

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2016**

Present: Cllr Anne Balkwill (Chairman)
Cllr David Baisie
Cllr Tom Coulthard
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Sandy Gilbert
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Mike Jennings
Cllr Kate Lynn
Cllr Graham Price

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

16/125 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Chris Povey and Jim Romanos.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

16/126 REPORTS FROM POLICE AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

126.1 Sgt Green reported on crime for November 2016; a total of 15 crimes had been committed compared to 20 during the same period in 2015 and 32 in 2014. There had been 2 arrests (and both charged), one community resolution, one Harassment Act warning issued and others were still under investigation. Crimes included 3 non-injury assaults, one minor injury assault (from August), one harassment, 2 sexual offences, one criminal damage, 2 shopliftings, 2 miscellaneous thefts, one drink driver, one possession of cannabis and one dog out of control. December's national road safety theme was drink/drug driving. Cadets had visited shops during Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas to distribute crime prevention material. There had been recent burglaries in Chillington and car crime in Loddiswell. The Have Your Say Survey day on 14 November by town councillors, Police officers and Exeter University students had received 274 completed questionnaires with 271 respondents feeling safe or very safe. The main issues were parking, greater Police presence, street lighting, highway maintenance and

speeding. In response to a question, he reported that recorded crime was 25% of Police business with 75% non-crime work including missing persons, road accidents and vulnerable people.

Sgt Green left the Chamber

126.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that he was mindful of comments made during the Public Open Forum regarding car parking restrictions and that Devon County Council's (DCC) current proposal for the introduction of 'no waiting at any time' was a true consultation and local residents' feedback would be taken into account. Fore Street pavement repairs would commence early January until late February. All car parking and loading bays on the western side of the road were required. Cabling for electric vehicle charging points was likely to be introduced at the same time. He had noted recent Gazette reports regarding a local protest against a Spar/Subway in the former Quay public house however, there was not much that councils could do about the situation. He considered that the bigger issue was to retain and attract greater footfall in Fore Street e.g. a mobility scooter system. Too many people drove through Fore Street rather than using the Cookworthy Road bypass. At a recent highways meeting the road warden scheme was addressed and it was considered that it did not deliver in rural areas. An alternative project may be to provide cash direct to local councils; £100k funding was available via the current scheme. Finally, as the NHS rearranged its services across Devon the South Hams Hospital appeared to be safe at present however, the community had to be vigilant.

126.3 County Cllr Gilbert reported that Exeter, Plymouth, Torbay and Teignmouth were exploring the formation of a new unitary authority which would divide the county and isolate rural areas. The South Hams had not been invited to take part in discussions and he would be carefully monitoring the situation. Elderly care was a growing issue across Devon with one person in 5 over 65 years which would increase to 1 in 4 by 2021. This may affect DCC's budget and had major cost implications for Devon's Clinical Commissioning Group. At present 30% of people in hospital were effectively bed blocking which caused muscle wastage and depression; the issue was that there was nobody at home to care for them. The Town Council (KTC) had supported Loddiswell Parish Council in their quest to improve the B3196 from California Cross northwards to Wrangaton. He had met with the head of highways, pinch points had been identified and the profile of the case had been raised however, it was likely to be a 10 year timeline for improvements.

Cllr Edmonds commented that not enough money could be raised locally for health care and it had to be funded centrally; County Cllr Gilbert agreed and DCC would be lobbying central government for more funding. The distribution of health wealth was unfair as people tended to retire to the south west hence the county needed to provide greater elderly care than elsewhere. Members supported a letter to Sarah Wollaston MP (copy to John Hart, DCC leader) lobbying for greater central government funding to top-up local council tax revenues.

Cllr Price commented that 2 large BT boxes had been installed between the mosaics on Peacocks external wall without any consultation with KTC; Cllr Gilbert noted the situation and would be content to receive all related information.

126.4 District Cllr Gilbert reported that South Hams District Council's (SHDC) mechanical sweepers were doing a good job and covered much space at a fast rate. This had proved invaluable during the recent heavy leaf fall. Pollarding in the Town Square had commenced, bottle banks were being cleared and KTC's top-up of recycling bags was underway. He had also read recent Gazette articles and was aware of the No to Spar/Subway campaign; he could see positives and negatives but had no further comment.

126.5 District Cllr Wingate reported that the 'red lines' he had reported upon previously regarding the proposed Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) had been cleared however, revenue and income had to be further explored. He considered the proposals for the former Quay public house would be positive for the building. The introduction of a Spar/Subway related to a national trend and everyone was guilty; the world had changed and there was nothing that anyone could do about it. Ultimately whether shopping at a national chain or independent shop his message was: "keep your business in town".

Cllr Price reported that the installation of recycling bays in the Recreation Ground, funded largely by DCC and SHDC ward members, was progressing well.

16/127 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Balkwill agreed to take one item of urgent business at agenda item 16/140: "Damaged Planters – Embankment Road".

County Cllr Brazil, County/District Cllr Gilbert & District Cllr Wingate left the Chamber

16/128 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16/129 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

16/130 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 15 November and 6 December 2016. Members supported Cllr Griffin and the Town Clerk to reply to SHDC Development Management regarding the administration of planning application 2574/16/OPA (Dennings).

16/131 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 15 November 2016. The draft budget would be re-considered at the committee meeting on 3 January 2017 alongside Members' support for Grant Aid to Saltstone Caring to be considered.

16/132 POLICY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Policy Committee held on 22 November 2016.

16/133 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 6 December 2016.

16/134 FARMERS MARKET

Members received from SHDC a diary of proposed dates for the Farmers Market in 2017 to be held in the Town Square. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to feedback to SHDC the following:

- support for 1st and 3rd Saturdays as requested throughout 2017 apart from June 3rd and July 15th,
- June 3rd fell within the annual Food & Music Festival weekend and it is recommended that the Festival should have use of the Town Square (however, the Farmers Market is offered the use of Quay House car park if it wishes to run alongside the Festival),
- July 15th is the first Saturday of the annual Kingsbridge Fair Week and it is recommended that Fair Week should have primacy of the Town Square (noting that it may be possible to accommodate the Farmers Market within that day's programme of events), and
- objection to 5th Saturdays (April 29th, July 29th and September 30th) because the top end of Fore Street, notably fresh food outlets, usually has less footfall while the Farmers Market runs and to have 2 consecutive markets (i.e. 5th and 1st Saturdays) is deemed to be unfair to independent shops which paid business rates.

16/135 COASTAL COMMUNITIES TEAM

Members received from the DR Company an invitation for a representative from KTC to join the local Coastal Communities Team which would oversee the development of an economic plan for South Devon. It was **RESOLVED** to nominate Cllr Fishman to represent KTC on the Coastal Communities Team; with Cllr Price as back-up.

16/136 CONTROL OF WAITING AMENDMENT ORDER

Members received from DCC proposals for the introduction or extension of "no waiting at any time" areas in Montagu Close, Warren Road, Embankment Road, Redford Way, Montagu Road, Fosse Road, Buckwell Road and Highfield Drive. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to feedback to DCC the following:

- support for all the proposals in South Hams (Control of Waiting) Amendment Order dated 25 November 2016 relating to Kingsbridge,
- to identify that the eastern most location of proposed double yellow lines in Montagu Road appeared to take in an advisory disabled parking bay, and
- support for further double yellow lines in the south of Fosse Road for a circa 2 car length opposite the junction with Buckwell Road.

16/137 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

137.1 Have Your Say Survey (Police, Town Council & Exeter University) 14 November 2016. Further to Sgt Green's report numerous local government matters had been earmarked with car parking at no.1.

137.2 Car Parking Enforcement (DCC & Town Council) Meeting 15 November 2016. John Ireland, DCC Operations Team Leader (West), had met with Cllrs Balkwill, Jeeninga and Price to discuss several enforcement matters.

137.3 Licensees (Police, Town Council & Partner Agencies) Meeting 17 November 2016. Notes from the meeting would be distributed to all Members.

137.4 Police & Town Council Liaison Meeting 5 December 2016. Notes from the meeting would be distributed to all Members.

137.5 BT green boxes installation adjacent to mosaics at Peacocks store. Representations had been received that the boxes were ugly and spoilt the view of the mosaics. BT had consulted DCC as the area was 'highway maintained at public expense'; KTC had not been consulted. The boxes could not be moved elsewhere.

137.6 'Town Centre' directions sign at Quay roundabout. DCC had agreed to install a sign to earmark the town centre driving in a Plymouth-Dartmouth direction; the timeline was unknown.

137.7 Town Crier request for assistance. For an overseas competition would be received at the forthcoming Finance Committee meeting.

137.8 Neighbourhood Plan meeting. Members had already agreed to be worked up in the New Year with invitations to: SHDC planning officer, Chamber of Commerce, Kingsbridge Information Centre, West Alvington & Churchstow Parish Councils, local architects and local interest groups e.g. Spar/Subway protest group.

137.9 Fore Street loading/parking bays prohibition. Further to County Cllr Brazil's report a DCC notice had been received that day to stop the use of bays from 3 January to 24 February 2017 and further detail was awaited. The Town Clerk would issue a press release to alert traders and local residents.

16/138 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

138.1 Cllrs Gilbert and Jeeninga had attended Saltstone Caring's annual general meeting. A recent 'raising awareness' session had been well received at Tesco.

138.2 Cllr Gilbert had also attended the SHDC and Fusion Lifestyle ceremony for the new leisure contract on 1 December 2016 which had been a very worthwhile event; Fusion anticipated improving the provision of outreach work.

138.3 Cllr Balkwill had attended a recent Chamber of Commerce committee meeting; support was provided for a Fore Street entry into the Great British High Street competition and the Chamber wished to be involved. It also supported a survey of Fore Street businesses by KTC. A recent power cut had been due to a fault at the sub station in Mill Street. The future of the former Quay public house had been discussed and the Chamber did not have concerns. Members supported a letter of thanks be sent to the Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas committee.

16/139 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 13 December 2016. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £17,926.55 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**16/140 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:
DAMAGED PLANTERS – EMBANKMENT ROAD**

Members received from DCC information relating to 2 large wooden flower planters in Embankment Road which had been heavily damaged in a recent vehicle incident. The authority had provided 4 options and earmarked 2 for consideration by KTC. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to lobby County Cllrs Brazil and Gilbert that DCC should progress an insurance claim against a 3rd party for the planters to be replaced.

16/141 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman.

16/142 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.

16/143 LAND OFF DERBY ROAD

It was reported that Kingsbridge Feoffees was working up a planning application for KTC's remaining land off Derby Road and the concept was for 2 x 2 semi-detached houses and 1 plus 1 flats i.e. 6 dwellings total. The Feoffees had an option agreement to purchase the land off KTC within a 10 year period ending August 2018 with the price to be agreed by the 2 parties. It was **RESOLVED** to gain a land valuation from a local estate agents.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Bruce Kemp, Embankment Road, stated that he was aware of DCC proposals to extend 'no waiting at any time' in Embankment Road. There was already no parking outside his own property and he parked in Warren Road and was conscious not to upset residents in the locale. He considered that a Residents Parking Scheme should be introduced for Embankment Road for local residents only.

The Town Clerk, on behalf of the Chairman, replied that DCC had tightened its rules for the introduction of residents parking schemes and he would forward the information to Mr Kemp.

Mr Kemp also reported that a scrap metal van parked outside Jewsons often leaked liquids and was unsightly.

Cllr Povey replied that KTC had recently investigated the matter with the Police, DCC and SHDC. The van's owner had a scrap collector's licence and there was no illegal practice taking place. He suggested Mr Kemp should take photos if he witnessed any further discharges.

2. Leslie Pengelly, Buckwell Road, had also reviewed DCC's proposals. He held concerns regarding the junction at Buckwell Road/Fosse Road and suggested that 'no waiting at any time' should also be introduced on the southern side of Fosse Road opposite said junction for a length of circa 2 cars. Members supported the suggestion; to be brought up when the agenda item was discussed.