

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 12 JULY 2016

Present: Cllr Chris Povey (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Tom Coulthard
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Wayne Grills
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Mike Jennings
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Jim Romanos

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

16/41 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

It was confirmed that a Declaration of Acceptance of Office had been received from newly co-opted member Cllr Mike Jennings.

16/42 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sandy Gilbert and Kate Lynn and County/District Cllr Rufus Gilbert.

Public Open Forum

Samantha Short and Margaret Morgan made the statements at Annex A.

Two members of public left the Chamber

16/43 REPORTS FROM POLICE AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

43.1 Sgt Green reported on crime for June 2016; a total of 18 crimes had been committed compared to 17 crimes during the same period in 2015 and 20 in 2014. One person had been arrested and charged, 3 people had been dealt with by community resolution, one youth caution and others were still under investigation. Crimes included: 6 violent crimes, 2 actual bodily harm, 4 common assault, nil burglary (dwelling) and one non-dwelling (at Dodbrooke Church), 2 shopliftings, 2 other thefts, 2 criminal damage to parked cars, 2 bilking (making off without payment), one attempted arson, one incitement to engage in a sex act and one controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship. The latter was

a new offence which had replaced domestic abuse. July's road safety theme was driver distraction e.g. mobile phones. There had been a spike in marine crime at Salcombe with boat engines and dinghies stolen. The Police were appealing for any incidents of racist/hate crime to be reported following the EU Referendum result however, Sgt Green was confident that Kingsbridge remained a tolerant community. Finally, 2 officers were due to receive national bravery awards the following day from the Prime Minister.

Cllr Jeeninga commented on the effectiveness of the Police community messaging service which had identified a group of men who were apprehended in Fore Street. Cllr Griffin, supported by fellow Members, congratulated the 2 local officers for their bravery awards.

Sgt Green left the Chamber

43.2 District Cllr Wingate reported that South Hams District Council (SHDC) had received a business plan for the proposal to transfer some of its service delivery to a local authority controlled company (LACC). A LACC would provide to make a profit at arm's length from SHDC itself. He had interrogated the plan and felt it fell a long way short of the requirement; further clarity and reassurance was needed. The plan which had cost £120k included non-recoverable set-up costs at £400k.

Fore Street Car Park had been included within the Joint Local Plan consultation for housing development site allocations; with more housing and more people he could not understand why SHDC would wish to give-up car parking. Moreover, he was aware of covenants on the car park which provided access to the rear of properties in Fore Street.

43.3 County Cllr Brazil had taken stock of Sgt Green's report and reflected on his super team of Police officers. He was conscious of recent crime activity in the harbour and estuary however, the Harbour Authority's security was high tech, security patrols had increased working alongside Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Watch and hopefully security per se was being stepped up. Marine crime had also increased in Brixham and Plymouth. Seemingly, the criminals had not arrived by vehicle and had instead rowed in and away. He had noted Mrs Morgan's comments about surface water drains during the Public Open Forum and wished to congratulate District Cllr Wingate's Flood Resilience Team however, if Devon County Council (DCC) were unable to clear gullies then it may require the Town Council (KTC) to pay for purchase further drain clearance. The following day's Cabinet meeting would discuss devolution which was being driven by central government however, Devon was working alongside Somerset, Plymouth, Torbay and Dartmoor therefore the regional process was democratic. The meeting would also discuss the post-16 education transport policy and he hoped that cuts would not be made. Finally, he was aware of KTC's continuing engagement with DCC in order to improve Fore Street and make it safer; a request for greater enforcement of parking in loading bays had been requested. The offenders either did not understand or did not care. Physical barriers to stop vehicles parking on the eastern pavement were an option to be considered or the whole footpath could be tarmac.

A discussion of Fore Street followed and Members asked questions and made comments:

- DCC had considered KTC's request for funding to complete Stein-tec pavement repairs however, the works were not in the capital programme for the current financial year.
- The condition of the pavement was a regular conversation among local residents and people did not reports falls/accidents.
- As a primary walking route the pavement was checked twice per month during summer.
- Pavement repairs on completion of utilities' works were subsequently checked by DCC.
- Tarmacing the eastern pavement could legitimise parking upon it.
- There were not enough Police or DCC officers to enforce.
- Current "loading bay" signs could be replaced by "goods vehicle loading only" alongside timing and return limit.
- KTC may be willing to make a financial contribution towards the overall cost of repairs.
- Fore Street highways matters were a critical matter and KTC wished to work alongside DCC to come up with solutions in order to improve pedestrian and vehicular access and use.

Cllr Coulthard commented that speeding in the estuary occurred between Widegates to Bowcombe Bridge and at the mouth of the Charleton Creek despite a 6 knot limit; Cllr Brazil would make the Harbour Authority aware.

County Cllr Brazil, District Cllr Wingate and a member of public left the Chamber

16/44 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Povey agreed to take 2 items of urgent business:

- at agenda item 16/56.1 – new premises licence application for The Quay, and
- at agenda item 16/56.2 (confidential) – quotation for public realm works off Old Plymouth Road.

16/45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16/46 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

16/47 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 21 June 2016 and 5 July 2016.

Subsequent to the meetings SHDC had invited Members to meet the LHC/Montagu Evans design team appointed to produce a masterplan for Allocated Site K2 (Quayside); Cllrs Balkwill, Griffin and Povey agreed to attend the session on 18 July 2016.

It was further **RESOLVED** to:

- hold a working group at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 26 July 2016 to consider Kingsbridge site allocations for housing/employment and to make recommendations for the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (JLP),
- invite comments from the Chamber of Commerce and Tom Sylger-Jones (local planning officer) on the same.

16/48 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 21 June 2016.

16/49 POLICY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Policy Committee held on 5 July 2016.

16/50 EVENTS POLICY

Members were in receipt of a draft response and draft events policy to respond to SHDC's deadline of 29 July 2016 for feedback on its consultation. KTC's working group had met on 2 occasions and the matter had been discussed at the last 2 full council meetings. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the draft Events Policy for Kingsbridge and to propose the same to SHDC.

16/51 BUS STOP – FORE STREET

It was reported that the 'built-out' bus stop in upper Fore Street was perceived to be a pedestrian crossing point and several accidents had occurred when people stepped off the high pavement. Seemingly, the stop was within regulation heights to alight from buses. A discussion followed and it was then **RESOLVED** to arrange a meeting with Adam Keay, DCC highways officer, to discuss the bus stop in Fore Street; Cllrs Jeeninga and Povey to attend.

16/52 WATER MAINS – HIGHFIELD DRIVE

It was reported that several homes in Highfield Drive, and neighbouring roads, had endured hardship/flooding due to the frequency of burst water mains. Mr & Mrs Kirk had communicated their flooding issues to the Sarah Wollaston MP and a meeting had taken place between the couple and South West Water (SWW). Following the last burst 8m of main outside their property had been replaced and related works were planned to include reducing the pressure by 3 bar to take the strain off the main. Members took stock of the current situation and it was then **RESOLVED** to

write to SWW to lobby for a mains replacement scheme for the whole estate as soon as possible.

16/53 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

52.1 Annual Report. Produced for the period May 2015-May 2016 on the website and with paper copies available in Quay House. Members were requested to critique as the format could be changed for 2016-2017.

52.2 Tranquillity Trail. Leaflets had been produced and distributed to the Library, Information Centre and Medical Centre alongside Quay House. Also uploaded to website and Facebook with a Press release issued. The Trail and leaflet had been designed by Professor Greg Watts in liaison with Cllrs Gilbert & Price and Laura Cregan. It was anticipated for the Tranquillity Trail leaflet to be reviewed and amended.

52.3 Team Photo. Suggested previously with the potential for taking at the September full council meeting.

52.4 Recreation Ground – pond repairs. Budgeted for £1.3k from Reserves; actual cost £990.

52.5 Goalposts – security. Stainless steel hoops had been purchased to secure the portable 5-a-side goalposts (Duncombe Park & Recreation Ground) in accordance with recent guidelines. However, they had also been assessed as being a potential risk i.e. could be pulled out of the ground and thrown. It was agreed to review the risk assessment for use of the goalposts.

52.6 Traffic Regulation Order. Proposed double yellow lines from the Crabshell Inn to The Moorings and along part of Fosse Road (from junction with Buckwell Road) would be added to the forthcoming DCC Traffic Regulation Order public consultation. Plans were available for Members.

52.7 Thank you. From Kingsbridge & District Camera Club (letter dated 20 Jun 16) for recent Grant Aid.

52.8 Fair Week assistance. Members had been requested to assist in collections during Fair Week and an email had been circulated.

52.9 Skate Park. PCSO Ashley Hawkes and the Town Clerk had met with Teagan Bryne, co-ordinator of a local skate park group, earlier that day to discuss the Skate Park near the Slipway in Quay Car Park. Information was shared and Teagan would feedback with a 'wish list' from skate boarders to be considered.

52.10 Licensees' Meeting. Cllrs Griffin and Jennings had met alongside Licensees, Sgt Green, Peter Cosby (Police Licensing) and Louisa Daley (SHDC Community Safety Partnership) on 7 July to discuss topical matters.

**16/54 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND
AUTHORITIES**

54.1 Cllr Price reported that Kingsbridge In Bloom judging had taken place the previous day and had gone as best possible. Members supported a letter of thanks to the group for their super efforts around the town.

54.2 Cllr Coulthard reported that the Family Fun Day in the Recreation Ground on Sunday 3 July had been really successful and many compliments regarding the park had been received.

16/55 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 12 July 2016. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £12,202.55 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**16/56.1 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:
NEW PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATION FOR THE QUAY**

Members received a new premises licence for The Quay, 1-3 Fore Street, Kingsbridge; the premises had planning approval to be converted from a pub to a shop at ground floor level. It was **RESOLVED** to make no objections for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises Monday to Sunday from 6.00 a.m. to midnight at The Quay and to feedback to SHDC Licensing accordingly.

16/57 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

57.1 Cllr Griffin asked if a press release had been issued to acknowledge Wayne Grills tenure as a town councillor and Town Mayor. Cllr Povey replied that this was not normal practice and a thank you letter celebrating Wayne's immense service had been sent to him.

57.2 Cllr Price stated that a resident of Library Court had made him aware that a security light on Quay House shone into his home and asked if something could be done about it. The Town Clerk, on behalf of the Chairman, replied that a deflector would be sourced and fixed.

16/58 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 the press left the Chamber

16/59 CASUAL VACANCY

Members noted that North Ward electors (10 or more) had until 21 July to request an election to determine the current councillor vacancy. It was **RESOLVED** that should an election not be called the position should be advertised via a press release to the Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette.

**16/56.2 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:
QUOTATION FOR PUBLIC REALM WORKS OFF OLD PLYMOUTH ROAD**

Members received a quotation for an agreed vegetation cut in the public area at the head of Old Plymouth Road and footpath works at the adjacent bus stop/railway bridge. It was **RESOLVED** to action the vegetation cut at Old Plymouth Road and to conduct a site visit at 6.15 p.m. Tuesday 13 September 2016 (prior to the next full council meeting) to discuss related footpath works.

The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Samantha Short of Kingsbridge Information Centre stated that the Rivermaid ferry (Kingsbridge-Salcombe) had not run during 2016 to date and was unlikely to run for the remainder of the year. She had spoken to the operator, Peter Moule, and the ferry remained for sale and was available to charter. A Maritime & Coastguard Agency licence was required. The current position needed to be placed in the public domain with notices in Quay Car Park for visitors. Moreover, Peter Moule should be thanked for his services over the years.

Cllr Povey requested comments from County Cllr Julian Brazil, Chairman of the Harbour Board, and District Cllr Keith Wingate, Harbour Board member. The non-operation of the ferry was disappointing however, there was no monopoly for the current operator, anyone with the required licence could run a ferry and a potential new operator could use the Kingsbridge pontoon as there was space to land a boat. The Harbour Board supported a Kingsbridge-Salcombe ferry to encourage people to take trips. Indeed, dredging would take place shortly to extend to a 6 hour window for landing/departing from the pontoons and fees were being reviewed. It was not planned for the Harbour Board to purchase the Rivermaid or its own ferry however, if a viable business case was produced which earmarked a return on an investment then it would be considered. In summary, the Harbour Board would help and support anyone who wished to run a Kingsbridge to Salcombe ferry.

Kingsbridge Information Centre agreed to publicise that the Kingsbridge-Salcombe ferry was not operating and Cllr Povey agreed for an agenda item on the matter at the next full council meeting to be held on 13 September.

2. Margaret Morgan stated that in April she had reported to Devon County Council that all surface water drains in Embankment Road, from the town centre to Derby Road, were full of silt and water did not drain away causing large puddles in the highway. No action had been taken.

Cllr Povey replied that DCC had commissioned Exjet to conduct a package of works in Kingsbridge and there may be an opportunity to incorporate Embankment Road. The Town Clerk further reported that DCC normally only cleared drains which had water standing for more than 24 hours however, a priority request would be made.