

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE  
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 11 APRIL 2017**

**Present:** Cllr Chris Povey (Chairman)  
Cllr David Baisie  
Cllr Anne Balkwill  
Cllr Tom Coulthard  
Cllr Martina Edmonds  
Cllr Barrie Fishman  
Cllr Irene Jeeninga  
Cllr Mike Jennings  
Cllr Jim Romanos

**In Attendance:** County Cllr Julian Brazil  
County & District Cllr Rufus Gilbert  
District Cllr Keith Wingate  
PC Jo Pengilly  
Chris Derrick, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette  
Two Members of Public  
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

At the outset of the meeting Cllr Povey reported that Kate Lynn had retired from the Town Council (KTC) and he had sent a personal thank you letter for her service to the community.

**16/187 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sandy Gilbert, Robin Griffin, Graham Price and Sgt Dave Green.

**Public Open Forum**

Barry Day made the statement at Annex A.

**16/188 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

**188.1** District Cllr Wingate reported he was a member of a steering group to consider new options following South Hams District Council's (SHDC) recent decision not to form a local authority controlled company for some of its service delivery. Indeed, a potential merger with West Devon Borough Council was one of the suggestions.

**188.2** County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council's (DCC) new road maintenance contract had commenced with Skanska effective from 1 April. DCC's head of highways had stood down at the same time. The transfer from South West Highways was an opportunity to drill down into highways business.

Cllr Romanos commented that an ambition of Salcombe Harbour Authority was to boost Kingsbridge as a maritime destination however, the Harbour Guide did not mention the town in its title. He noted that Salcombe Harbour was the estuary's statutory name but did not consider that this should affect marketing material. He further requested information on the Kingsbridge-Salcombe ferry operation.

Cllr Brazil replied that a change of name for the Harbour Guide could be reviewed as the Harbour Authority wished to promote Salcombe, Kingsbridge, Frogmore, South Pool and others i.e. the whole estuary. The Authority considered the ferry operation to be very important and wished for a service to be operational for summer 2017. District Cllr Wingate added that the Harbour Authority had specifically provided a ferry berth on the new pontoon at the head of the estuary.

**188.3** County Cllr Gilbert reported that he was awaiting a date for repairs on the Halwell-Totnes road. This was his last report as a county councillor and he had enjoyed serving Kingsbridge.

Cllr Povey thanked Cllr Gilbert for his huge efforts which was supported by fellow Members.

**188.4** District Cllr Gilbert reported that KTC had been invited to a meeting with SHDC officers the following day 12 April to consider the condition of a stretch of the Quayside footpath currently closed off. He noted KTC's request for Bus Station improvements to be independent of allocated site K2 (Quayside) masterplanning however, the latter may mean changes to the Bus Station's location. The planning inspector for the allocated site K4 planning appeal (land at Derby Road) had appeared sympathetic to SHDC's case and a long debate had been held regarding viability/land value. A decision was likely to be received in around 10 weeks.

**188.5** PC Pengilly, Salcombe Beat Manager, provided a crime report for March 2017 on behalf of Sgt Green & Insp Tapley. A total of 21 crimes had been committed; 26 crimes had also been recorded during the same period in 2016 and 24 in 2015. There had been 6 arrests, 2 community resolutions, 1 cannabis warning and others were still under investigation. Crimes included 5 assaults (3 had resulted in minor injury), 4 threatening behaviour & harassment offences, 4 criminal damages (3 to parked cars), 2 miscellaneous thefts, 4 drug offences, 1 disqualified driving and 1 Police obstruction. There had been no burglaries and no shopliftings.

Local residents were experiencing antisocial behaviour in Quay Car Park. A joint meeting had taken place on 13 March between residents, Police, SHDC and KTC with various options discussed which had now been implemented. An Operation Venus day of action had taken place on 15 March which had targeted drug use in the South Hams particularly in relation to new psychoactive substances (formerly 'legal highs'). Searches of premises had been conducted and known individuals targeted. In Kingsbridge this had accounted for 3 arrests and 3 drug offences reported above.

Cllr Povey requested information regarding a recent anti-social behaviour incident on the Town Square. PC Pengilly replied that the incident has been identified as a one-off, with no association to others, due to an over exuberant teenager which resulted in one arrest and an obstruction; a Police officer had drawn his baton as a warning.

*County Cllr Brazil, County/District Cllr Wingate, District Cllr Wingate and one Member of Public left the Chamber*

#### **16/189 URGENT BUSINESS**

Cllr Povey agreed to take 5 items of urgent business at agenda item 16/202:

- Bus Station improvements,
- Timing of committee meetings,
- Closure of Quayside footpath,
- Bins – Fore Street, and
- Potential co-option.

#### **16/190 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Balkwill declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 16/192; sub agenda item 118.1.

Cllrs Balkwill & Jeeninga declared pecuniary interests in agenda item 16/192; sub agenda item 124.2

Cllr Povey declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 16/202.4.

#### **16/191 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman; subject to one minor amendment.

#### **16/192 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 21 March 2017 and 4 April 2017; subject to one minor amendment in the former.

#### **16/193 PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 21 March 2017 (public session only).

#### **16/194 POLICY COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Policy Committee held on 4 April 2017 (public session only).

## **16/195      JOINT LOCAL PLAN**

Members received Joint Local Plan (JLP) information relating to Kingsbridge. After discussion, it was agreed that closer consideration of current consultation information, the wider evidence base and KTC's initial JLP feedback dated 2 August 2016 was required. It was then **RESOLVED** to delegate KTC feedback on the Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan (pre-submission consultation) to the Planning Committee to be held on 18 April 2017.

## **16/196      EVENTS POLICY**

Members received SHDC's draft Events Policy alongside KTC's initial feedback dated July 2016 which had been agreed following Working Group meetings. It was **RESOLVED** to delegate KTC feedback on SHDC's Events Policy to Cllrs Balkwill & Romanos (based on the above Working Group findings).

## **16/197      ACCOUNTS GOVERNANCE**

Members received a draft governance statement. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17.

## **16/198      POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER – CCTV REPORT**

Members received a Police & Crime Commissioner's report regarding local authority CCTV capacity (letter dated 7 March 2017) and noted financial support to develop monitoring hubs. Members were mindful that KTC was about to upgrade its own CCTV system shortly. It was **RESOLVED** to submit an expression of interest to the Police & Crime Commissioner for CCTV development.

## **16/199      TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

**199.1      Insurance – Community Events.** KTC's public liability insurance had been provided for this year's Classic Car Show, Food & Music Festival and Kingsbridge & District Light Railway (Quayside train) exhibition days.

**199.2      Harbour Guide.** Nil report; covered by Cllr Romanos' question during DCC ward members' reports.

**199.3      Christmas Lights.** Financial accounts for the 2016/17 display had been finalised and were available for Members to view.

**199.4      Property/Works job listing at FY end 31 March 2017.** Further to previous reports on the listing of 21 outstanding items in January: 14 had been completed with remaining 7 all progressing i.e. Quayside festoon lights extension, outdoor table tennis table in the Recreation Ground, Duncombe Park mural, CCTV upgrade, Quay House sash windows repair/repaint, Cemetery wall repairs and supply of a vehicle activated sign.

**199.5 Annual Town Meeting – Saturday 1 April 2017.** Members and the Town Clerk talked to townsfolk (guesstimate 100 plus) from setting up at 8.30 a.m. to packing up at 12.30 p.m. and the 2 hour time slot became 4 hours. A flavour of the many discussions:

- Many JLP related matters e.g. housing for young families/infrastructure/school places/flooding issues etc.
- Sauna/steam room facilities required in town.
- Eucalyptus tree at the head of estuary is too big (SHDC GM has already reviewed and some light trimming will take place).
- Putting green in the Recreation Ground should be converted to a croquet lawn.
- Access to Rugby Club requires improvement/made wheelchair friendly.
- Public realm maintenance matters.
- Kingsbridge to be a destination for coach trips.

**199.6 Meeting to discuss SHDC Grounds Maintenance.** Honey Foskett & Mark Capper met Cllr Price & Town Clerk on 6 April. An effective 2.5 hour meeting, with site visits, discussed a wide range of SHDC grounds maintenance business in town including: partnership working, grass cutting, weed spraying and related public realm matters.

## **16/200 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES**

**200.1** Cllr Jeeninga had attended a meeting of Dodbrooke Feoffees; the group was in good health.

**200.2** Cllr Balkwill had attended a meeting of the Coastal Communities Team. An economic plan was progressing and KTC had submitted a project bid, supported by SHDC, for restoration of the harbour wall at the head of the estuary.

## **16/201 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 31 March 2017. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £15,998.79 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **16/202 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:**

### **202.1 BUS STATION IMPROVEMENTS**

Further to the Policy Committee minutes of 4 April 2017 (agenda item 16/194) and SHDC ward members' reports; Members considered that the bus station may be in breach of the Equalities Act by not providing sufficient accessibility for disabled persons. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to request SHDC to introduce the proposed improvements to the Bus Station as soon as possible and independent of the K2 (Quayside) masterplan.

## **202.2 TIMING OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Members noted that Planning Committee business had become more protracted and subsequent committee meetings were often delayed and started late. It was **RESOLVED** for Finance, Policy and Property Committee meetings to take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month for mayoral year 2017/18.

## **202.3 CLOSURE OF QUAYSIDE FOOTPATH**

Members discussed the current long-standing closure of a stretch of the Quayside footpath at the head of the estuary. KTC had been invited to a site meeting the following day 12 April to review the situation. It was **RESOLVED** to report to SHDC that it was unacceptable for the Quayside footpath to remain closed and it should be re-opened with immediate effect.

## **202.4 BINS – FORE STREET**

Members noted that DCC had sent letters to 3 businesses in Fore Street explaining their responsibility to manage waste arrangements, so as not to be detrimental to the local amenity, and that bins should only be placed on the highway on the day of collection. It appeared that said businesses had not taken heed of the advice to date and the bins continued to be left on the street, looked unsightly and were a potential obstruction. It was **RESOLVED** to request DCC to enforce its policy for the management of trade waste bins in Fore Street and to make SHDC Environmental Health of the matter.

## **16/203 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN**

There were no questions to the Chairman.

## **16/204 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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

*The Press and one Member of Public left the Chamber*

## **16/205 PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 21 March 2017 (confidential session only - quotations).

## **16/206 POLICY COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Policy Committee held on 4 April 2017 (confidential session only – Kingsbridge Community Champions).

**16/207       SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

Not required.

**16/208       ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR  
MAYORAL YEAR 2017/18**

It was **RESOLVED** to re-elect Cllr Povey as Town Mayor and Cllr Balkwill as Deputy Town Mayor for mayoral year 2017/18 and for them to take office at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 9 May 2017.

**16/202       BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:**

**202.5       POTENTIAL CO-OPTION**

Members noted that a Casual Vacancy had been advertised for Westville Ward and the deadline for electors to call a by-election was 13 April 2017. If an election was not called; it was **RESOLVED** to invite a known person to be co-opted.

*The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.*

..... Presiding Chairman       .....Date

Annex:

- A. Public Open Forum.

## **Public Open Forum**

**Barry Day** stated that he did not accept the Joint Local Plan target of 395 homes for Kingsbridge was accurate and the figure should be less. A few years ago a new township at The Mounts had been suggested which would overcome all known local issues associated with major developments. Alternatively, part of the current Recreation Ground and the valley to the east could be development with play facilities move across the estuary to be located on the current Quay Car Park.

Cllr Povey thanked Barry for his statement.

Cllrs Romanos & Coulthard and District Cllr Gilbert commented that:

- KTC has reservations about development on the Quayside and was currently in discussions with SHDC regarding an allocated Site K2 masterplan,
- the Recreation Ground was part of the town's flood defence mechanism,
- there would be public consultation regarding K2,
- and the K2 project had a long way to run.