

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE AT 7.00 p.m. ON TUESDAY
8 DECEMBER 2015**

Present: Cllr Wayne Grills (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Sandy Gilbert
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Alisia Jennings
Cllr Jax Williams

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

15/115 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Tom Coulthard, Late Lynn and Chris Povey.

Public Open Forum

Carol Horton and Peter Trembath made the statements at Annex A.

**15/116 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

116.1 Sgt Green reported on crime for November 2015; a total of 20 crimes had been committed compared to 32 crimes during the same period in 2014. Seven people had been arrested, 2 crimes had been dealt with by Community Resolution and others were still under investigation. There had been 3 minor assaults (none of which involved injury), no burglaries, 3 criminal damages (a reduction from 9 in 2014), one shoplifting (a reduction from 6 in 2014) and 8 miscellaneous thefts. Three drink drivers had been arrested.

December's road safety theme was drink/drug driving in support of a national pre-Christmas campaign which included a 'morning after' warning. Shoplifting preventative work was ongoing with visits to shops made by Police Cadets during Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas in order to distribute crime prevention material. Rural shed and garage burglaries, e.g. theft of power tools, were widespread across Devon but had not impacted upon Kingsbridge to date. Finally, the "Have Your Say" survey day held on 23 November had been successful. Police assisted by the Town Council (KTC), South Hams District

Council (SHDC) and Plymouth University had surveyed 164 people. All felt fairly or very safe. The main issues were a request for greater Police presence, car parking problems, unsatisfactory street lighting and broken pavements. The survey also touched upon loneliness and care of the elderly which highlighted the largely unseen Police work involved in mental health, missing people and suicide prevention.

Sgt Green left the Chamber

116.2 County Cllr Gilbert reported that Devon County Council (DCC) was considering Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) across the county regarding on-street car parking and suggested the Town Clerk forward all local representations to the Neighbourhood highways officer. He noted an agenda item for a proposed new street light in Old Plymouth Road and was willing to earmark £1k from his locality allowance towards the project.

116.3 County Cllr Brazil reported that TROs would be managed once per year from now on. DCC Cabinet had sanctioned the new Library Service, a Public Service Mutual, to go ahead. He noted the dreadful flooding in the north of the country and congratulated the local flood group for the headway it had made regarding flood resilience. Devolution matters were being discussed and he noted that house building versus housing need was pivotal in the South Hams and that such key decisions should be governed by elected people. He considered that elected members should make the policy for business such as the fun fair tendering. Finally, he was also content to contribute funding to introduce new street lighting.

116.4 District Cllr Gilbert reported that John Chalmers, Chairman of the South Hams Society, had died which would be a great loss to the local community. He would attend the Development Management Committee on 16 December when the planning application for the Quayside passenger railway would be considered. Costs for a permanent composting/recycling facility in the Recreation Ground would be worked up shortly. Finally, a Section 215 Notice had been issued for the Tumbly Hill development site bordering Quay Car Park to enforce the untidy site to be cleared up.

116.5 District Cllr Wingate reported that the planning application for the Quayside passenger railway had received case officer support and there had been much public support received at a recent presentation on the town square. A plan and costings for repairs to the Recreation Ground pond were being worked up. He had spoken to local residents regarding the current closure of the Eastern Backway due to a dangerous wall; repairs would take place in early January. Finally, he had enjoyed the Police Cadets flood resilience presentation on 3 December which had won a Duke of Cornwall Community Safety Award.

Cllr Jeeninga queried the condition of a wall in Church Steps adjacent to Fore Street Car Park which was bowing out towards the footway; District Cllr Wingate suggested that it did not belong to SHDC. The Town Clerk would conduct a Land Registry search and request Devon Building Control to investigate.

County Cllr Brazil, County & District Cllr Gilbert, District Cllr Wingate and 6 members of public left the Chamber

15/117 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman agreed to consider one item of Urgent Business at agenda item 15/127: Hosting of Petitions.

15/118 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Balkwill declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 15/121 "Finance Committee"; sub agenda item 15/22 "Budget for FY 2016/17: Grant Aid for Cookworthy Museum".

15/119 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

15/120 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 10 November 2015.

15/121 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 1 December 2015; subject to one amendment to reduce the draft budget expenditure by £2k.

15/122 LAND OFF DERBY ROAD

Members were in receipt of Kingsbridge Feoffees letter dated 19 November 2015. It was **RESOLVED** to note that the Trustees of Kingsbridge Lands Charity wished to exercise their option agreement to purchase KTC's remaining land off Derby Road. The Trustees would now seek to obtain planning permission to build affordable housing units.

15/123 PROPOSAL FOR STREET LIGHTING IN OLD PLYMOUTH ROAD

Cllr Fishman provided feedback on KTC's consultation with properties in Old Plymouth Road, Northville Park and Archery Close regarding a proposal to introduce street lighting in Old Plymouth Road; alongside a major trim of trees and vegetation. Circa 60 questionnaires had been distributed to dwellings and 26 completed replies had been received providing a 43% return with 100% support for the proposal. Members had also noted DCC ward members support for the proposal during their reports (agenda items 15/116.2 & 116.3). It was **RESOLVED** to progress the introduction of street lighting in Old Plymouth Road,

to work up costs with DCC's lighting engineer and an application for part-funding to DCC ward members.

15/124 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

124.1 Police "Have Your Say" Survey. Cllr Lynn and the Town Clerk had joined Police officers, Plymouth University students and SHDC's locality officer on Monday 23 November (agenda item 15/116.1).

124.2 Licensees, Police & KTC Liaison Meeting. Discussion held with Licensees on Thursday 3 December. Outcomes:

1. Confiscated IDs to be handed to Sgt Green for administration.
2. Cascade communications system between Licensees to be worked up (possibly via WhatsApp).
3. Pilot/promotion of breathalysers to be conducted by Sgt Mike Norsworthy.
4. Local Pub Watch scheme to be worked up with information for the next meeting (Thursday 25 February at 11.00 a.m.).

124.3 Thank You. Letters had been received from Dodbrooke Church Fundraising Committee and Norton Brook Patient Transport Service for recent Grant Aid awards.

124.4 Free Digital Sessions for Kingsbridge. Get Up To Speed was part of the Connecting Devon & Somerset programme which ran free talks and workshops for communities to help boost digital skills e.g. exploring different Google Apps. The group wished to run a session for KTC which the Library was willing to host. A workshop was supported by members.

124.5 Traffic Lights/One Lane Closure - Embankment Road. The works would be cleared and road opened up on Friday 18 December however, Wales & West Utilities would then return in the New Year to complete renewal of the gas main (dates to be confirmed).

124.6 Christmas Lights. Agreed repair works (all new catenary wires and anchor points where required) had been completed Sundays 15 & 22 November. Lights were installed Sunday 29 November and a defective cross-street display mid-Fore Street had been replaced. Cllr Griffin was thanked for his efforts.

The Town And Parish (TAP) Fund bid for 2016/17 (St Edmunds Church tower stars & Church/Bridge Street cross-street displays) totalling £5,572 had been acknowledged by SHDC with feedback anticipated late January.

124.7 Tranquillity Trail. Members received copies of a revised draft leaflet and were requested to walk the proposed trail and provide feedback.

124.8 Proposal for Quayside Train. SHDC Development Management Committee would consider planning application 28/1046/15/F on 16 December. KTC had been invited to speak but members agreed that it was not required as

the Planning Committee's comments had already been noted within the case officer's report.

124.9 Kingsbridge In Bloom (KIB) publicity. Members received a suggested promotional display from KIB to celebrate its success as a Gold Medal Winner in the Britain In Bloom UK Finals 2015. Members considered the poster, to be A1 size and located adjacent to the 5 gateway town signs, to be too busy and difficult for motorists to read. The Town Clerk would feedback to KIB and to suggest that a cross-street banner in Fore Street may be more appropriate.

15/125 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

125.1 Cllr Jennings reported that the Rest Centre had addressed a leak in the kitchen and recent works had been actioned in the toilets.

125.2 Cllr Balkwill had attended Kingsbridge In Bloom's annual general meeting which had earmarked the group's future plans; amongst others it was anticipated to glean greater planting expertise.

125.3 Cllrs Gilbert & Povey had not received information from Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club; the Town Clerk would address.

125.4 Cllr Griffin had attended Police Cadet training evenings; the group was in good health.

125.5 Cllr Grills provided feedback on Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas; many lessons had been learnt. Members supported a letter of thanks to be sent to Sam Short, Kingsbridge Information Centre.

15/126 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 8 December 2015. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £12,660.57 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

15/127 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: HOSTING OF PETITIONS

Members discussed whether KTC should host petitions from external groups in the Council Offices (noting there was no current policy in place). Members agreed that it would infer that KTC also supported the tenet of any petition which could relate to a potentially emotive matter. It was **RESOLVED** that petitions should not be hosted by KTC.

15/128 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman.

15/129 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

15/130 CASUAL VACANCY

Members had already received notice that an election had not been called for the current town councillor vacancy in East Ward. KTC had received 3 expressions of interest to date. It was **RESOLVED** for Cllrs Edmonds, Gilbert, Griffin and Grills (Chairman) to interview potential candidates early in the New Year.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

..... Presiding Chairman Date

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

Carol Horton of Kingsbridge Fair Week Committee (KFWC) thanked the Town Council (KTC) for its letter of support for Fair Week 2016. South Hams District Council (SHDC) had invited tenders for the Fun Fair with a deadline of 18 December. KFWC could not make its own application, was disappointed with the tender process per se and had written to SHDC to express its concerns. Chiefly, the David Rowland fair had a long established working relationship with KFWC and was instrumental in the success of the Rotaproy event. Moreover, the Town Square (normally let to KFWC) had been included within the tender document to be managed by the Fun Fair which could impact on wider activities.

Peter Trembath of KFWC supported the above comments and requested information on how the tendering process had originated and why it could not have been stopped.

The Chairman requested the views of District Cllrs Gilbert and Wingate. They responded that:

- they had tried to halt the tendering process however, a precedence for tendering had been set elsewhere.
- SHDC has set up a Task & Finish Group to review the authority' tendering policy but it had not met to date.
- liaison with charities had been written into the Fun Fair tender documentation,
- SHDC hoped to achieve a 5 year Fun Fair licence for Kingsbridge,