

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

Present: Cllr Robin Griffin (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

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

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

15/147 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Griffin as Vice Chairman and Deputy Town Mayor for the remainder of mayoral year 2015/16 and his Declaration of Acceptance of Office was received.

15/146 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

It was confirmed that a Declaration of Acceptance of Office had been received from co-opted member Cllr Graham Price.

15/148 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Wayne Grills and District Cllr Keith Wingate.

Public Open Forum

John Speed made the statement at Annex A.

**15/149 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

149.1 Sgt Green reported on crime for January 2016; a total of 27 crimes had been committed compared to 19 crimes during the same period in 2015. A

breakdown include 5 persons arrested, 2 dealt with by Community Resolution with others in the pipeline, one youth caution, and others were still under investigation. There had been 6 assaults (3 minor injury and 3 non-injury) with one child responsible for half of these, one attempted burglary (dwelling), 2 shopliftings, 7 miscellaneous thefts including a charity box and cash from churches, 3 thefts from vans in one night, 7 criminal damages (including 4 to Quay toilets over the Christmas/New Year period), and one cannabis possession. The toilet doors had now been re-hung to open outwards. Twelve church money boxes had now been stolen in the last year and a meeting with all local churches had reviewed security; all had now signed up to the community messaging service.

February's road safety theme was drug driving; specially trained officers had the capacity to test drivers for drugs in the same way as alcohol. The Kingsbridge Police now had 6 AEDs (5 in vehicles and one on the external wall of the Station) provided by the community for the community. A new Special Constable Rob Driscoll had joined the Kingsbridge team bringing the complement of volunteer Specials to 6. Breathalyser devices had been provided to the Hermitage Inn and Seven Stars alongside Coast nightclub to reduce the risks associated with excessive drinking and to ensure all customers enjoyed a safe evening out.

Members requested further information regarding the use of breathalysers; Sgt Green replied that the proposal had been discussed at a recent Licensees, Police and Town Council (KTC) meeting and had received support from all parties. They were operated at premises which had a late closing times and it was up to individual pubs to set the breathalyser limit. Evidence from elsewhere identified that breathalysing persons as they entered pubs lessened the potential for conflict and was a tool for licensees to ensure their customers remained safe. He would provide further feedback when available.

Sgt Green left the Chamber

149.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council's (DCC) Cabinet had earmarked a 3.99% rise in council tax; up to the 1.99% limit before triggering a referendum plus 2% ring-fenced for adult learning. This would provide circa £6.5m extra funding to counteract the increase in the minimum wage. He fully supported KTC's drive for better parking in Fore Street to protect the pavement and reduce the risk of falls; DCC was not liable unless a trip was above the intervention level of 20mm. The Children's Centre was planning a programme of activities and venues, ready for their relocation at the end of March, which would be supplied to KTC. He apologised on behalf of DCC for the recent road closure in Chillington and Charleton which had been poorly signposted. Devolution was a key project and DCC alongside other regional authorities were progressing options with central government. He had received a request for a grit bin to service Manor Park and would be willing to receive an application to his locality allowance from KTC.

Cllr Edmonds requested the policy for filling potholes as there were many issues around town; Cllr Brazil replied that he agreed that the current situation was

unsatisfactory however, Devon had a huge highways network which was difficult to sustain. He was lobbying for DCC to inform local councils when the pothole team was in the locale and wished the road maintenance contract was better. All potholes should be reported via DCC's website for repair.

149.3 County Cllr Gilbert confirmed that all potholes (1 inch or more depth and 1 foot wide) should be reported on-line in order to be listed for repair. He also supported KTC's quest for the pavement in Fore Street to be improved and noted that one part on the east side was in a particularly bad condition. The zebra crossing in West Alvington Hill had satisfied a safety audit some years ago and there was no requirement to request a new audit as there had been no subsequent adverse statistics. Moreover, he had not received representations from Kingsbridge Community College (KCC). Members agreed to contact KCC to request comments regarding the zebra crossing and chiefly to glean any concerns. The Boundary Review had completed; from 2018 onwards Kingsbridge would be represented by only one ward member. Finally, devolution of powers and budgets away from Westminster may happen and principle authorities in the region had made their proposals.

149.4 District Cllr Gilbert reported that Tesco had installed a new sign at the store's car park which directed customer parking for 2 hours' duration. The Section 106 agreement (developer contributions) for Tesco had been generous in supplying a new car park in Lower Union Road, the canopy area in Fore Street Car Park/pedestrian footway to Fore Street and £30k. Taking stock nothing had actually changed. The car park had always been identified for Tesco customers and 2 hours allowed people to shop in store and also visit Fore Street. Further to Sgt Green's report entry to Quay public toilets had been reconfigured and Police had conducted investigations into recent incidents of vandalism. South Hams District Council (SHDC) would work up a quotation for a high specification composting facility in the Recreation Ground whereupon relevant parties could discuss the way forward. He would attend a meeting shortly to identify disabled facilities for Quay Bus Station and would feedback to KTC. Finally, the clothes bank in Cattle Market Car Park was not big enough which often led to overflowing. The contract stipulated the bank should be emptied weekly which was not being actioned; he would provide further feedback at the next meeting.

Cllr Price noted the original plan for a composting facility was dated December 2014 however, he considered that a good business case could be made for composting in Kingsbridge and was pleased that progress was being made.

Cllr Lynn noted that the clothes bank may be used for dumping clothes rather than genuine re-use.

Cllr Griffin thanked Cllrs Brazil and Gilbert for all their efforts on behalf of the town.

Cllrs Brazil & Gilbert left the Chamber

15/150 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

15/151 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Griffin declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 15/153 Planning Committee; sub agenda item 15/93.4.

15/152 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

15/153 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 2 February 2016.

15/154 PARKS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee (public session) held on 5 February 2016.

15/155 CONDITION OF PAVEMENT – FORE STREET

It was **RESOLVED** to send a letter, jointly signed by KTC and the Chamber of Commerce, to all shops/businesses in Fore Street to report the unsatisfactory condition of the pavement, to provide information regarding DCC's policy for repairs, and to request their assistance via better management of loading bays. Members also agreed for a press release to be issued and that the situation should be closely monitored.

15/156 BUSKING DAY

Cllrs Fishman, Gilbert and Griffin provided a report on a proposed Busking Day to be held at various locations which would require a minimal budget from KTC. Promotion was suggested via a press release and/or social media. Ian Feetenby had agreed to join the working group. It was **RESOLVED** to support a Kingsbridge Charity Busking Day to be held on Saturday 28 May 2016.

15/157 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

157.1 BLS Car Show – Town Square Saturday 13 February. Upon consideration of members' comments; KTC had recommended to SHDC that:

- a. the BLS Car Show should be approved exceptionally (contrary to SHDC's current policy for promotional events on the Town Square),

- b. that no other promotional events should be approved on the Town Square until SHDC's earmarked new policy was in place, and
- c. that such a new policy should be clear cut.

157.2 South West Peninsula Railway Network. Upon consideration of members comments; KTC had lobbied the Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP that funding should be provided for a new study into improvements in rail infrastructure between Devon/Cornwall and London. That day, the Department for Transport and Great Western Railway had announced the funding.

157.3 Devon Air Ambulance Trust – Community Helipad. Toby Russell of DAAT had visited on 22 January regarding development of a Helipad and would provide further information in due course.

157.4 Annual Town Meeting. Mandatory to be held between 1 March and 1 June every year and should not commence before 6 p.m. Traditionally held to report to local residents KTC's business during the previous 12 months alongside future ambitions. KTC had broken the rules in recent years and had held in the Town Square on a Saturday morning during a Farmers Market to showcase future business e.g. proposals for the Recreation Ground refit and Trim Trail. Suggestions/ideas for 2016 were requested.

157.5 Queen's 90th Birthday. UK wide celebrations would take place on Sunday 12 June e.g. Patron's Lunch in the Mall (alongside St Pauls service and Trooping of the Colour over the same weekend). Some local residents were likely to apply for street parties and the Royal British Legion (RBL) had enquired whether or not KTC intended to manage an event. Cllr Griffin would speak to the RBL. Cllr Price reported that Kingsbridge In Bloom (KIB) intended to provide a commemorative flower bed display and the dates coincided with the Kingsbridge Open Gardens weekend.

157.6 Internal Audit. South West Internal Audit had inspected all accounts on 1 February and had provided a satisfactory report to be received at the next Finance Committee meeting.

157.7 Slade Solar Farm – Community Benefit. The solar farm was now operated by Canadian Solar (CS); the community funding had been agreed by the previous operator TGC Renewables and there was no requirement for any successor to fulfil the gift. An enquiry had been made to CS and feedback was awaited.

157.8 Kings Arms – Public Meeting. A meeting to discuss the unsatisfactory condition of the Kings Arms would be held at 6.00 p.m. on Monday 22 February.

157.9 Waverley Road grass verge. Members had raised concerns with the poor condition of the grass verge which was very muddy due to vehicles driving over and parking on the verge. DCC had reported that KTC would have to pay for the authority's Design Group to provide an accurate specification/costings to have the verge removed and for the road to be widened. It was agreed to ascertain the latter costs.

157.10 Traffic Regulation Order. DCC would consider TRO business regarding parking restrictions and members received a spreadsheet identifying requests received by DCC and KTC to date. Cllrs Fishman, Grills, Jeeninga and Jennings agreed to form a working group to progress TRO matters.

157.11 War Memorial – listing. English Heritage encouraged all memorials to be listed; local resident David Mason had submitted an application for the KTC managed War Memorial in Embankment Road.

157.12 Quay House car park – management policy. Property Committee members had been forwarded a draft policy which included several options for discussion.

157.13 Flashing flood warning signs. Poles had been erected in December, cabling and installation was anticipated late February/early March.

157.14 Grit bins. Three requests had been received for grit bins: Piggy Lane (pedestrian footway linking Stentiford Hill with Wallingford Road), Washabrook Way (on a grass verge at a bend in the road) and Manor Park (on a grass verge at the mouth of the road). DCC permissions were required for all locations and the authority would not fund provision given current cutbacks however, it would devolve to local councils if they accepted all expenditure and maintenance. KTC had a budget for financial year 2016/17 for flood resilience/winter weather and County Cllr Julian Brazil had expressed a willingness to part-fund from his locality allowance.

15/158 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

158.1 Cllr Jennings had attended the Rest Centre's annual general meeting. A celebration was planned to mark their 50th anniversary.

158.2 Cllr Jeeninga had attended a meeting of Dodbrook Feoffees which had received applications for housing.

158.3 Cllr Coulthard had attended a Kingsbridge Play Spaces meeting; the group intended to work up a feasibility study for a new children's play space in Duncombe Park.

158.4 Cllrs Gilbert and Povey reported that Richard Smith, Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club, had contacted them regarding a meeting to be held on 18 February.

158.5 Cllr Fishman reported that a new street lamp had been installed in Old Plymouth Road.

Kingsbridge Food Bank now operated from Horizons in Fore Street on Fridays 10.00 a.m. to noon and assisted circa 10 people/families each week. Food vouchers were handed out by doctors, social workers, clergy and KTC also had a stock and he was content to make assessments.

He had met with Sarah Wollaston MP recently and had subsequently forwarded a copy of his bus strategy paper adopted by KTC as the MP was due to discuss rural transport with John Hart, DCC leader.

158.6 Cllr Balkwill reported that Kingsbridge Feoffees had instructed development plans to be produced for the land off Derby Road. The town clock had stopped and repairs would be actioned shortly.

15/159 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 9 February 2016. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £9,224.66 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

15/160 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was no business brought forward.

15/161 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman.

15/162 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

15/163 PARKS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee (confidential session for consideration of quotations) held on 5 February 2016.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Annex A to Kingsbridge Town Council minutes dated 9 February 2016

Public Open Forum

Mr John Speed stated that life rings were missing at Bowcombe amenity space and Strete Gate following rationalisation by Salcombe Harbour Office however, the posts still remained in situ. He suggested this was confusing and members questioned the rationale. The Town Clerk would circulate information received.

Cllr Griffin thanked John for his statement.