

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE AT 7.00 p.m. ON TUESDAY  
8 MARCH 2016**

**Present:** Cllr Wayne Grills (Chairman)  
Cllr Anne Balkwill  
Cllr Tom Coulthard  
Cllr Martina Edmonds  
Cllr Barrie Fishman  
Cllr Sandy Gilbert  
Cllr Robin Griffin  
Cllr Irene Jeeninga  
Cllr Alisia Jennings  
Cllr Kate Lynn  
Cllr Chris Povey  
Cllr Graham Price  
Cllr Jim Romanos

**In Attendance:** County Cllr Julian Brazil  
County & District Cllr Rufus Gilbert  
District Cllr Keith Wingate  
Insp David Hammond  
Sam Acourt, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette  
Three Members of Public  
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

**15/164 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

It was confirmed that a Declaration of Acceptance of Office had been received from newly co-opted member Cllr Jim Romanos.

**15/165 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**Public Open Forum**

Raymond Hayes and Graham Arnold made the statements at Annex A.

**15/166 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND  
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

**166.1** Insp Hammond reported on crime for February 2016; a total of 14 crimes had been committed compared to 15 crimes during the same period in 2015. A breakdown include 3 persons arrested, one crime resolved by community resolution and others were still under investigation. There had been no assaults, 3 church and one commercial premises burglaries, one shoplifting, 7 miscellaneous thefts, one possession of cannabis and one dog control incident.

Although violent crime was unusually low there had been more acquisitive crime in February. In an otherwise low crime community the arrival of just one individual can sometimes have a disproportionate impact on local crime. Churches had now been linked under the umbrella of Faith Watch to raise local awareness, encourage vigilance and increase reporting to deter further thefts. The Town Council (KTC) and Police were working together to problem solve current issues regarding the use of Quay Car Park in the evenings by young people with noisy cars. It had been agreed to invite key stakeholders to a supportive meeting where different views could be aired and understood. The road safety theme for March was seatbelts.

District Cllr Gilbert thanked Insp Hammond for his advice on the Quay public toilets; the doors had been re-hung to open outwards.

**166.2** County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council (DCC) had agreed a 1.99% rise in council tax plus 2% ring-fenced for adult social care to provide additional funding to counteract the increase in the minimum wage. This would mean circa £50 more per annum for a Band D council tax. At the eleventh hour extra funding had been secured from central government but this would be a one-off payment and was not part of the base budget. There had been a u-turn regarding school crossing patrols and they would now be retained. At a Scrutiny meeting the previous day it had been reported that £60m per annum was required to maintain Devon's roads however, expenditure was £40 to £45m therefore their condition would become increasingly worse. He had noted the statement during the Public Open Forum regarding the installation of a new street light in Old Plymouth Road which was a KTC initiative with a request made to DCC. It was a standard street light which had not been turned on yet and the location may have been restricted because of power cables however, it may be okay.

Cllrs Povey, Price and Romanos asked questions and Cllr Brazil replied:

- No alternatives to increase DCC funding had been achieved to date however, the proposed new devolution model may assist. He considered that extra charges for second homes and/or road tolls may be effective.
- Damaged road signage along the A379 should be reported but was only likely to be rectified if there were safety implications.
- Monies raised from within Devon for road excise tax may already be passed to DCC.

**166.3** County Cllr Gilbert reported that all matters he wished to report upon were contained within the agenda. He added that DCC council tax could not be increased further without realising a referendum and a decision had been made to look after the elderly rather than roads.

**166.4** District Cllr Gilbert reported that South Hams District Council's (SHDC) pay and display machine in Lower Union Road Car Park had been vandalised. The machine at the Cattle Market Car Park had not been replaced to date. Seemingly, organised gangs targeted such machines. There had been lessons

learnt from the recent flooding in the Library however, the facility was back up and running very soon after the event.

Cllr Edmonds asked why the Cattle Market Car Park machine had not been replaced for 6 months as revenue was being lost; Cllr Gilbert replied that it was disappointing however, he believed it was insured.

**166.5** District Cllr Wingate reported that the dangerous wall in Eastern Backway had become a saga. It was anticipated to be rectified by South West Highways in early May.

**15/167 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

**15/168 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

*Insp Hammond left the Chamber*

*The following agenda item was taken early out-of-turn:*

**15/174 PAVEMENT – FORE STREET**

Following an agenda item at the previous meeting, it was reported that KTC and the Chamber of Commerce's appeal (letter dated 10 February) for businesses to manage Fore Street loading bays more effectively had not been successful. Parking upon the eastern pavement continued which cracked the paving slabs and hindered pedestrian access. Members noted possible options available: better paving repairs, a physical barrier to stop vehicles parking, local community reporting of defects, lobbying central government to reduce the 20mm trip hazard intervention level and greater enforcement. A discussion took place between KTC, DCC and SHDC ward members:

- Private refuse lorries often parked on the pavement.
- Street furniture rather than bollards may be a suitable barrier.
- Some members supported delivery vehicles stopping within the highway itself to unload thereby halting all traffic (similar to the bus at the Town Hall).
- Earmarking particular businesses to request the use of loading bays.
- Private vehicles often parked up in loading bays and education was required.
- Parking on the pavement did not present an attractive street scene.
- Enforcement via CCTV camera could be trialled.
- DCC and SHDC used to share enforcement but it had been separated.
- The entire pavement required overhauling.
- There was a new technique for bonding paving slabs using Steintec mortar.

It was then **RESOLVED** to investigate the costs of a physical barrier to prevent vehicles parking on the pavement in Fore Street.

*County Cllr Brazil left the Chamber*

#### **15/169 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **15/170 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**170.1** It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 16 February 2016 and 1 March 2016.

**170.2** The following planning application was Recommended for Approval by full council:

#### **28/1560/15/O**

Proposal: Readvertisement (revised plans) outline application with some matters reserved for residential development scheme for 32 no. dwellings at allocated site K4  
Location: Proposed development site at Sx 7392 4386, Allocated Site K4, Garden Mill, Kingsbridge  
Applicant: H2land  
Case Officer: Chris Gosling

A discussion took place regarding flood risk, drainage, location within the AONB and landscaping. It was then **RESOLVED** to feedback to SHDC Development Management a Recommendation for Approval with the following conditions:

- low level lighting to be installed on the pedestrian footpath through the Recreation Ground from Derby Road to Embankment Road, and
- the hedge bordering Derby Road to be retained or enhanced.

#### **15/171 ZEBRA CROSSING – WEST ALVINGTON HILL**

Discussion at the previous meeting revealed that a DCC safety audit in 2005/06 had been satisfactory and there was no requirement for a new audit as there had been no adverse statistics. Moreover, there was no need for triangular warning signs to identify the crossing. Kingsbridge Community College (KCC) had subsequently reported that the crossing was now used more due to the playing fields, the school had positioned its own sign to warn students of risks, the crossing was not well signposted, the markings were very faint and therefore KCC supported KTC's quest for the strengthening of safety measures. Notwithstanding the above DCC feedback members were aware of several near misses, considered the crossing to be dangerous particularly east to west (to access KCC) and believed that the dynamics would further change when a housing/employment development was built. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to request DCC to install a vehicle activated sign in West Alvington Hill in order to identify speed/requirement to slow down,
- to continue to monitor the zebra crossing, and
- to review the matter when Allocated Site K5 was built.

### **15/172 COMPOSTING BAYS – RECREATION GROUND**

SHDC had provided indicative costs at circa £18k to refurbish its Grounds Maintenance compound in the Recreation Ground to construct a new high specification composting facility. The benefits of the facility, to be used by SHDC and Kingsbridge In Bloom (KIB), were reported. However, it was unlikely that SHDC had the funding to realise the project at present and therefore KIB had suggested a more modest facility to retain only the essential elements and which was anticipated to cost circa £5k. Cllr Gilbert commented that he would be willing to provide part-funding via his DCC and SHDC locality allowances and other ward Members may also be willing to consider making a contribution. It was anticipated that KTC may also be required to part-fund at circa £1.5k. It was

#### **RESOLVED:**

- to request SHDC approval for KTC to administer the installation of a composting facility in the Recreation Ground,
- to work up final plans/costs alongside KIB,
- to apply to DCC and SHDC ward members for funding,
- to recognise likelihood of part-funding by KTC, and
- to request KIB to project manage the actual installation.

### **15/173 EVENTS – TOWN SQUARE**

SHDC's current policy was not to approve use of the Town Square for promotional (and political) events. Recently KTC had been asked for comments regarding applications for a car show and boat show and had not raised objections however, KTC had also replied that a new SHDC policy should be produced which should be clear cut. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to request sighting of SHDC's new draft policy for the use of Kingsbridge Town Square.

### **15/175 MEETING – KINGS ARMS**

Cllrs Griffin and Grills, alongside District Cllr Gilbert, Richard Gage (SHDC Heritage & Development Management) and representatives from the Kingsbridge Chamber of Commerce and Save The Kings Arms, had met with Humphrey Voelcker (Motcomb Estates) and Eddie Moseley (Criterion Asset Management) to discuss the condition of the Kings Arms Hotel. It was reported that the meeting had been positive and maintenance to the façade was anticipated.

Cllr Edmonds then commented on the unsatisfactory condition of the façade of the former Natwest Bank next door following its recent closure; in particular the cash machine facility had been badly filled-in with no sensitivity to its listed locale.

It was **RESOLVED** to contact Natwest to request maintenance to the façade of its building.

#### **15/176 BAGS OF COMMUNITY HELP – TESCO**

Members had been made aware of a possible funding opportunity from Tesco available to community groups and local councils from mid-April. In the current round 3 awards would be granted and store customers would ultimately decide which project would receive funds from £8k to £12k. It was **RESOLVED** that KTC should not make an application to the next round of Tesco's Bags of Community Help however, the grants should be promoted as widely as possible to local community groups.

#### **15/177 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

**177.1 Men's Shed.** The Library, Royal Voluntary Service, Age UK Devon and Kingsbridge Age Concern were working up plans for a Men's Shed in town. The Library Garage, currently rented from DCC for use as the emergency store, was one of the venues earmarked for investigation.

**177.2 Yellow Fish Drain Markers/Campaign.** Introduced to KTC a year ago; the markers were to remind the community that surface water drains flow directly to the estuary and great care should be taken regarding what goes down them. Members supported the concept from the Estuaries Officer.

**177.3 Recent Meetings.** Several meetings had taken place including:

- Horizons tour by Family Advice Support Team (FAST) with Cllrs Fishman and Grills.
- Duncombe Park walkabout with Rob Sekula (SHDC Assets).
- COMA bid final report with Lesley Smith (DALC).
- Tree Trail walkabout with Cllr Price & Bryn Hayden.
- Tesco community team with Cllr Price.

**177.4 Thank you Letters.** Received from Norton Brook Patients Support Group and Kingsbridge Library for recent Grant Aid funding.

**177.5 Tesco Community Projects Team.** Tesco, in liaison with SHDC and KTC, had organised a team of volunteers to action cleaning, scrubbing, painting and varnishing tasks in the Recreation Ground on Saturday 5 March to be repeated in Duncombe Park on 19 March. Members supported a letter of thanks to the local Tesco store manager.

**177.6 Peninsula Rail Network.** A reply had been received from the Department of Transport following KTC lobbying for enhanced south west rail infrastructure.

**177.7 Waverley Road – Grass Verge.** Following an enquiry DCC had feedback that a road widening scheme (deleting the grass verge) would cost circa £20k i.e. £100 per m<sup>2</sup> for 200m<sup>2</sup> which KTC would be required to pay for.

**177.8 Slade Solar Farm – Community Benefit.** Canadian Solar had confirmed its commitment to provide community benefit funding.

**177.9 Flashing Flood Warning Signs.** The poles had been erected, signs installed and the power supply required connection before the signs could be tested.

**177.10 Quay Car Park – Night Time Activity.** Further to Insp Hammond's report a meeting had been earmarked between Kiln House residents, young drivers, Police and KTC.

**177.11 Flood Resilience Committee.** There was no formal membership as the committee met occasionally for interested members. A meeting was due and the Town Clerk would circulate suggested dates.

**177.12 Tranquillity Trail.** Cllrs Gilbert, Jennings and Price agreed to walk the proposed Trail together with a member of the Reception Team; to collect their joint findings in order to produce a final leaflet, with any required changes and new photos, for summer 2016.

**177.13 Committee Membership and Outside Bodies.** Members were requested to consider the above to be agreed at May's annual general meeting.

**177.14 Interpretation Panel – Cemetery.** The approved proof had been hung on the notice board for Members to sight.

## **15/178            REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES**

**178.1** Cllr Balkwill had attended a meeting of Kingsbridge Feoffees that day; a planning application for land off Derby Road was being worked up.

**178.2** Cllr Edmonds had attended a Cookworthy Museum Management Committee meeting and had also taken part in the Museum's forward planning session which had been very worthwhile.

**178.3** Cllr Coulthard had liaised with the Family Advice Support Team which currently leased Horizons and was trying to secure funding for the Quayside Leisure Centre's Friday Night sessions for young people.

**178.4** Cllr Fishman reported that he was hoping to arrange a meeting with Sarah Wollaston MP to discuss rural bus services. He further reported that a local

resident had cut back a tree which obscured the new street light in Old Plymouth Road and members supported a letter of thanks to be sent.

**15/179 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 8 March 2016. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £1,570.42 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**15/180 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There was no business brought forward.

**15/181 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN**

There were no questions to the Chairman.

**15/182 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 public and press left the Chamber*

**15/183 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2016**

It was **RESOLVED** to select Mrs Phyllis Angliss as Kingsbridge Citizen of the Year 2016.

**15/184 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

A suspension of Standing Orders, to allow a secret ballot to take place, was not required.

**15/185 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR FOR MAYORAL YEAR 2016/17**

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Povey as Town Mayor for mayoral year 2016/17 and for him to take office at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 10 May 2016.

*The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.*

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

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.



## **Public Open Forum**

1. Raymond Hayes, Buttville House, Derby Road, stated that he had attended the Planning Committee held on 1 March 2016 (which had considered planning application 28/1560/15/O for a housing development at Allocated Site K4 off Derby Road) and had noted the presentation from the applicant H2Land. The proposals did not address flooding and there was no flood alleviation scheme to address the nearby stream and run-off from further up Derby Road. There was no current run-off from the development site. Flooding had occurred on 3 January and the proposals would not deal with it. Landscaping would impact on his own dwelling which was a listed building and in particular the heritage report had been produced in high summer which was misleading as in the autumn and winter the development would be an invasion of his privacy. Finally, as a major development within the AONB he doubted that National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 116 had been complied with.

Cllr Grills thanked Raymond for his statement; the planning application would be considered at the meeting.

2. Graham Arnold, Old Plymouth Road, stated that he had misgivings with a recently installed street light near his home. He had received a consultation from the Town Council (KTC) in November 2015 and had given his qualified consent. However, he had never felt the need for street lighting, the location chosen was inappropriate to provide adequate lighting within the locale, it would illuminate an adjacent garden and the modern design was not compatible with its surroundings. The street light was not what was intended and should not be paid for. He questioned the way forward.

The Town Clerk read out verbatim a full report he had sent by email to Graham on 8 February which explained that Devon County Council (DCC) and KTC had agreed how the street light would be funded however, KTC had not been consulted upon its style and location. KTC would only pay for a related vegetation cut. He had requested further information from DCC on 10 February, hastened on 19 February, but had not received feedback to date.

Cllr Grills thanked Graham for his statement; members agreed that the street light should be reviewed when it was operational.