

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE  
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 10 JANUARY 2017**

**Present:** Cllr Chris Povey (Chairman)  
Cllr David Baisie  
Cllr Anne Balkwill  
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  
Cllr Jim Romanos

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

*At the outset of the meeting Cllr Povey thanked Cllrs Griffin & Jennings for their assistance with installation/decommission of the Christmas Lights display and was supported by fellow Members.*

**16/144      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**Public Open Forum**

There were no statements or questions.

**16/145      REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND  
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

**145.1** Sgt Green reported on crime for December 2016; a total of 26 crimes had been committed compared to 18 during the same period in 2015 and 12 in 2014. There had been 5 arrests, one summons, one caution, 3 community resolutions and others were still under investigation. Crimes included 3 minor injury assaults, 5 non-injury assaults, one online abuse, 4 miscellaneous thefts, 2 public order offences, 7 criminal damages, one arson and one possession of class A drugs. There had been no burglaries.

Policing over the Christmas and New Year period had been a success. Additional staff had been deployed at peak times particularly New Years Eve. It was a difficult time for the emergency services as there was a need to boost cover while allowing officers time with their own families. There had been recent successes with arrests of suspected boat thieves. Also 2 people had been arrested before Christmas in connection with a spate of parking meter thefts throughout Devon and Cornwall. Work was ongoing during the winter months to prevent crimes anticipated later in the year e.g. marine crime. The Neighbourhood Team was also planning for community events in 2017. Finally, he congratulated Giselle Ansley, Anji Chant and Roger Pope for their New Years' Honours awards as 3 local people working with young people which was supported by Members. Effectively there was common ground with the Police as much of their work related to the safeguarding of young persons.

*Sgt Green left the Chamber*

**145.2** County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council (DCC) had introduced a highways improvement fund at £100k and encouraged the Town Council (KTC) to make a bid. It provided the opportunity for town and parish councils to employ their own contractors to address localised highways' maintenance matters. There was a funding crisis regarding elderly care and central government would provide a 3% increase in council tax, additional to any other required increase, if it was ringfenced for social care. Historically Devon attracted around £290 per pupil less than the average county from central government funding; a review had earmarked for Devon to receive a slight increase. However, while some Devon schools would gain up to 20% in funding both Kingsbridge Community College and Kingsbridge Primary School would actually lose funding due to a complex funding methodology. The Fore Street pavement repair works had commenced however, bollards installed to date needed to be replaced as they were the wrong type. He suggested that South Hams District Council (SHDC) may wish to consider free parking during the works period. Finally, DCC would not be making an insurance claim for the 2 damaged planters in Embankment Road as it had been determined the driver had not been negligent.

Cllr Romanos asked if DCC had received its insurer's response in writing that the latter claim could not be progressed. Cllr Brazil did not believe that was the case but DCC's legal team had experience of such matters however, he would request officers to contact the insurers to gain a written response.

**145.3** County Cllr Gilbert reported that DCC's operational budget and required precept was progressing.

Cllr Jeeninga commented that Sonia Marshall, South West Highways, had visited all shops in Fore Street to explain DCC's pavement repairs which had been well received.

**145.4** District Cllr Gilbert reported that he felt it unlikely that SHDC would provide free parking during current Fore Street pavement repair works and his own locality grant had been used up. Annual income from Quay toilets was £6k and public toilet charging would be reviewed shortly by Scrutiny. However, the principle was that the

pilots at Dartmouth and Kingsbridge had been successful, following early vandalism, and charging may be rolled out elsewhere. The concept was aimed at high usage toilets in order to balance installation costs.

Cllr Balkwill considered the current system to be grossly inequitable and deeply unpopular i.e. some towns charged for public toilet use but other towns did not. Cllr Gilbert recognised the issues and reiterated that SHDC could either stop charging or extend further. He did not have the net revenue figures to hand (taking account of earlier vandalism repair costs) nor the operational costs to produce a £6k income. Moreover, there were some cleanliness matters to be resolved regarding the disposal of sanitary towels and a review was underway.

He noted that the proposed upgrade for the Bus Station was likely to be discussed that evening. KTC had already been circulated SHDC's report regarding heras fencing around a risk area of the Quayside footpath and a way forward would be determined shortly. Several trees in the Town Square had been pollarded before Christmas as requested by KTC.

The K2 (Quayside) Masterplan would be provided to KTC shortly. Cllr Wingate and himself had reviewed the work to date and expressed their displeasure; officers would review with a revised plan to be provided to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel to be held on 19 January. Responding to Members' questions he further reported that the masterplan was a SHDC initiative and the authority was attempting to provide it in a suitable form to present to the Kingsbridge community.

**145.5** District Cllr Wingate supported the above report regarding the K2 Masterplan reporting that KTC was held in high regard at SHDC and its input to the masterplan would be well received. He also acknowledged Members' comments and particularly the high cost of a consultant's report which he had spoken out against originally however, the key issue now was to get value out of the K2 project. Further to previous reports to KTC the proposed Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) continued to be progressed and a decision was anticipated shortly. He was Chairman of the Audit Committee which would be considering a LACC risk assessment shortly.

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

## **16/146 URGENT BUSINESS**

Cllr Povey agreed to take 3 items of urgent business at agenda item 16/154:

- Bus Station Upgrade,
- Damaged Planters – Embankment Road, and
- Bollards – Fore Street.

## **16/147 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **16/148 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record; subject to one minor amendment.

## **16/149 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 3 January 2017.

Members had noted the discussion regarding the K2 (Quayside) Masterplan and that a presentation to KTC had been delayed until further progress had been agreed at SHDC's Overview & Scrutiny Panel whereupon the concept would be presented to KTC. It was further **RESOLVED** to:

- thank District Cllrs Gilbert & Wingate for their reports on the K2 (Quayside) Masterplan,
- identify KTC's keen interest in the concept/masterplan,
- note some current frustrations/concerns regarding progress made to date and sharing of information with KTC,
- express a desire to achieve value-for-money from the masterplanning project, and
- to highlight that this message may be shared with SHDC officers/consultants.

## **16/150 FINANCE COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 3 January 2017.

It was further **RESOLVED** to delegate the appointment of a new internal auditor to Cllr Balkwill and the Town Clerk.

## **16/151 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

**151.1 Feedback.** All actions had been taken regarding independent full council agenda items; feedback was awaited on a land valuation for the remaining KTC site off Derby Road. There was some outstanding committee work to be actioned for Parks & Open Spaces, Policy and Property. A listing of 23 property/works projects had been presented to the recent Finance Committee to be actioned before financial year end.

**151.2 Quayside footpath.** SHDC's report regarding progress for the fenced-off area of the footpath had been circulated to Members.

**151.3 Kingsbridge Dementia Group.** Members received an exceptional request for use of the Council Chamber for meetings free-of-charge as the group was at an embryonic stage and had no funding. Members agreed to the request however, car parking would not be allowed.

**151.4 Town Clerk – working from home.** For following 2 Thursdays in order to complete some detailed work.

**151.5 South Hams HATOC annual waiting restriction.** DCC had advertised the amendment order as supported by KTC. Three out of 6 proposals for Kingsbridge had received comments from members of public to be considered at the HATOC meeting in March.

#### **16/152        REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES**

**152.1** Cllr Coulthard encouraged Members to attend DCC's annual Youth Work Works Conference in Exeter on Saturday 25 February.

**152.2** Cllr Balkwill had attended an exhibition for a housing development concept in West Charleton which earmarked 38% affordable housing. A further meeting was scheduled and the date/time would be circulated to Members.

**153.3** Cllr Price reported that the composting facility in the Recreation Ground had been completed and he showed Members various signage to be incorporated.

#### **16/153        FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 10 January 2017. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £15,820.45 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### **16/154.1      BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: BUS STATION UPGRADE**

Members had been distributed SHDC's report on proposals to upgrade the Bus Station:

- to overcome passengers having to walk from the main shelter on to the road to reach the bus islands, and
- to facilitate easy access for disabled passengers to the islands.

It was reported that one of 2 islands would be removed and the remaining island would be widened alongside the introduction of coloured surfacing to make pedestrian crossing more visible. A detailed design phase would be required. It was **RESOLVED** to identify a concern (when a number of buses pulled into the bus station at the same time) whether the island was long enough and for Cllr Fishman to address this to SHDC.

#### **16/154.2      BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: DAMAGED PLANTERS – EMBANKMENT ROAD**

Members noted Cllr Brazil's comments during his DCC report and the question/answers which followed. It was **RESOLVED** to write to County Cllr Brazil to

request DCC to gain written evidence from the authority's insurers that an insurance claim could not be progressed as there was no driver liability.

One planter had been written-off and another damaged. Cllr Price reported that (should DCC not progress a claim) a new plastic planter could be gifted to Kingsbridge In Bloom which may be suitable to replace the wooden planter. It was **RESOLVED** to view a plastic planter and fit if acceptable; location and logistics to be confirmed.

**16/154.3 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:  
BOLLARDS – FORE STREET**

Members were aware of current pavement repairs and installation of bollards in Fore Street funded by a partnership of DCC, DCC & SHDC ward members and KTC. Bollards installed to date were the wrong Exeter type and would be removed and replaced with Manchester bollards. The current gap between bollards was 5.9m and Members agreed that the optimum distance was 4m in order to stop the opportunity for vehicles parking between them. It was **RESOLVED** for a working party of Cllrs Baisie, Jeeninga, Povey & Price to meet at 8.30 a.m. the following morning Wednesday 11 January to review the pavement works and to request an immediate meeting with DCC officers to re-consider the works schedule and request the installation of more bollards.

**16/155 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN**

There were no questions to the Chairman.

*The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.*

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