

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2017**

Present: Cllr Chris Povey (Chairman)
Cllr David Baisie
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Philip Cole
Cllr Samantha Dennis
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Mike Jennings
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Jim Romanos

In Attendance: Alison Hernandez, Police & Crime Commissioner
Wendy Rowden, PCC Link Officer
County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Keith Wingate
Sgt David Green
Sam Acourt, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
3 Members of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

At the outset, Cllr Povey thanked Alison Hernandez and Wendy Rowden for attending the meeting and Cllr Balkwill for standing-in as Chairman recently.

17/88 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

It was confirmed that a Declaration of Acceptance of Office had been received from co-opted member Cllr Philip Cole.

17/89 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Dena Bex and Irene Jeeninga; and District Cllr Rufus Gilbert.

Public Open Forum

A member of public made the statement at Annex A.

17/90 POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER - PRESENTATION/Q&A

Alison Hernandez, Police & Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall (PCC), provided a report on her role and an overview of local policing. The salient points were:

- She had attended a drop-in at Tesco in late 2016 and received comments that Kingsbridge was a safe place and had super connectivity with the Police; she was now delighted to attend a council meeting.

- The Police and Crime Plan 2017-2020, co-produced with the Chief Constable, set out the strategic priorities for her term of office. It was now at the delivery stage.
- The Police budget last year was £283m with reserves at £69m which was being used to supplement revenue funding.
- 40% of funding came from the Precept and 60% from central government. There was a cap on Precept increase at 1.99% which was £3.40 for Band D council tax properties.
- Police officer numbers were below 3,000 but would be increased by 100.
- Current challenges included the detective role and ICT systems.
- She had supported the Chief Constable to reduce Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) however, there would be no redundancies. PCSOs could apply to become Police Staff Interrogators or Police Officers.
- She was also responsible for the Police estate; there were no plans for Kingsbridge Police Station.
- A key matter was the accessibility of policing and the 999 response time for Plymouth was 10 minutes however, rural areas were 30 to 40 minutes; equity was required.

A question and answer session followed:

- Members commented that elderly people appeared to have a fear of crime notwithstanding current statistics, there were long waiting times on 101 (non-emergency) and often the local Police resource was required by Torbay. The PCC replied that non-emergency information could be provided by email and young people tended to report via Facebook. At peak times 90% of 101 calls were answered within 5 minutes which had increased dramatically. There were different expectations from different people.
- Members reported that the PCSO role in Kingsbridge was pivotal and should not be diluted which was evidenced by the annual Have Your Say survey feedback. Nothing on the table could replace what Kingsbridge had at present. The PCC replied that the PCSO role would not be lost, Project Genesis was currently reviewing Neighbourhood Policing, she underlined that there would be no redundancies and it was an operational decision made by the Chief Constable. In Cornwall tri-officers had been introduced i.e. fire, first responder and PCSO to investigate new ways to deliver services.
- The PCC confirmed it was difficult to quantify the prevention of crime and recognised the strength of PCSOs during a time of change and flux.
- A deferred charge scheme had been introduced whereby cautions were replaced with a 4 month control package to attempt to stop people progressing through the criminal justice system unnecessarily.
- The PCC requested for the Town Council (KTC) to write and make her aware of specific issues as she wished to work with local councils and the public.
- The PCC was lobbying central government to lift the Precept cap at 1.99%. Devon & Cornwall shared many services with Dorset: human resources, training, finance, ICT, dogs and armed response to make efficiencies.
- Cllr Griffin had attended a recent South Devon & Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership event and the PCC advised for KTC to keep involved and engage with the CSP.

- The PCC would forward details of the Councillor Advocate scheme which could be of interest to KTC.

Cllr Povey thanked Alison for making time to visit Kingsbridge, for presenting her role and taking questions, which was much appreciated.

17/91 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

91.1 Sgt Green presented the Police report for September 2017. A total of 33 crimes had been committed; 16 crimes had been recorded during the same period in 2016 and 19 in 2015. One offender had been reported for summons, 2 community resolutions, 1 cannabis warning, there were 5 crimes where the offender was known but the Police were unable to take further action and other crimes were still under investigation. Crimes had included: 1 common assault, 2 actual bodily harm, 1 sexual offence (sexting), 3 threats/public order, 4 burglaries (non-dwelling), 12 thefts (including 7 work vans raided for their tools over 2 consecutive nights), 6 shopliftings, 3 criminal damages and 1 possession of drugs.

A Junior Life Skills event would take place on Friday 13 October for Year 6 primary school children; Police input would be about child online exploitation alongside Spiritulized. Kingsbridge Police Cadets had closed its doors after 8 years because the continued running of the group could not be guaranteed; it may be possible to re-launch if led by volunteers. Over 150 Cadets had enjoyed a structured activity; highlights had included 3 High Sheriff Cadets, participation in the Olympic Torch Relay, meeting the Queen and Duke of Cornwall community safety awards. Cllr Griffin had been an essential member of the team. Finally, a recent Crime Survey for England & Wales placed Devon & Cornwall first nationally for public confidence in the Police force scoring top in 6 out of 10 categories with an 85% total rating.

Sgt Green and Members of Public left the Chamber

91.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that Meg Booth was the new permanent head of highways at Devon County Council (DCC) and had been instrumental in local decisions e.g. use of Torcross car park during recent works. A final settlement had been made with central government for education however, Devon was near the bottom of the league table at £260 per child below the national average.

91.3 District Cllr Wingate reported that he had discussed charging points for electric cars with Cllr Dennis and agreed that facilities should be in the market towns; it had been previously investigated and he welcomed any efforts from KTC. South Hams District Council's (SHDC) Overview & Scrutiny Committee would meet on Thursday 12 October and the Executive the following week 19 October when a report on Kingsbridge Quayside would be received. The One Council consultation had ended and KTC's objection had been heard. He had attended a Harbour Board meeting on 25 September; a report to help keep plastics out of the estuary had been well received and Kingsbridge Fair Week would re-consider its balloon event. He was SHDC's representative on the PCC's Scrutiny Panel which had discussed the role of PCSOs at the last meeting and therefore he was pleased to hear Members'

comments. Kingsbridge Fire Service had 8 firefighters at present from a complement of 12; the volunteer role had been well advertised however, the required day cover was a concern.

Cllr Edmonds commented that the One Council survey did not allow people to say "No"; Cllr Wingate acknowledged that was the case but did not wish to pre-judge the consultation results.

Cllr Romanos stated that the Conservative government had reported its respect for the people and therefore SHDC cannot ignore the will of the people; Cllr Wingate replied that technically it could but it would not be a sensible to do. However, if One Council proposals were not agreed then effectively it would provide SHDC with a mandate to manage cuts.

Cllr Romanos further stated that KTC had not been given access to the Quayside masterplan consultation full data and had been invited to limited access to financial data at Follaton House; Cllr Wingate replied that he had also asked for the full raw data but had not viewed it to date. The survey results had vindicated what KTC, District Cllr Gilbert and himself had reported to SHDC.

17/92 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Povey agreed to take one item of urgent business at agenda item 17/101: Neighbourhood Plan.

17/93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Edmonds declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 17/96 (Property Committee) sub agenda item 17/29.3.

17/94 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Cllr Dennis reported that Kingsbridge Farmers Market was now the only one in the South Hams and the town should be proud. Traders had increased in numbers and there were still 2 markets per month with occasional markets on a 5th Saturday. Members asked if Fore Street Car Park had ever been considered for a market and Cllr Dennis would discuss with the manager Jennie Beardsley.

Cllr Romanos reported that the outcome of the One Council proposal was unknown but noted that if it progressed then local MPs would have a major say in the decision. KTC had objected to the proposal and it was Agreed to write to Dr Sarah Wollaston MP to report KTC's representations if required.

Cllr Povey reported that Jades Components Ltd had replied (letter dated 9 October 2017) to KTC's request for assistance to deliver a small housing development off Derby Road worked up by Kingsbridge Feoffees. The company reported that it had

received complaints about noise from residents in Rack Park Road during summer months (when windows were open) and when night shifts were operated. Jades was therefore wary of a development closer to their premises. Members noted it was a balancing act between trying to build affordable homes and supporting local firms. It was Agreed to note the response from Jades and to copy to Kingsbridge Feoffees.

17/95 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 19 September and 3 October 2017.

Members noted that SHDC's Executive on 19 October was likely to receive a report on the proposed Quayside masterplan; the agenda would be produced the following day. It was further **RESOLVED** for Cllrs Balkwill, Edmonds & Griffin to meet at 12.45 p.m. on 11 October to review the Quayside master plan report and formulate any questions for the SHDC Executive on 19 October.

17/96.1 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 26 September 2017; and to review a quotation under confidential matters.

It was further **RESOLVED** for Cllrs Baisie, Bex & Jennings to form a Working Group, alongside Reception staff, to make a recommendation for a Council Chamber upgrade to the next full council meeting.

17/97 BUS STATION

Cllr Fishman reported that SHDC was awaiting costs from DCC to deliver the proposed upgrade to the Bus Station which would require a reserve funding request to progress. Members noted the situation report and the Town Clerk would request a projected timeline for the project.

Cllr Fishman also reported on the new Plymouth-Kingsbridge-Dartmouth no.3 bus service run by Stagecoach which had shed 5 journeys in total at the beginning and end of the day. The new timetable would be operated by single decker buses rather than double to come into effect on Sunday 29 October. It was considered that this was a slippery slope to further dilution in services. Confirmation would be sought that all parish councils along the route were aware of the changes and all information would be circulated to Members. It was then **RESOLVED** for Cllrs Dennis & Fishman to draft a letter for Stagecoach to express KTC's concerns with the new timetable and to incorporate a request for a summer double decker service for tourists.

17/98 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

98.1 Mayors and Clerks Meeting. Cllr Balkwill and the Town Clerk had attended a meeting with SHDC's Leader and senior management team on 20 September

alongside other town councils. Discussion items had included SHDC updates on: One Council, Neighbourhood Plans, Joint Local Plan and General Service.

98.2 External Audit. Grant Thornton has concluded the audit for financial year 2016/17 ending 31 March 2017; the external auditor report and certificate had been signed with no matters arising and no other matters affecting their opinion.

98.3 Marine Plastic Litter. The Harbourmaster had drafted an open letter about how people can act responsibly regarding plastics and get #Plastic Clever in the Salcombe & Kingsbridge Estuary for joint signature by SHDC, town & parish councils and Information Centres. Cllr Dennis reported that it dovetailed with the aims of Plastic Free Kingsbridge and recent 'borrow a bag' initiative.

98.4 Highways Matters. Lisa Edmonds, DCC local highways officer, had met with the Town Clerk on 28 September to discuss a range of topical matters including:

- **Mobile VAS.** DCC internal request made for ground sockets to be installed in Kingsbridge. Specific locations in Cookworthy Road, Duncombe Street, Embankment Road, Stentiford Hill and West Alvington Hill to be determined. A TAP Fund grant at £1,819 expired in March 2018.
- **Pot Holes.** DCC funding at £1,750 had been received for KTC to repair local potholes. Repair material must be DCC authorised and was supplied by Instarmac by the pallet which comprises 52 tubs (each tub filled approx. 2 potholes) i.e. enough material for circa 100 potholes. Smaller quantities could be ordered. Shelf life was 6 months and a tub cost £10.00. KTC was not authorised to fix potholes on the A379 but can manage all other roads. Risk assessments in accordance with the Road Warden scheme to be actioned. KTC method was to purchase labour/fix via the grounds maintenance contractor. Storage of materials was a potential issue (Property Committee minute 17/38).
- **Promenade Planters.** Eight wooden square planters in The Promenade had been formally transferred from DCC to KTC and added to the Asset Register. KTC had taken on all responsibilities for the planters and any planting therein.
- **Eastern Backway.** Grafitti was painted on doors and external walls of private and commercial properties and therefore was not a DCC matter. It could be problematic trying to establish ownership and responsibility if indeed, landowners agreed to act. Vegetation had been partially DIY chopped along the Backway however, lots of cuttings had been left in situ. It probably required further cutting but was not a big enough task for the community payback scheme.
- **Sorley Cross.** DCC outcome of its investigation awaited; competing with 67 other sites across the county for an improvement scheme to be worked up. Even if it made the cut to be progressed capital funding would require authorisation.
- **A Boards.** Enforcement of unauthorised A boards continued. The highways officer visited 2 businesses on the day to give advice about signs which were taken in.

- **New Bollards.** Donovans had requested bollards like others in Fore Street. They had not been installed in March due to the narrow width of pavement at this location i.e. a double buggy could not pass through. DCC to review.
- **Embankment Road Closure.** Earmarked in July for closure in both directions in vicinity of the Crabshell Inn for Western Power Distribution works 6-10 November. KTC had suggested one lane closure via traffic lights. No application had been made to date.
- **Faded Road Markings.** White triangles on pedestrian courtesy crossings in Fore Street had been identified for re-painting. Timeline unknown.
- **Bridge & Church Street Pavement Works.** DCC had confirmed there was no budget for installation of bollards like those in Fore Street.

98.5 Data Protection Bill. New regulations would come into force in May 2018 with a requirement for local councils to appoint a Data Protection Officer.

98.6 Town & Parish Council Event. DCC and SHDC would provide updates (draft budgets for FY 2018/19 and hot topics) to local councils at 6.30 p.m. on Monday 27 November in the Cary Room at Follaton House, Totnes.

98.7 DCC (Various Roads South Hams) (Waiting Restrictions) Amendment Order 2017. Issued on 27 September included: Embankment Road, Highfield Drive, Montagu Road, Redford Way and Warren Road.

17/99 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

Cllr Griffin reported on Kingsbridge In Bloom's fantastic performance in 2017 winning RHS Britain In Bloom Gold Award, Best in Class (Small Town) and Best Website in the South West in Bloom competition. Members supported a letter of thanks to be sent to KIB.

17/100 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 10 October 2017. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £10,473.90 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

17/101 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Povey reported upon a Devon Communities Together training course "Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning" he had attended alongside the Town Clerk and provided the positives and negatives of KTC's ambition to work-up a plan. After a full discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to arrange:

- a Neighbourhood Development Plan presentation to all Members, and
- an independent meeting with people who had expressed an interest in the "Kingsbridge: Local Homes for Local People" project.

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders 3.w (meeting time limit of 2.5 hours)

17/102 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions for Cllr Povey.

17/96.2 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

The Press left the Chamber

PROPERTY COMMITTEE – Quotations 17/40.1

Committee Members had received a quotation to re-lamp the original run of festoon lights with new bulbs to match the recent extension to the Memorial Shelter, the committee then considered a more cost-effective option to retain all current old/bulbs and to interchange the same. It was noted that no representations had been received regarding the contrast in brightness of the original/extension runs and after discussion it was **RESOLVED** to take no further action.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

Public Open Forum.

Annex to KTC minutes dated 10 October 2017

Public Open Forum

Steve Arblaster stated that the Quayside Masterplan options report was due to be published the following day however, the Kingsbridge community had not had a major voice to date. He suggested that a further survey was required, had submitted a proposal to the Town Clerk regarding engagement with the local community and was willing to give up some of his own time to assist.

Cllr Povey thanked Steve for his input and reported that Members would review the report and consider KTC's next steps. Cllr Romanos reported that KTC was working hard and had provided thorough and robust feedback to SHDC.