

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2015 AT 6.00 P.M. IN QUAY HOUSE

Present: Cllr Wayne Grills (Chairman)
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Kate Lynn

In attendance: Cllr Sandy Gilbert
Cllr Chris Povey
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

15/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

Public Open Forum

There were no members of public present.

15/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15/09 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 7 July 2015 were approved as a correct record.

15/10 PRIORITIES & AMBITIONS FOR 2015-2019

Members were in receipt of the listing of Priorities & Ambitions for 2015-2019 which had been adopted at the full council meeting held on 9 June 2015; all items were carefully considered. It was **RECOMMENDED** to progress various projects as detailed at Annex A.

Cllr Jeeninga reported that some local councils had earmarked the current refugee crisis as a priority community action with families willing to take in refugees. Members noted that South Hams District Council (SHDC) has also discussed the issue. It was **RECOMMENDED** to await information from principal authorities regarding the refugee crisis.

15/11 PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN KINGSBRIDGE – PROPOSED STRATEGY

Members were in receipt of a report from Cllr Fishman which addressed the maintenance and improvement of the town's bus service via its infrastructure and service provision. A lengthy discussion was held and fellow members raised several questions. It was then **RECOMMENDED** to:

- Request SHDC to make improvements to the Kingsbridge Bus Station in order to provide better signage and information to include: a system to identify bus bays to end the current practice of members of public wandering across lanes, in front of incoming buses, to find their stop.
- Request SHDC to either provide ramps to the bus bays or redesign the bus bays themselves in order to make them accessible for disabled persons.

- Support the progression of the report's proposals to enhance the current town bus service to include: a request for 160 Tally Ho and Coleridge bus passenger statistics and to communicate with both operators to ascertain if their current services could be expanded.

15/12 STREET LIGHTING – OLD PLYMOUTH ROAD

Members were in receipt of a report for street lighting in Old Plymouth Road. It was a well-trodden route for Northville Park residents for access to/from the town centre however, it was pitch black at night and intimidating due to lack of street lighting. DCC Lighting Officer had informed KTC that Western Power cables were in the area however, the authority had no budget for the provision of new or additional street lighting. KTC could pay for a new street light to be installed to DCC specifications at circa £2k and the authority would be prepared to take on future maintenance, power supply and repair costs. DCC had also advised that the area would benefit from a major trim of trees and vegetation to reduce dark shadows and suggested that such work would be required if the effectiveness of a new street light was not to be restricted. A lengthy discussion was held and it was then **RECOMMENDED** to conduct a survey with Archery Close, Northville Park and Old Plymouth Road residents by way of hand-delivered questionnaires to glean their opinions on the proposal for a new street light in Old Plymouth Road.

15/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 19 January 2016 at 6.30 p.m.

Annex:

A. Priorities/Ambitions for 2015-2019.

The meeting closed at 8.17 p.m.

Kingsbridge Town Council

PRIORITIES/AMBITIONS FOR 2015-2019 (with related comments in red at 6 Oct 15)

Community facilities

Build a community centre

Long-term project.

Extend the decorative lights along the Quayside to the Memorial Shelter

- Already committed but currently on hold due to condition of the estuary wall.
- Town Clerk report to full council 8 Sep 15: SHDC repairs to estuary wall scheduled to be completed in 12 months but likely that the footway may still be deemed unsuitable.

Support for Kings Arms to be registered as a 'community asset'

- South Hams Society leading.
- Full council 8 Sep 15 requested SHDC ward members for the authority to lobby the landowner to conduct maintenance on the building; feedback received that SHDC's Conservation Officer will conduct a visual inspection e.g. gutters overflowing.

Heritage

Heritage trail

- Working Group inaugural meeting 8 Sep 15. Next meeting scheduled for 3 Nov 15.
- Cllrs Balkwill, Edmonds, Griffin & Grills alongside Museum, History Society, U3A, Information Centre and local residents.

Open spaces

Re-locate the Quay toilets at the head of the estuary

- Long-term project. Within extant Kingsbridge DPD K2 development boundary.
- Suggestion that a tiled mosaic could make the exterior more attractive.

Continue earmarking £15k per annum from the annual budget to fund refits of children's play areas and Trim Trail

£71,254.16 to date (deposited One Year Business Bond maturity 1 Jun 16).

Way marking for pedestrians to get them around town/signpost places of interest (probable working group required)

Full audit of Fore Street

- Material condition, fixtures and fittings, car parking, accessibility etc.
- Cllrs Edmonds & Griffin to progress with findings to be received by full council in due course. Caroline Ross' Ropewalk Centre students willing to take photographs 13 Oct 15.

Busking Weekend

- Cllrs Gilbert & Griffin to progress in due course.
- Possible charity event on Saturday 30 Apr 16 (to be confirmed).

Youth facilities & involvement

Full size football pitch for the town

- SHDC Executive 10 Sep 15 reported Section 106 funds from K1 & K5 development sites (outline approval granted) to be directed to new football facilities; identified that KTC will be consulted.
- Cllrs Grills & Lynn to attend SHDC S106 Open Space, Sport & Recreation training session 4 Nov 15.

Greater engagement with young people

- Working Group of Cllrs Coulthard, Griffin, Grills & Williams has met 2 Oct 15.
- Liaison with Wendy Ohlson at Kingsbridge Community College and suggestions for KTC projects alongside students
- Probably budget required for FY 2015/16.

Disabled facilities

Greater accessibility to council meetings

Disabled toilet in Quay House

Andrew Lethbridge has visited and will provide a quotation for plans.

Vibrant local economy

Sustain/promote the local economy/shops

- Working Group of Cllrs Jeeninga, Lynn & Povey to invite other traders on board.
- Discussion items to include: purchase "Businesses open as usual" (with KTC logo) to be used during road closures, lobbying SHDC for free car parking on Sundays, encouragement of uniform shop opening hours, opening on bank holidays, maintenance of shop fronts and liaison with Chamber of Commerce.

Use of empty shops for promotion/advertising i.e. digital printing/shop jackets

- To dovetail with promotion of local economy above.
- Permissions required from freeholders and suggestion for one or 2 empty shops to be used as pilots.
- For adverts, art work, town information etc.

Sustain/promote the night time economy

- Bi-annual meetings with Licensees & Police
- Next meeting to be held 11.00 a.m. Thursday 3 Dec 15 with expanded invitation list to include off-licences et al.

Healthy community

Further promotion of the Trim Trail i.e. handbook, targeting specific groups and publicity

- Cllr Gilbert has provided 'show & tell' sessions e.g. WI & Norton Brook Medical Centre.
- Possible You Tube video.

Environment

Reduction of the town's carbon footprint

- Working group to be set-up. Cllrs Gilbert & Povey expressed an interest.
- Encourage reduction in school drop offs/pick up by car (contact KCC/Primary School) i.e. a walk to school campaign.
- Solar panels Quay House/Bandstand.
- Review work completed to date (Kingsbridge Agenda 21/Sustainable report 'Towards A Sustainable Kingsbridge').

Low cost housing

Possible KTC affordable housing self-build project.

Transport

Town bus service feasibility study

Cllr Fishman to progress with proposed strategy presented at Policy Committee 6 Sep 15.

Bus station improvements

Cllr Fishman to progress with proposed strategy presented at Policy Committee 6 Sep 15.

Communications

Facebook to provide council news/circulate information

Facebook live Oct 15.

New website

Agreed by members; Cllr Grills/staff to progress to include Cllr.XXX email addresses.

Greater profile/promotion/perception i.e. review engagement with the local community and particularly hard-to-reach groups

- Community Engagement Statement of Intent adopted at full council 8 Sep 15; members recognised that the issue to hand is to make it a working document.

Devolution of public assets and services

Transfer of Ropewalk Resource Centre to the Kingsbridge community

Withdrawal of interest resolved at full council 8 Sep 15.