

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

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

In Attendance: District Cllr Simon Wright
Sgt David Green
Gabby Prior, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
One Member of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

13/118 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Robin Griffin and Jax Williams, and County Cllr Julian Brazil.

Public Open Forum

There were no statements from members of public.

**13/119 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES**

119.1 Sgt Green reported on crime statistics for December 2013. A total of 23 crimes had been committed; which equalled the number of crimes in December 2012. Total crimes in Kingsbridge in 2013 were 295 compared to 324 crimes in 2012 which represented a 9% reduction in annual crime. Three arrests had been made, 4 crimes had been dealt with by restorative justice and others were still under investigation. There had been 8 assaults including 4 non-injury assault, 3 of which were domestic incidents involving teenagers. Four minor injury assaults has resulted in 2 formal cautions. There had been no burglaries either dwelling or non-dwelling. Five criminal damages had resulted in one restorative justice and shopliftings were down from 6 in November to 2 in December.

Police Cadets had supported the Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas event on 7th December providing a visible presence in town and implementing learning from

an earlier anti-shoplifting project. On 2 Saturdays in the run-up to Christmas plain clothes officers had also carried out anti-shoplifting patrols. A radio advert on Heart FM had also reported that Police were watching thieves. Each month the Neighbourhood Team carried out a different traffic operation; in December it had been a campaign to combat drink-driving. Public safety on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve had been important and the Inspector and himself had been on patrol until 0400. During the period 20 December to 3 January 88 incidents had been reported with 22 relating to the impacts of severe weather e.g. difficult road conditions.

Finally, Insp Ralph had been promoted and had therefore left Kingsbridge for another appointment. He much regretted not having the opportunity to speak to members but would be writing to the Chairman to explain the circumstances. Cllr Farrand was supported by his fellow members in congratulating Insp Ralph on his promotion. Insp Adrian Leisk would start in his new post as Kingsbridge Inspector on Monday 20th January. A tour was being organised for Friday 17th January to include a visit to Quay House.

Cllr Balkwill commented that traffic cones had been placed in the highway near Bowcombe Bridge to alert motorists to a landslip but which led to congestion; she enquired if the Police had influence to sort the situation. Sgt Green replied that he was aware of the cones and the Town Clerk would request a report from Devon County Council (DCC) Highways.

Sgt Green left the Chamber

119.2 County Cllr Gilbert reported that local government cutbacks and austerity measures were likely to continue for a further 5 years. In particular cutbacks on highways would affect rural parishes. DCC was progressing its budget for financial year 2014/15. Spending on welfare and elderly was set to continue. The overall message was that principal authorities should spend wisely.

119.3 District Cllr Gilbert reported that he had recently forwarded an email from Cllr Barber (Chairman Economy & Environment Scrutiny Panel) to Cllr Wingate and the Town Clerk which highlighted sewerage, sewage treatment and drainage issues with South West Water in Ivybridge and Salcombe. He had confirmed that Kingsbridge also had issues which required investigation. Cllr Barber intended to invite SWW to provide a progress report across the South Hams. South Hams District Council (SHDC) alongside West Devon Borough Council had bid to maintain its parking enforcement service however, on-street enforcement had returned to DCC as it was more cost effective. Concerns had already been raised that public perception may be different as people will view 2 different authorities carrying out on and off-street business. Income would be retained by the collecting authority.

119.4 District Cllr Wright confirmed that with effect from 1st April the policy on enforcement for on and off-street parking would be managed by 2 separate authorities. SHDC's Executive would progress the following year's financial

budget shortly. There was a £582k shortfall to find from the current year at 12% however, it was anticipated that front line services would not be cut. The Chief Executive would retire in March 2014 and a new corporate director for head of paid services would be appointed for 6 months. Finally, SHDC had worked very hard throughout the festive season e.g. 2,500 sandbags had been distributed and trees affected by storms had been cut down.

119.5 District Cllr Wingate reported that he had met recently with DCC's Flood Resilience team leader and SHDC's Emergency Planning Officer; Kingsbridge matters had been discussed. Roger Pope, Principal of Kingsbridge Community College, had given an undertaking to progress art/sculpture for the Recreation Ground. He was a member of the Waste Management working group; new stronger bags would be produced for recycling. Finally, SHDC with a finite resource did very well dealing with extreme weather issues over the festive season.

Cllr Balkwill commented that trade waste pick-ups did not work well over public holiday periods. Cllr Wingate confirmed that a new waste contract would take into account current anomalies in the system.

Cllr Grills asked if there were systems in place to stop businesses using domestic waste pick-ups. Cllr Wingate confirmed that misuse of the domestic waste system was suspected and under investigation. Currently it was managed on a trust basis however, new technology would be able to tackle such issues.

District Cllr Wright left the Chamber

13/120 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

13/121 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

13/122 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the full council meeting held on 10 December 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13/123 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt/accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 7 January 2014.

13/124 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 7 January 2014.

13/125 FLOODING

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the minutes of the Flood Resilience Committee held on 10 December 2013.

Members then received a report and lessons learnt from tidal flooding 3 to 6 January 2014. Members, Police and Fire Service had worked in partnership to prepare for the high spring tides which resulted in flooding of Bridge Street, Duke Street, Mill Street and Prince of Wales Road. Members supported a thank you letter be sent to Roger & Peter Trembath for their involvement. An incident log of all flood events was now being maintained.

Members also received a report from the Flood Resilience Working Group held on 8 January 2014 attended by representatives from the Environment Agency, DCC, SHDC and Contingency Planning Solutions. The session had been very fruitful and 'next steps' had been agreed and an 'action schedule' was distributed.

13/126 PUBLIC TRANSPORT REVIEW

Members were in receipt of DCC's consultation regarding proposals to make savings on its public transport service alongside comments already submitted by local persons/groups. It was noted that 3 of 4 proposals did not directly affect Kingsbridge and the fourth proposal had an indirect impact only. Members commented that bus services were essential for many people. It was **RESOLVED** to keep Kingsbridge bus services under review.

13/127 PUBLIC TOILETS SERVICE

Members were in receipt of a SHDC update (letter ES/HD/SJ/W0055 dated 20 December 2013) which reported seasonal closures of under utilised public toilets. Cllrs Griffin and Grills had represented KTC at a surgery in late 2013. The proposals did not affect Kingsbridge and no toilets were actually being shut. However, Quay toilets had been identified as one of 3 high-use facilities and had been earmarked for a charging scheme. SHDC was investigating costs and the suitability of charging systems. It was **RESOLVED** to discuss and negotiate with SHDC for a charging scheme at Quay public toilets when further information was available.

13/128 CIVIC EVENT 2014

Cllr Jeeninga provided a résumé of the Civic Event held at St Edmunds Church in March 2013 and the church had been provisionally booked again. Members supported a similar format for 2014 and suggested that catering be investigated

and quotations gained. It was **RESOLVED** to progress a Kingsbridge Celebrates Kingsbridge civic event to be held on Saturday 22 March 2014.

13/129 TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

Members were in receipt of Cllr Jeeninga's report of her mayoral duties October to December 2013.

13/130 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

130.1 Planning Appeals.

- An Appeal had been made against SHDC's Refusal of planning permission for the development of DPD Site K5 off West Alvington Hill (planning application 28_59/1232/13/O). Grounds for the Appeal were available on SHDC's website and the applicant had requested it be considered by an inquiry in May 2014.
- The decision on the Appeal for SHDC's Refusal of planning permission for the development of a Solar Farm at north east Kingsbridge (planning application 08_28/0430/13/F) was anticipated shortly from the Planning Inspectorate (reference 13/2206258).

130.2 Amendment to Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). Localised issues in Wallingford Road had resulted from the recent TRO and an amendment had been proposed to alter "no waiting at any time" restrictions to provide better access for delivery vehicles to Cornwall Farmers and passage of Fire Service vehicles. Overall 2 car parking spaces would be lost to be compensated by restrictions being lifted at the southern end of the road 1800-0800 Monday to Friday and at weekends.

DCC had agreed to reduce the size of a parking bay in Duncombe Street between the Fire Station and Laundry by 1 metre to free-up a surface water drain in the highway. It had been confirmed that TRO action was not required.

130.3 Town And Parish (TAP) Fund. KTC & West Alvington PC's joint application for a range of public realm improvements had been submitted to SHDC. Malborough PC had subsequently requested KTC to partner its application to purchase a ride-on mower for its playing fields which had been supported by members. However, the amount of funding requested probably pushed Kingsbridge beyond its £1.10 per head of electorate ceiling. Therefore a qualification had been added that the KTC/WAPC application took precedence. All bids would be considered at the next Southern Area Cluster Meeting.

130.4 New Berthing Arrangements – Kingsbridge. Dr Sarah Wollaston MP had been invited, alongside the Town Mayor, to open the new pontoons at 6.00 p.m. on Monday 31st March.

130.5 Hire of Council Chamber. Fees & Charges for the Council Chamber were £20 per session with a reduction of 50% for charities i.e. everyone paid. It was agreed that payment by local community groups should be investigated.

130.6 Quiz Night. Saltstone Caring had invited KTC to take part in a "That Was The Year That Was!" Quiz Night at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 29th January in the Creeks End.

130.7 Christmas Cards from traders. Cllr Jeeninga had sent a "Letter to the Editor" to the local newspaper to report members' thanks for the kind cards received from local traders.

130.8 Policy & Property Committees.

- A Policy Committee would go ahead on 21st January with a reduced agenda to review outstanding "Priorities 2011-2015".
- A Property Committee would be held when specifications and costings were available for the proposed extension of the decorative lighting to the Memorial Shelter.

13/131 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

131.1 Cllr Washington had attended a Rest Centre Committee meeting; the organisation was in a good condition.

131.2 Cllr Price had attended Kingsbridge In Bloom meetings and the group was progressing well towards a Champion of Champions competition in summer.

131.3 Cllr Williams (report read by Cllr Jeeninga) had attended Age Concern's annual general meeting. Graham Smith had been elected as chairman for another year. Kingsbridge was the only centre operated solely by volunteers with a cook employed for just 3 days per week.

13/132 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 14 January 2014. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £10,386.84 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

13/133 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was no business brought forward.

13/134 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 9.02 p.m.

..... Presiding Chairman

.....Date