

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 9 JANUARY 2018**

Present: Cllr Chris Povey (Chairman)
Cllr David Baisie
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Dena Bex
Cllr Philip Cole
Cllr Samantha Dennis
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Graham Price

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Keith Wingate
Sgt David Green
Charley Adams, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Two Members of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

At the outset of the meeting Cllr Povey thanked Cllr Balkwill for chairing the previous meeting, welcomed Cllr Jeeninga's return from ill-health, reflected on the Town Council's (KTC) achievements during 2017 and thanked his fellow Members for their efforts on behalf of the Kingsbridge community.

17/136 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mike Jennings and District Cllr Rufus Gilbert.

Public Open Forum

A member of public made the statement at Annex A.

**17/137 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

137.1 Sgt Green presented the Police report for December 2017. A total of 23 crimes had been committed; 26 crimes had been recorded during the same period in 2016 and 18 in 2015. Crimes had included: 1 minor injury assault, 2 non-injury assaults, 3 racially motivated harassments, 4 public order offences, 6 criminal damages, 1 domestic harassment, 1 malicious communications, 2 thefts, 1 dwelling burglary and 1 animal cruelty. There were known suspects for 16 of the above offences. There had been no shoplifting offences.

Christmas and New Year policing had been successful. Additional staff had been deployed at peak times; the festive period had passed peacefully and New Year's Eve was good natured. There had been 9 drink driving cases in the South Hams

during December compared to 4 in 2016. This was disappointing given the amount of publicity for this dangerous crime. A mix of ages had been involved and it was due to either ignorance or arrogance. Sgt Green responded to questions:

- the Kingsbridge Police Facebook page only named offenders when they had been charged however, there may be a valid reason for people to be unnamed, and
- the chaperone of a provisional driver is also not allowed to drink alcohol.

Sgt Green left the Council Chamber

137.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council (DCC) had received its final financial settlement from central government apart from public health. The Cabinet was due to meet the following day to discuss however, only headline figures were known with no close detail at present however, cuts in services should be anticipated. He would be closely monitoring adult services regarding the future of Tumbly Hill day centre. A joint committee made up of DCC alongside Somerset County Council, Plymouth and Torbay unitary authorities and all district/borough councils would discuss devolution matters from central government.

137.3 District Cllr Wingate reported he was South Hams District Council's (SHDC) representative on the Police & Crime Commissioner's Scrutiny Panel. SHDC echoed KTC's position that it wished to retain the maximum number of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). The proposal was to retain 150 PCSOs but further funding may be possible and he would feedback in due course. PCSOs were dual working in some areas, e.g. Police and fire fighting, but it may not be possible to manage such roles in all areas. Steve Jorden, Executive Director, would be leaving SHDC shortly and Members had agreed that his position would not immediately be replaced. Repairs to the harbour wall at the head of the estuary were progressing and a press release had been issued. A Harbour Board workshop had been held the previous day. Finally, he wished to retain all current car parking spaces in Kingsbridge. Therefore he would be loath to see any loss due to the legal line of Footpath No.1 being confirmed on the ground and considered that it could be diverted.

Cllr Povey reported upon the recent press release from John Tucker, SHDC leader, which identified £600,000 for Kingsbridge to repair a 50m stretch of the damaged Quay wall to commence on site in September. Around 10 to 12 spaces would be temporarily displaced and disabled spaces moved for the duration of works. Also, bus station improvements had been confirmed to provide better access for mobility-impaired persons, new passenger waiting facilities and clearer information on bus routes. Works would include the removal of all 3 islands and installation of one wider island with a bus shelter, ramped access and coloured surfacing to the main bus station. A new bus shelter would also be installed along the southern kerb. Works were hoped to start in February and likely to take one month to complete. Information would be provided on public information boards in the coming weeks. An email had been received from SHDC's lead officer requesting KTC feedback on the proposals. After discussion, Members **AGREED** to delegate a reply to Cllrs

Fishman & Povey and the Town Clerk to include a request for more detailed information regarding the new bus shelters.

County Cllr Brazil and District Cllr Wingate left the Council Chamber

17/138 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Povey agreed to take 2 items of urgent business at agenda item 17/150:

- Christmas Lights – quotation for new displays, and
- Community Resilience Store – quotation for new storage container.

17/139 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17/140 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

17/141 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 2 January 2018.

Members noted that a conversion of the Kings Arms for residential and commercial use had been approved and it was further **RESOLVED** to write to the owners of the Kings Arms to requests the timescale for the works alongside a strong request for immediate tidying of the façade and guttering repairs.

17/142 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 19 December 2017.

17/143 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 2 January 2018.

The Precept for financial year 2018/19 was confirmed at £136,000 (an increase of 4.55%) which would require contribution from a Band D council rate at £62.94 (an increase from £59.97 at £2.97).

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

17/146

KINGSBRIDGE FOOTPATH NO.1

Members were aware of the history of Footpath No.1, that DCC and SHDC acknowledged the legal line was obstructed by car parking spaces in Quay Car Park and whether KTC may be receptive to a diversion. Members considered the crux was a safe footpath versus retention of car parking spaces. After discussion, it was agreed to reiterate the position realised at the council meeting held on 11 July 2017 and then **RESOLVED** to request DCC and SHDC to remove obstructions from the legal line of Kingsbridge Footpath No.1 between the steps leading to Quayside Leisure Centre and the bottom of Tumbly Hill.

17/144

ADOPTION OF RED TELEPHONE BOX

Members received an update from BT on KTC's adoption of the telephone kiosk outside the Police Station in Fore Street. There was a delay around the removal of the payphone equipment from the kiosk meanwhile BT were looking for an adoptee with an innovative/unusual plan approaching the 5,000th adoption and to celebrate BT may be able to help the adoptee with those plans. Deadline for feedback was 31 January 2018. Members suggested a different theme/installation for around 6 months at a time and ideas included: a public information point, display area for primary school art work, exhibition space for local artists/art installations, a 'selfie box' and a floral display with plants growing out of the kiosk. It was **RESOLVED** to adapt the red telephone box to be the 'world's smallest nightclub' for the initial art installation.

17/145

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It had been agreed at the last meeting to invite expressions of interest to form a Steering Group to progress a Neighbourhood Plan. Members discussed a methodology and KTC's role in formulating such a plan. Members proposed that the Steering Group should be standalone, independent of KTC and should agree its own administration for Chairman, Secretary and membership. It was **RESOLVED** to invite attendees of the presentation on 6 December 2017 to an informal meeting at Quay House to discuss the formation of a Steering Group for a Kingsbridge Neighbourhood Plan.

17/147

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

144.1 Casual Vacancy. SHDC's Election Office had confirmed that an East Ward election had not been called by the due date of 4 January and therefore Members may take steps to fill the vacancy by co-option. The position had been advertised on Facebook/website, noticeboards and a press release had been issued for the Kingsbridge Gazette providing a deadline for expressions of interest of 26 January.

144.2 Community Resilience. A ready-use stock of sand bags needed to be made up. A simple plan was required (A4 double-sided laminate) identifying how to react to flooding and actions for Flood Wardens. Highways flood warning signs required action due to a technical issue with one and a power supply problem with the other.

144.3 Joint Local Plan. KTC's submission to the Planning Inspectorate hearings was a key report to be worked up shortly.

17/148 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

Cllrs Balkwill and Fishman reported that Kingsbridge Feoffees' intended to retain their legal Option Agreement to purchase the remaining KTC land off Derby Road until it concluded in August 2018.

17/149 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 9 January 2018. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £8,449.77 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

17/151 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions for the Chairman.

17/150.1 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the nature of the business about to be take place that it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded.

Members of the press and public left the Chamber

17/150.2 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – QUOTATION FOR NEW DISPLAYS

Members received sales information and quotations from 2 companies and selected displays in preference order. Any purchases would realise an over budget expenditure within the current financial year. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase up to 4 cross-street displays subject to colour and availability.

17/150.3 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE STORE – QUOTATION FOR NEW STORAGE CONTAINER

Members noted the Property Committee's recommendation that new storage was required as soon as possible for sand, rock salt and pot hole repair bags and received information and quotations. A flat-pack galvanised container, powder coated green, was deemed to be the most suitable option to be located to the rear of Quay House garage. Such a container was an outbuilding within the curtilage of a listed building and SHDC permission would be required. It was **RESOLVED** to apply to the Devon Emergency Flood Resilience Fund for £1,500 towards the purchase, ground works and installation of a new Community Resilience Store which may require up to circa £850 additional funding in the next financial year.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Annex A to KTC's minutes dated 9 January 2018

Public Open Forum

Mr Leslie Pengelly provided the history of Public Footpath No.1 back to 1971 and how it was diverted to accommodate the building of the sports centre. He considered that neither Devon County Council nor South Hams District Council had acted to protect the public right of way over the years and obstruction was an offence. During the Definitive Map Review, which commenced in 2004, a diversion alongside the estuary wall had not been supported for various reasons. Indeed, recently the quayside pedestrian walkway had been closed due to collapses. Finally, in 2009 a diversion order was approved in relation to a proposed development at Tumbly Hill but it had yet to be confirmed.

Cllr Povey thanked Mr Pengelly for his analysis. Footpath No.1 was an agenda item at the meeting and would be brought forward for discussion.