

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

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

In Attendance: District Cllr Simon Wright
Sergeant David Green
Sam Acourt, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Fourteen Members of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

At the outset of the meeting Cllr Grills requested all present to observe a minute's silence following the passing of Cllr Beryl Washington on 1 September and then read out a tribute which addressed Beryl's long standing involvement in local community life and public office.

14/53 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Amanda Bloomer and County Cllr Brazil.

Public Open Forum

Tom Shell made the statement at Annex A.

**14/54 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES**

54.1 Sgt Green reported on crime for June, July and August 2014; at total of 64 crimes had been committed compared to 110 crimes during the same period in 2013 and 98 in 2012. Nineteen arrests had been made with 10 persons charged to date; others were on bail which enquires continued. Six crimes had been dealt with by restorative justice and 8 via other means: caution, summons, fixed penalty notice and cannabis warning. There had been 8 non-injury assaults, 12 injury assaults and one murder. Seven public order offences included drink driving and failing to comply with S.27 direction to leave notices. There had been no burglaries to dwellings however, 2 business premises had been burgled. Finally, there had been 4 shopliftings (19 in 2013), 7 other thefts, 7 criminal

damages, fraud, possession of drugs, and reports of sexual assault (historic). Recently there had been a perceived level of violence and disorder around Kingsbridge reported via social media however, the perception did not equate to the reality. The town had a consistently low level of such offences over the last 3 years.

September's road safety theme was seat belts to coincide with national and European campaigns. From a policing point of view Kingsbridge Fair Week has been a success; well organised, marshalled, and close liaison between Police and the Committee. One incident of disorder had seen 2 officers assaulted. Regular officers were assisted by members of the Special Constabulary who had committed 229 hours over the summer period. The force aimed to recruit more Specials. Finally, ongoing support to the community had taken place in the aftermath of the murder of Alex Peguero-Sosa and close liaison with Kingsbridge Community College was to continue into the new term. The Chief Constable had visited and left assured that the Kingsbridge community was well.

Cllr Grills and fellow members thanked Sgt Green for his comprehensive report.

Sgt Green left the Chamber

54.2 County Cllr Gilbert reported that a manhole in lower Fore Street had been fixed and a new Manchester bollard outside the Reel Cinema had been installed. The highway from Sorley Cross to the bottom of Stentiford Hill had been dressed over the summer and was now a huge improvement. No further news was available regarding Kingsbridge Library following the recent review.

54.3 District Cllr Gilbert reported that Rack Park amenity space was very well used by dog walkers however, there had been incidents of broken glass within undergrowth cutting dog paws. South Hams District Council (SHDC) planned to clear and thin out the vegetation moreover, the Police had agreed to increase patrols to try to stop underage drinking and related nuisance. The main Post Office in Fore Street was to close from 26 September to 6 October for modernisation works. New car parking charges were progressing with the £2.00 overnight charge to be deleted and extended day charging from 6.00 to 8.00 p.m. Other towns were reviewing their own charging schemes.

54.4 District Cllr Wingate reported that he had been lobbied by Gerald Taylor, Fire Station Commander, about recruitment and retention of staff which was a district-wide issue and he had arranged to meet Sarah Wollaston MP on 16 September to discuss. It was essential to retain Kingsbridge's 24/7 fire engine capability and key employers would be approached for the recruitment of fire fighters. The commander was content to report quarterly to the Town Council (KTC). Delays in the planning system had been reported to him and he was due to meet the Executive member to review matters. He thanked all members who took place in the table-top flooding exercise on 5 September which had gone well. He was disappointed that the Planning Inspector had allowed the Appeal for a solar farm to be developed in Kingsbridge; he considered that PV panels should be on roofs not in green fields. He was conscious that KTC had

attempted to introduce a Young Person of the Year Award previously and felt the proposal should be re-ignited to recognise a special young person in the community. Faster Broadband was progressing well. Finally, he considered that KTC worked well with a number of groups around town and the town should build on such successes.

54.5 District Cllr Wright reported that planning permission had been provided for 254 homes in the last 18 months at an average of 45% affordable homes which was a good achievement. Central government was considering changing the regulations for S106 agreements (developer contributions) with the introduction of a 10 unit threshold which would have a dramatic affect in the South Hams and the authority was lobbying Sarah Wollaston MP accordingly. The Harbour Board had received numerous comments on a proposal for waterski area in the estuary and would review the matter at its forthcoming meeting. News on superfast Broadband could be found at connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk.

14/55 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Grills agreed to take one item of urgent business at agenda item 14/66: Christmas Lights; to be taken under confidential matters.

14/56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Wingate declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 14/58 (Planning Committee: Planning Committee minutes dated 2 September 2014).

14/57 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the full council meeting held on 8 July 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Cllr Wingate left the Chamber for the following agenda item:

14/58 PLANNING COMMITTEE

58.1 It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 15 July 2014, 5 August 2014 and 2 September 2014.

58.2 Planning application **28/2119/14/F** (Householder application for alterations and extension to dwelling at 38 Embankment Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1AW. Applicant: Mr & Mrs B Rennie) had been Deferred to the full council meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to Recommend Approval and to report the same to SHDC Development Management.

58.3 It was RESOLVED:

- to form a working party/sub committee to consider South Hams “Our Plan” potential development sites in Kingsbridge,
- for the sub committee to be a public meeting and include a public open forum,
- to provide delegated powers to the sub committee to respond to SHDC on behalf of KTC,
- to invite Martina Edmunds, Westville resident, and Cllr Margaret Kitt, Vice Chairman of West Alvington Parish Council, to join the sub committee, and
- for the sub committee to meet at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 16 September 2014.

District Cllr Wright and a member of public left the Chamber

14/59 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 15 July 2014.

Ten members of public left the Chamber

14/60 PARKS & GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Parks & Green Spaces Committee held on 25 July 2014.

14/61 POLICY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 2 September 2014.

14/62 QUAY TOILETS – TRIAL CHARGING SCHEME

Members were in receipt of SHDC’s proposal (letter SJW0062 dated 12 August 2014) to implement a trial charging scheme, at 20 pence per entry, for the public toilet facilities at Kingsbridge Quay. The disabled toilet would remain free with access via Radar key. If approved the system was likely to be operational by early November. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to raise No Objections to a 12 month trial for a charging scheme at Quay toilets.

14/63 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

63.1 Visual Impairment Awareness (VIA) Event 2015. KTC had held a successful VIA event in January 2013 and the Rotary Club of Kingsbridge (RCK) wished to hold another event in 2015 at the Town Hall alongside an open day at Talking Newspapers for the Blind. Members supported KTC partnering RCK on the initiative.

63.2 Picnic Benches – Quay House grounds. The benches had been removed to the rear courtyard for a deep clean and to alleviate litter problems with the likelihood of autumn/winter storage.

63.3 Kingsbridge Post Office – Modernisation. Further to Cllr Gilbert's report members received the Post Office's notice (letter dated 21 August 2014) identifying other branches at Loddiswell and Ivybridge during the closure for refurbishment works. It was agreed to request sub Post Offices e.g. Churchstow to be advertised and an alternative service to be provided at the Sorting Office in Duke Street.

63.4 A Boards – Update. KTC had requested Devon County Council (DCC) to enforce its regulations regarding unauthorised signage with effect from 1 September. The Neighbourhood Highways Officer had visited circa 6 businesses during the previous week and received mainly positive responses. The situation would be monitored.

63.5 Car Parking Charges – Update. Further to Cllr Gilbert's report SHDC's Executive decision to support KTC's proposal for revision of off-street car parking charges would be received at the full council meeting on 2 October. Thereafter Street Scene to liaise with the Legal Department to include publicising a public consultation.

63.6 Legacy – Trim Trail. A legacy of £500 from the estate of Kenneth Nicholls had been given to Kingsbridge Walk & Talk which had subsequently been received by KTC for the Trim Trail project. The sum would be held as Restricted Reserves.

63.7 Highways Training. Cllr Grills and Town Clerk were booked to attend Traffic Management for Community Events training at Notter Bridge, Cornwall on 29 September.

63.8 DCC/Town & Parish Clerks – Joint Workshop. The Town Clerk was booked to attend the event on 23 September at Okehampton Business Centre. The workshop would focus on the changing shape of service delivery and joint working.

63.9 Thank You. From Kingsbridge Fair Week for KTC's assistance during Fair Week, use of Quay House, parking and help with collections.

63.10 Property Committee – Postponement. The committee meeting scheduled for 16 September had been agreed for postponement by the Chairman in order to allow further time for a plethora of ongoing business to be progressed.

14/64

REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

64.1 Cllr Yates had attended Cookworthy Museum and Twinning Society meetings; the former alongside Cllr Balkwill.

64.2 Cllr Price had attended a meeting of Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club; the club had made a representation regarding the proposal for a waterski area in the estuary.

64.3 Cllr Williams reported that Home Start South Hams would be leaving Kingsbridge in October and moving to Plymouth due to lack of funding.

14/65 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 9 September 2014. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £31,080.86 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman brought forward the following agenda item:

14/67 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman.

14/66 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD

66.1 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

66.2 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Members received a briefing paper on the Christmas Lights which addressed findings/wish list from the previous display alongside a quotation from an electrical contractor for installation/decommission, related works and suggested new works. It was **RESOLVED**:

- to appoint Kingsbridge Electrical Services to install the lights display,
- to aim to provide an enhanced display to feature new Town Square festoon lights,
- to make an application for additional funding for the above at circa £2,000 to DCC,
- for the display to be installed in readiness for switch-on Monday 1 December (timing 2.00 to 11.30 p.m.) with decommission on Sunday 4 January,
- for the Christmas Tree to remain in Quay House grounds, and
- for a formal switch-on to be conducted by Justin Leigh of BBC Spotlight in either lower Fore Street or the Town Square to be organised alongside RCK.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

..... Presiding Chairman

.....Date

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Tom Shell of Alvington Terrace stated he had attended the last Planning Committee meeting and noted KTC was to review South Hams "Our Plan" proposals for potential development sites in town. He supported Martina Edmunds' (Westville resident) request to be a member of the working group and hoped KTC would accept her nomination.

He also noted that the extended DPD allocation site K5 proposed by the land owner, and recently dismissed by the Planning Inspector, had been included as a potential development site.

Cllr Grills thanked Mr Shell for his statements and replied that the matters were likely to be brought up during the meeting.