilbert agreed to investigate and feedback.

37.5 District Cllr Wright's thoughts and prayers were with Alex Peguero Sosa's family; he had held a meeting with SHDC Community Safety officers that day and they were shocked. SHDC had formed a trading arm so the authority could trade akin to a commercial company. An Emergency Planning event on 1 July had been attended by 26 local councils including KTC. The value of emergency plans had been highlighted by Shaugh Prior Parish Council during a barn fire which had closed the village. The next steps regarding the T18 programme had been agreed.

37.6 District Cllr Wingate sent his condolences to Alex Peguero Sosa's family; he was truly saddened and it was an extraordinary time. He had examined the predicted final coverage map for superfast broadband in Devon and Somerset and noted that Kingsbridge would not receive commercial fibre access; the matter would be followed up. A South West Water link officer had been provided for Kingsbridge regarding flood resilience matters. He had met with the Town Clerk the previous week and reviewed the draft Kingsbridge Emergency Plan which was progressing well.

14/38 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Grills agreed to take one item of urgent business at agenda item 14/49: "Kings Arms Hotel".

County Cllr Brazil left the Chamber

14/39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Grills and Wingate declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item 14/43 (A Boards).

Cllr Wingate declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 14/41 (Planning Committee minutes dated 1 July 2014); sub agenda item 20.2 (planning application 28/1529/14/F).

14/40 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the full council meeting held on 10 June 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Cllr Wingate left the Chamber for the duration of the following agenda item:

14/41 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 17 June 2014 and 1 July 2014.

The committee had recommended approval for application DCC/3676/2014 (retention of 3 classrooms at Kingsbridge Primary School) with a qualification it should be for 5 years. Subsequently DCC had highlighted that in effect this constituted an objection to the proposal per se, which earmarked retention for 10 years, and requested clarity. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to object to DCC/3676/2014 on the grounds that the existing temporary classrooms were outdated and a permanent development should be constructed to provide a 21st century learning environment.

District Cllr Wright left the Chamber

14/42 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 17 June 2014.

14/43 A BOARDS

At the full council meeting held on 13 May 2014 members had discussed the proliferation of unauthorised 'A board' advertising signs in the town centre and received input from the Chamber of Commerce. It had been agreed to support a Chamber review and to await its findings. Members were in receipt of feedback which reported that DCC must enforce the rules regarding 'A boards' however, the Chamber wished to notify those businesses affected. It was **RESOLVED** to support the Chamber of Commerce's findings and to request DCC to enforce the authority's regulations regarding unauthorised 'A board' signs with effect from 1 September 2014. It was anticipated that this would provide a sufficient window for the Chamber to contact businesses which were currently flouting the regulations.

A member of public left the Chamber

14/44 TRIM TRAIL

An update was provided on the proposal for a Trim Trail (outdoor exercise equipment to be installed in the parks and Quay House grounds in a link circuit). SHDC had provided the authority's support and over 160 completed questionnaires had been returned with circa 85% support. An application to the Big Lottery Fund's 'Awards For All' programme for £10k would commit KTC to fund the balance of costs which could realise expenditure of a Capital Reserves allocation of £20k. Cllr Gilbert commented that DCC had awarded new locality budgets to members for special projects. It was **RESOLVED** to support the proposal for a Trim Trail and make a funding bid to the Big Lottery Fund.

14/45

LICENCE FOR USE OF PUBLIC SPACES

Members were in receipt of SHDC's draft Licence for Use of Public Spaces in and around Kingsbridge; it was **RESOLVED** to delegate management of the Licence to the Parks & Green Spaces Committee.

14/46 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

46.1 Emergency Planning & Flood Resilience. The draft Emergency Plan required some amendments before forwarding to Jackie Lloyd (Contingency Planning Solutions). Thereafter, a table-top exercise was required for the Flood Resilience Sub-Committee (suggested to be re-named Emergency Response) alongside Jackie & colleague Mike Rose, Kate Taylor (EA), Peter Dale (SHDC) and Doe Fitzsimmons (DCC Pathfinder). It was suggested to be held Thursday 4 September.

46.2 Fair Week. Members received the following invitations:

- Glove Hanging Ceremony Wednesday 23 July 6.45 p.m. at the Market Hall with Reception in Quay House on completion
- Town Criers Competitions - Judging Friday 25 July at Overbecks, Salcombe 12.30 to 3.30 p.m. & Saturday 26 July at the Bandstand 1.00 to 2.30 p.m. (then Creeks End at 3.30 p.m.).
- Collection Buckets
 1. Saturday 19 July 9.00 to 10.30 p.m. Fireworks
 2. Sunday 20 July 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. Raft Race
 3. Wednesday 23 July 6.15 to 8.00 p.m. Floral Dance & 9.00 to 10.30 p.m. Lantern Parade
 4. Saturday 26 July 6.30 to 8.00 p.m. Carnival
- Signs to Car Parks Bob Witts, Chapter 8 trained, would assist a KTC working party to position x 13 signs (plus sandbags & traffic cones) afternoon Friday 18 July and stow away on completion of Fair Week.

46.3 Fore Street Car Park. Policy Committee recommendations had been endorsed at the last council meeting for:

1. Kingsbridge In Bloom planter – actioned.
2. Seal wooden toilet doors – actioned.
3. White hatch marking – actioned.
4. New directional sign from Fore Street – to be actioned by DCC.
5. New plywood notice boards – to be actioned shortly by KTC.
6. External wall repairs – property owners had responded; Andrew Lethbridge Architects would liaise to discuss development of the property and seek KTC support.

46.4 South Hams Connect. KTC received a steady flow of enquires/conversations with townspeople on Saturday 28 June in the town square alongside a host of other agencies.

47.2 Cllr Wingate was President of Fair Week 2014 and had attended several meetings.

47.3 Cllr Yates had attended a meeting of Cookworthy Museum management committee.

47.4 Cllrs Bloomer, Jeeninga and Washington had attended a meeting of Dodbrook Feoffees.

47.5 Cllr Price had attended a meeting of Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club. The group had also received information regarding a proposed waterski area within the estuary (see 46.12). Kingsbridge In Bloom judging day was Friday 11 July.

47.6 Cllr Williams had attended the dance performance of "Retellings" in the Recreation Ground on Friday 27 June alongside other members. The event had been really well received and there was support for similar art projects.

14/48 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 8 July 2014. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £5,514.21 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

14/49 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: KINGS ARMS HOTEL

Cllr Gilbert reported that the Kings Arms Hotel in Fore Street was closed again. There had been a number of tenants over the last few years, the material condition/maintenance of the hotel was unsatisfactory, and Kingsbridge needed a vibrant town hotel to attract visitors. It was **RESOLVED** to write to the Wellington Pub Company to express KTC's disappointment that the Kings Arms Hotel was closed, to request better management and more investment (the letter to be delegated to Cllr Gilbert and the Town Clerk).

Members commented that some other properties in the north end of Fore Street were also suffering from lack of maintenance and property owners should be contacted.

14/50 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman.

14/51 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

It was **RESOLVED** to make a grant of £250 to Kingsbridge Playspaces Group towards equipment hire costs for a Fun Day in Duncombe Park to be held on Sunday 21 September 2014.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Annex A to
KTC minutes dated 8 July 2014

Public Open Forum

Carol Horton provided her unreserved apologies for the noise nuisance on Thursday 26 June from a private party held on her farm following a Kingsbridge Community College leavers' prom. It had not been appreciated that the noise had carried to many areas of town. The students had reacted very well when informed the party had to end and throughout had been well behaved and respectful. She hoped that members would accept her apologies.

Roger Pope added that the Year 11 students' behaviour had been impeccable at the official prom itself.

Cllr Grills thanked Carol and Roger for their statements.