

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE AT 7.00 p.m. ON TUESDAY
10 MARCH 2015**

Present: Cllr Wayne Grills (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Amanda Bloomer
Cllr Tom Coulthard
Cllr Matt Farrand
Cllr Rufus Gilbert
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Steve Sidney
Cllr Jax Williams
Cllr Keith Wingate
Cllr Philip Yates

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Simon Wright
Sgt David Green
Andrew Shadrake, Devon Association for Renewable Energy
Anji Chant, Spiritulized
James Hight, Family Advice Support Team
Sam Acourt, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Four Members of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

14/147 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

Public Open Forum

Anji Chant of Spiritulized made the statement at Annex A.

**14/148 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES**

148.1 Sgt Green reported on crime for February 2015; a total of 15 crimes had been committed compared to 19 crimes during the same period in 2014; which equated to a 21% reduction. Three people had been arrested, 3 crimes had been dealt with by restorative justice, 2 penalty notices for disorder at £90 had been issued, 2 cautions, one summons to court, one cannabis warning and others were still under investigation. Crimes had 5 assaults: 3 common assault (2 dealt with via restorative justice) and 2 actual bodily harm (dealt with via caution and restorative justice). There had been one attempted commercial burglary, one criminal damage to business premises, nil shoplifting, 2 public

order offences (resulting in penalty notices), 2 drugs offences relating to possession of cannabis (summons to court and warning), and finally a cruelty to animals incident. The Kingsbridge Policing Team's road safety theme for March was seatbelts; officers would be out and about advising on safety and enforcing law.

The trial of Lee Dent charged with the murder of Alex Peguero Sosa at Plymouth Crown Court had commenced the previous day; the trial was expected to last 2 weeks. It was likely that strong emotions may be re-awakened and reports in the media may cause deep distress to local people. It was vital to remember that Kingsbridge was a decent place inhabited by decent people. Local Police were working hard with staff at the Community College, Spiritulized youth workers and the Town Council (KTC) to ensure that the community was supported.

Sgt Green left the Chamber

148.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council (DCC) had agreed a 1.99% increase in council tax; there had been little choice given the austerity cuts from central government. Proposed £1.8m cuts in public transport across Devon had been diluted by £100k therefore KTC may be in a position to lobby for local services to be retained. The capital programme for flood defences was over budget and therefore some identified resilience schemes may not go ahead.

148.3 County Cllr Gilbert reported that grit bins would be filled for a further year contrary to the original proposal to stop the practice in 2015. Similarly, road gritting would also continue without change for another year. There would be no cutbacks to school crossing patrols in town. The Citizens Advice Bureau had been funded £40k.

148.4 District Cllr Gilbert reported that Aylesford Newsprint had gone into administration; the company accepted circa one third of all recycled paper in the UK and it would have a knock-on effect for principal authorities which was likely to lead to a reduction in SHDC's income from waste materials. However, residents would not notice any difference in collections.

148.4 District Cllr Wright reported that SHDC had won 2 substantial local authority awards which was a great achievement. Devon Home Choice had 970 people awaiting housing on priority bands A-D and 2,251 people including Band E. SHDC was achieving 70 new affordable homes per year but required developers to be on board to sustain such levels. Better Business For All had SHDC working alongside Devon and Somerset authorities to better support local businesses regarding food safety, licensing, trading standards and related matters to promote economic growth and encourage investment in the area.

148.5 District Cllr Wingate reported that a SHDC Task & Finish Group had researched recycling bags and a better quality product was on the way. Following the last meeting he had earmarked KTC's priority Parks & Green Spaces business to the relevant SHDC departments, members had sighted feedback, and a firm undertaking had been received to progress matters. He had

made Development Management aware of an access slipway to the estuary being developed on the west side of the estuary. Finally, the estuary wall repair was likely to be completed in 2 weeks' time.

County Cllr Brazil left the Chamber

14/149 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

14/150 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14/151 RENEWABLE ENERGY

Andrew Shadrake of Devon Association of Renewable Energy (DARE), accompanied by Peter Sandover, gave a presentation on their renewable energy projects and their work with other local councils. The salient points were:

- DARE was formed as a spin-off from DCC 12 years ago.
- It provided impartial advice on energy efficiency matters.
- It was funded via the Rural Community Energy Fund.
- Current projects were in Okehampton and Crediton.
- Plymouth Energy Community was a very successful example of a community which had championed renewable energy projects alongside DARE.
- Kingsbridge town domestic energy spend by local residents was £3 per annum minimum i.e. electricity and gas costs.
- Most of the monies went to 6 big companies which led the market.
- Therefore the town could form its own locally owned community energy company to provide businesses and community buildings with cheaper energy with any surplus income used to support community projects.
- Community energy worked where: there was strong community support, there were sites with good potential for renewable energy projects, and site owners were keen.
- Rural Community Energy Fund could supply a 100% grant up to £20k for a feasibility study (technical assessments, community involvement, business plan and legal matters) with a possible Stage 2 loan at £130k.
- The applicant had to be a town or parish council, community organisation or faith group with evidence of community support i.e. public meetings.
- It was not an easy task and would require much hard work.
- Copies of Plymouth Energy Community's recent prospectus were distributed.

Cllrs Farrand and Wingate made several comments including:

- KTC alongside Kingsbridge Agenda 21/Sustainable Kingsbridge had tried hard in recent years to get the community interested in renewable energy but it had not been forthcoming to date.

- SHDC had made some headway installing PV panels on a roof but had stalled due to technical problems.
- Concerns were raised regarding the sustainability of feed-in tariffs and project ownership issues.

Cllr Grills thanked Andrew for his enlightening presentation.

District Cllr Wright, DARE representatives, and 2 members of public left the Chamber

14/152 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the full council meeting held on 10 February 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14/153 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 17 February 2015 and 3 March 2015.

14/154 PUBLIC TRANSPORT REVIEW

Members received DCC proposals to make cuts to Kingsbridge bus services:

- X64 to Exeter – withdrawal of Sunday and public holiday service,
- 93 to Dartmouth & Plymouth – withdrawal of summer Sunday and public holiday service (currently did not run September-May),
- 162 to Hope Cove & Loddiswell – withdraw last bus run 1700 to 1835 return Monday to Saturday
- 164 to Totnes – withdraw first bus run 0625 to 0743 return on Saturdays
- F17 Fare Car – complete withdrawal

After a full discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to:

- contact other local councils affected by the proposal to cut the 162 'last bus of the day' service and request their support in lobbying DCC for its retention,
- produce a press release for the Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette to request local residents who used the above service to relate their stories to KTC, to
- subsequently write to DCC with KTC's findings.

14/155 FUTURE OF TRESILIAN/HORIZONS

Cllr Coulthard provided a situation report on the condition and potential future of the Tresilian/Horizons building in upper Fore Street:

- Tresilian Early Years (only nursery run by DCC across Devon) and Kingsbridge Community Garden were in situ however, the remainder of the building was vacant.

- Family Advice Support Team (CIC based Newton Abbot) had made a bid to run the building to provide youth and related community services in February 2015 and feedback was awaited.
- Representatives from FAST and the Community Garden were present.
- He had held discussions with DCC officers.
- DCC may be willing to consider providing the building to the Kingsbridge community for a nominal sum.
- It could be used to provide youth services, adult & community learning, small/start up business hub, while retaining the nursery and community garden.
- Further research would be required to include a survey of the building, business case, management committee/charitable trust etc.
- Support of DCC ward member would be required.
- FAST would be content to manage until a community trust or similar was formed to take over/work in partnership.
- Cllr Bloomer noted that much historical work had been conducted into a similar project for the building to be transferred to community ownership.

After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to:

- support further investigation for Tresilian/Horizons to be transferred to KTC,
- request support for the above from County Cllr Brazil,
- arrange a tour of the building with DCC, and
- request FAST keep KTC informed of their bid to take over management of the building.

14/156

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

156.1 Elections. An information sheet for local residents had been distributed to members, was available in Reception, and had been posted on the Fore Street notice board in readiness for the Annual Town Meeting on the Town Square 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Saturday 21 March. It also earmarked councillors/Town Clerk availability 5 to 6.00 p.m. Tuesday 17 March. A poster campaign (identified to members at the last council meeting) to encourage councillor nominations would commence that week. Nominations deadline was 4 p.m. Thursday 9 April; packs had been posted by SHDC.

156.2 DCC Pathfinder (flood resilience) – Funding. DCC had alerted all Pathfinder projects to a remaining pot of funding and invited applications for the same by 15 March however, applications would be dealt with on a first come first basis until the underspend had been used up. It had been advised to evidence part-funding. Flood Committee members were alerted and KTC made a successful bid for £6,280 (flashing flood warning signs for the A379) and £729.50 (6 radios, charger and UK licence). Quotations had already been received for both. KTC would be required to part-fund at 25% i.e. circa £2,500 however, final costings were still to be achieved. Deadline for evidence of purchase was 27 March. Radios had already been ordered. Warning signs had been agreed in

principle by DCC with locations earmarked but required further work to gain outright approval i.e. design, power supply, and installation method.

156.3 TAP Fund – Funding & Review. KTC and West Alvington Parish Council had secured 90% of its TAP Fund bid at £2,845.80. A specification for the interpretation boards for Kingsbridge Cemetery and West Alvington village had been sent to potential designers that day. SHDC had requested feedback on how the TAP Fund process could be improved. Suggested comments from Cllr Grills/Town Clerk (regarding Southern Cluster only) were:

1. Perceived collaboration between councils was nebulous in some cases.
2. A number of applications had not fully costed their bids and evidence had not been supplied indeed, one lead council admitted that it had placed 20% on top of its required funding with the knowledge that it was likely to be diluted.
3. There is no limit to the number of bids from a lead council. Within the cluster one council had submitted 5 bids in the last 2 rounds.
4. The decision process itself was uncomfortable whereby councils were asked on the one hand to critique competing bids but on the other hand to request support for their own bid i.e. if you scratch my back...
5. KTC suggests that applications should: evidence actual collaborative working, be fully costed with evidence supplied by way of quotations, one bid only per lead council, and decisions to be made by DCC/SHDC without reference/liaison to town/parish councils.

Members supported the proposed comments with an additional comment that if a new routine with greater rigour and scrutiny could not be realised then the TAP Fund should cease.

156.4 Devon Remembers – Funding. Community Council for Devon had supported KTC's application for a grant of £318 towards Memorial repairs.

156.5 SHDC Sustainable Community Locality Fund. District Cllr Wingate had supported KTC's application for £1,400 (£700 for 5 in number 'dog control' mosaics and £700 for sustainable flower beds at Kingsbridge Cemetery). Rosemary Speed (Parks & Green Spaces Committee) & Michelle Farrand would manage the former project on KTC's behalf and Cllr Price & Town Clerk would manage the latter.

156.6 Trim Trail. Scheduled for installation in Quay House grounds, Duncombe Park and Recreation Ground over next 4 working days. The Working Group had met recently: photoshoot arranged, press release to follow, user handbook to be worked up by Sandy Gilbert, demonstrations during Good Friday Fun Day in Recreation Ground, and all insurances sorted between SHDC and KTC.

156.7 Unauthorised signage in the highway. KTC often requested DCC to enforce its regulations regarding A frame advertising signs however, DCC local highways officer was obviously unable to react immediately. DCC was content to receive a request for the responsibility for A frame enforcement to be delegated

to KTC. Members discussed the matter but agreed that enforcement should stay with DCC.

156.8 Road repairs – Fore Street & Duncombe Street.

- Agreed at last council meeting to lobby DCC for block paving rather than imprinted concrete for pedestrian crossing repairs in Fore Street. DCC had responded that day proposing red tarmac rather than block pavers as per existing in Bridge Street and Church Street and suggested that tarmac would reduce future maintenance costs.
- Duncombe Street patching works were on hold as DCC engineers had assessed as being damaged beyond patching therefore requiring re-surfacing. To be progressed. The signs in situ related to high friction surfacing on the zebra crossing which needed refreshing.

156.9 Rear Hall – New Lease. Further to the last full council meeting; 2 letters had been sent to the tenant earmarking KTC proposals; a response was awaited.

156.10 Cookworthy Museum – New Season. Members received an invitation to the Museum's official opening of the 2015 season by Sarah Wollaston MP at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 30 March.

156.11 Chapter 8 Highways Training. The Clerk had recently attended a 2 day course at South West Highways HQ.

14/157 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

157.1 Cllr Yates had attended Cookworthy Museum's management committee. A small loss had been made in the financial year but is was manageable. Plymouth City Museum had received £12m from the Heritage Lottery Fund and while restoration works were ongoing the Cookworthy Porcelain collection would be transferred to Kingsbridge. The committee thanked KTC for its earmarked Grant Aid budget.

157.2 Cllr Bloomer had attended a quarterly meeting of the Rest Centre Committee.

Liaison with Maria Johnson, Library manager, regarding the future of the town library service was progressing well.

157.3 Cllr Wingate reported that the Fair Week Committee was working up the programme for 2015 including a fireworks display.

He had also attended a meeting of Kingsbridge Feoffees.

Alongside Steve Mammatt the Quayside Train project was progressing well.

157.4 Cllr Griffin had attended Kingsbridge In Bloom meetings and working parties. The group had recently leafleted Fore Street traders.

157.5 Cllr Price had attended a meeting of Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club's Boatwatch group; there was a good liaison with local Police and the initiative will continue.

Kingsbridge In Bloom was on target to meet its objectives for summer 2015.

157.6 Cllr Grills had attended the Super Cluster (TAP Fund) meeting and a SHDC & Local Councils meeting.

The Civic Service had raised £136.40 for his mayor's charity. It was noted that only the Town Mayor of Totnes had attended the service however, it was agreed to retain invitations to other town mayors but to identify that other representatives would be welcomed if they were unavailable.

14/158 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 10 March 2015. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £8,993.50 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

14/159 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was no business brought forward.

14/160 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman.

14/161 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.

14/162 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2015

It was **RESOLVED** to select Mr Dennis Holwill as Kingsbridge Citizen of the Year 2015.

14/163 STAFFING

Louise Taylor, senior administrator in the Reception Office, had accepted a new post at Kingsbridge Primary School where she already worked part-time. She would therefore give notice shortly and leave her post with KTC early to mid-May. Members applauded Louise's sterling work for KTC over many years and wished her well in her new employment. It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Grills and the Town Clerk to review staffing levels and progress the administration to employ a new member of staff.

The meeting closed at 9.32 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Annex A to Kingsbridge Town Council meeting minutes dated 10 March 2015

Public Open Forum

Anji Chant of Spiritulized stated that George Whitefield (1714-1770), founder of the 18th century “Great Awakening” in Great Britain and North America, had visited Kingsbridge in July 1744 and preached on the site where Quay House now stands ‘to many thousands’. She suggested that blue plaque on the outside of the building to celebrate the great revivalist would be very fitting

Cllr Grills and fellow members supported the concept of a blue plaque for George Whitefield on Quay House and that the proposal should be worked up.