

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

Present: Cllr Wayne Grills (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Amanda Bloomer
Cllr Tom Coulthard
Cllr Rufus Gilbert
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Jax Williams
Cllr Philip Yates

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

14/101 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER

Cllr Coulthard was confirmed, and welcomed, as a co-opted member of the Town Council (KTC) and his Declaration of Acceptance was received.

14/102 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Matt Farrand, Steve Sidney and Keith Wingate. Cllr Gilbert was anticipated to arrive during the meeting.

Public Open Forum

Lindy Hingley and John Peacock made the statements at Annex A.

**14/103 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES**

103.1 Sgt Green reported on crime for November 2014; a total of 30 crimes had been committed compared to 35 crimes during the same period in 2013. Six people had been arrested of which 4 had been charged, 3 crimes had been dealt with via restorative justice, one person had been given a cannabis warning and another person had been summonsed to court. Others were still under investigation. Crimes had included 5 assaults; 4 had not involved injuries and one arrest had been made. There had been one commercial burglary where computer equipment had been stolen. Nine criminal damages included 5

incidents of graffiti over a weekend. Six shopliftings had resulted in 2 people being arrested and charged; another had been dealt with by restorative justice. Finally, there had been 2 drugs offences.

December's road safety theme was drink/drug driving to support the national pre-Christmas campaign. Cllr Grills, and Sam Acourt from the Kingsbridge Gazette, had attended the "Learn to Live" event on 27 November at Plymouth Pavilions as guests of the Police to receive a very powerful and moving series of presentations. A recent firearms amnesty had received 6 guns at the station alongside a variety of ammunition and a knife. The Neighbourhood Team had undertaken shoplifting preventative work with visit to shops to deliver crime prevention material and a run of 110 adverts over 2 weeks had been commissioned with Heart Radio to commence the following day across the South Hams.

Cllrs Bloomer, Griffin, Williams and Yates asked questions and Sgt Green responded that:

- DIY breathalysers could not be relied upon; any alcohol consumed affected driving ability and the clear message was that if people needed to drive they should not drink alcohol.
- There had been no leads gleaned to date regarding recent graffiti incidents.
- House burglaries were rare however, the fear of burglary caused great anxiety to the community.
- The Police Cadets were a super team and he would pass on the kind comments received from members regarding their attendance at Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas on 6 December.

Sgt Green left the Chamber

103.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that the Library pilots had been given the go ahead; Kingsbridge Library was not part of the scheme and was relatively safe. Devon County Council's (DCC) Cabinet would meet the following day with an important agenda including budgets, highways and care homes matters; the central government grant had been much reduced and it was probably inevitable that there would be cuts in services. At the full council meeting on 11 December he had tabled a motion for DCC to support a premium council tax for second homes as he considered this would raise much needed extra revenue for service provision. He noted a report that Kingsbridge had witnessed the greatest increase in house prices in the South West since 2007.

Cllr Coulthard asked if DCC was still looking for Horizons, former youth centre in Fore Street, to be transferred to a community group; Cllr Brazil replied that the authority was looking to reduce its assets and the option for transfer remained open.

103.3 District Cllr Wright reported that repairs to the wall at the head of the estuary were progressing and on schedule. The Churchstow housing project

was also progressing well and any lack of movement on site was due to one set of contractors having completed their task and awaiting another contractor to complete the next stage. Central government had announced that most S106 agreements (developer contributions) would no longer be sought from sites of 10 homes or less however, in the South Hams outside the main area centres i.e. Kingsbridge it was likely that the current policy would be maintained.

Cllr Yates commented that the high season overnight £2.00 parking charge (6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.) ended on 31 October however, the notice boards in Fore Street and Quay car parks were unclear and people continued to pay. Cllr Wright replied that he would check the situation.

County Cllr Brazil left the Chamber

14/104 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

14/105 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Balkwill declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 14/107 Planning Committee (minutes dated 18 November 2014); sub agenda item 14/69.4 (planning application 28/2767/14/O).

14/106 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the full council meeting held on 11 November 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14/107 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 18 November and 2 December 2014.

Cllr Gilbert entered the Chamber

14/108 PARKS & GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Parks & Green Spaces Committee held on 14 November 2014; save item 14/12.10 (croquet lawn proposal) which was deferred subject to further investigation.

**14/103 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES**

103.4 County Cllr Gilbert reported that Devon schools' results were in the top 10 in the country. Most DCC residential care homes had now closed. Services for children in care was much improved, including adoption and fostering, following Ofsted criticism. Salcombe had been included in the pilot scheme for Libraries. Three thousand people in Devon were living with Aids. There was an estimated £5m of unused drugs in private homes across the county. Winter flu jabs were now available. Spending on winter road conditions was £4 to £5m with between 14k and 30k tons of salt used each year. Finally, between 500 and 600 potholes were reported each week; at the former peak it was 3k per week.

14/109 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 2 December 2014. Members thanked Cllr Balkwill and the Town Clerk for their work on the draft budget for financial year 2015/16 which would be progressed.

14/110 TRIM TRAIL

Cllr Balkwill, chairman of the Trim Trail Working Group, provided a report on proposals for outdoor exercise equipment to be installed in Duncombe Park, the Recreation Ground and Quay House grounds. Members were delighted to receive news that an application to the Big Lottery Fund had been successful at £10k and the monies had been received. Much research had taken place and quotations had been considered from 3 potential equipment suppliers. Members received a recommendation from the Working Group which was supported. Close liaison would be required with SHDC as asset manager for the parks. It was **RESOLVED** to place an order for the installation of outdoor exercise equipment with Caloo at £25k.

14/111 TOWN AND PARISH (TAP) FUND

District Cllr Wright and the Town Clerk provided a report on proposals for a TAP Fund bid. The 2 councils had worked in partnership during previous rounds and had gained funding for various public realm improvements however, requests for repeat funding were unlikely to be successful. Therefore it was suggested to bid for the installation of interpretation boards to identify the history/places of interest in West Alvington village and the history/flora/fauna in Kingsbridge Cemetery. The boards to be of an identical style to others already in situ e.g. at Britton's Field. It was **RESOLVED** to submit a joint Town Council (KTC) and West Alvington Parish Council bid to the TAP Fund for 2 interpretation boards at £3,162.

14/112 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

112.1 Devon Remembers – Memorial Restoration Grant Scheme. Original funding had been aimed for projects over £750 and such works for Kingsbridge Memorial could not be justified however, a final round had now deleted the

minimum bid. Therefore a retrospective application for 75% of costs for recent stone work would be submitted at £318 alongside supportive comments from County Cllr Julian Brazil and John Peacock, Chairman RBL.

112.2 Community Road Warden Scheme. The scheme had been introduced to members at the last full council meeting and KTC had applied for the Town Clerk to be trained by DCC.

112.3 Highway Grass Cutting 2015/16. DCC confirmation (letter dated 18 November) had been received that annual funding, as anticipated, was very likely to be reduced next financial year with grass cutting confined to junctions and inside of bends only. KTC currently received £1,113 to action 4 cuts per annum of DCC areas in town. KTC supplemented the sum for 6 cuts/2 weed sprays. Provision for the above had been estimated in KTC's draft budget 2015/16.

112.4 KTC/Police Liaison Meeting. Cllrs Grills, Griffin, Jeeninga & Yates had met with Insp Leisk & Sgt Green on 17 November for an update and discussion on town matters including: crime statistics, night time economy, anti-social behaviour, speeding and shoplifting. A full 2 hour meeting covered much business and confidential notes were available for members to sight.

112.5 Thank Yous. Received for recent Grant Aid disbursements from: Rotary Club of Kingsbridge, Made By Youth, Kingsbridge Police Cadets and Kingsbridge Lawn Tennis Club.

14/113 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

113.1 Cllr Balkwill reported that Kingsbridge Playspaces was in a state of hibernation having enjoyed several successes over the years however, it would remain a constituted body should future projects come forward. Members agreed that the group had been pivotal for community life.

113.2 Cllr Yates had attended a recent meeting of the Twinning Society, the group was in good health and a Quiz evening would be held in January.

113.3 Cllr Price reported that Kingsbridge In Bloom was planning ahead for 2015 and an emergency general meeting had been called for the following day to receive proposals for changes to the group's constitution.

113.4 Cllr Gilbert reported that Kingsbridge Feoffees' business was progressing well.

113.5 Cllr Williams had attended a meeting of Home Start at its new base in Plymouth on 1 December. The organisation remained in contact with referral from Kingsbridge and would continue to support such families. Subject to funding Home Start wished to return to the town in the future.

113.6 Cllr Jeeninga and the Town Clerk, alongside District Cllrs Gilbert and Wright, had attended SHDC's Super Cluster Meeting on 26 November which received County Cllr John Hart (Leader DCC) update on the budget 2015/16. A key message was that DCC would be researching use of its subsidised bus services in the New Year and local communities should use their bus services or risk their reduction.

113.7 Cllrs Coulthard and Griffin had attended SHDC's youth services meeting on 27 November. Bids to the TAP Fund had been encouraged to employ a youth worker across the district or to provide transport from villages to area/local centres. There would be 8 area centres with the South Hams centre located in Totnes.

A wider report on youth services was then provided. KTC had already paid via Grant Aid for a Friday youth night at Quayside Leisure Centre. It was suggested that young people in town needed to be consulted to ascertain what they actually wanted. For example, C Card information regarding sexual health for young persons had been suspended but it was considered that there was a need for such a service. FAST, a community interest company based in Newton Abbot, had expressed an interest in re-introducing youth services from Horizons and had met with Cllrs Griffin and Grills recently, alongside the Town Clerk, to provide an update on their plans which included opening up the offices every day. Laura Underhill (FAST managing director) had been invited to make a presentation to full council as the project progressed.

14/114 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 9 December 2014. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £5,455.82 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

14/115 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was no business brought forward.

14/116 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Annex A to KTC minutes dated 9 December 2014

Public Open Forum

Lindy Hingley stated that her ambition was to erect a memorial to commemorate the animals which served in WW1 and WW2. She had strong connections with Kingsbridge particularly regarding the farming community and had a lifelong love of animals especially horses. She was aware that the Quay was used as a mustering point for horses during WW1 and had viewed the stunning photos held by Cookworthy Museum therefore the town would be a fitting location. She had liaised with the Royal British Legion, national monuments committee and local sculptors. Preliminary suggestions were for a sculpture 5 to 6 feet tall on a granite base and funding streams were being investigated. However, in the first instance, she wished to identify support from the local community in order to progress matters.

Members asked several questions and commented that she should liaise with the Cookworthy Museum and research a funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. It was then agreed to provide KTC support (by letter) for the proposal to erect a memorial to commemorate animals which served in WW1 and WW2.

John Peacock (Chairman of the Kingsbridge Branch of the Royal British Legion) supported the above proposal for an animal memorial which would be novel and likely to glean much publicity. However, it should not detract from the town Memorial located next to the estuary. It may be possible for the RBL to contribute some funding to the project.

Cllr Grills thanked Lindy and John for their statements.