

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE, AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 12 JUNE 2018

Present: Cllr Anne Balkwill (Chairman)
Cllr David Baisie
Cllr Dena Bex
Cllr Philip Cole
Cllr Samantha Dennis
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr John Gall
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Mike Jennings
Cllr Graham Price

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Keith Wingate
Sgt David Green
Matthew Radford, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
Fourteen Members of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

At the outset of the meeting Cllr Balkwill presented certificates and prizes to Kingsbridge Community Champions 2018: Chris Barnwell, Gerrie Messer, Graham Smith, Julia Wingate and Lizzie Wyatt. A press release would be issued.

Eight members of public left the Chamber

18/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Povey and District Cllr Rufus Gilbert.

Public Open Forum

Matthew Radford, DSFRS, and 3 members of public made the statements at Annex A.

Four members of public left the Council Chamber

18/25 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

25.1 Sgt Green presented the Police report for May 2018. A total of 20 crimes had been committed; 17 crimes had been recorded during the same period in 2017, 13 in 2016, 20 in 2015 and 24 in 2014 which identified that the figure oscillated. Crimes had included: 4 assaults with minor injury, 3 assaults without injury, 2 threatening behaviour/abuse, 3 shoplifting, 4 criminal damage, 1 fraud, 1 possession of an offensive weapon, 1 dog out of control and 1 air weapon offence.

The Food & Music Festival had been successful from a policing perspective. It had been policed by local officers and 2 Special Constables from Ivybridge. There had been no significant incidents and routine follow-up work had been actioned with the organisers. To highlight non-crime incidents received he listed 26 calls over the weekend of the festival which had included: domestic incidents, anti-social behaviour, neighbour disputes, road accidents and concerns for the welfare of vulnerable people.

Sgt Green left the Council Chamber

25.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council (DCC) would meet the following day but there were no Kingsbridge matters on the agenda. Much news had been issued regarding repairs to the Slapton Line and the contractors would hold an exhibition on 21 June in Slapton Village Hall. The Slapton Line Partnership website would be kept updated and works were anticipated to commence in summer with completion/re-opening of the A379 in autumn. He was content with current reports that day care centres would be sustained however, absolute confirmation had not been received. Their operation affected a small number of carers but had a massive impact. He commented on representations received during the Public Open Forum and noted that the Town Council (KTC) would need to carefully consider any further removal of car parking along the Embankment Road and was grateful for parking advice provided to a Fore Street resident.

Cllr Fishman requested an update on resurfacing of the pavement in Plymouth Road which had started in early 2018 but had yet to be completed; he replied that he had received a plausible explanation from the highways officer.

25.3 District Cllr Wingate reported that a Salcombe Harbour Board inspection was scheduled and the appointment of a new Harbour Master had been confirmed. Plans for a housing development at the K5 site off West Alvington Hill were coming forward which would require a robust dialogue with developers so that they understood how we had arrived at the present situation. Finally, he anticipated visiting alongside Chris Brook, South Hams District Council (SHDC) Assets, in early July (date to be confirmed) to discuss Areas 3 & 4 of the Quayside development site.

County Cllr Brazil and District Cllr Wingate left the Council Chamber

18/26 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Balkwill agreed to take one item of urgent business under confidential matters at agenda item 18/36: Risk Report – Long Term Investments.

18/27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

18/28 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 May 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

18/29 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 15 May 2018 and 5 June 2018.

Members noted that Baker Estates would discuss the K5 development site with KTC on 19 June and a public exhibition would take place on 27 June at West Alvington Village Hall.

18/30 PARKS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on 11 May 2018.

18/31 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Members received a draft Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18 Part 3, Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Account and a report on Reserves. Members noted that an Internal Audit had taken place on 30 May 2018 and the report was awaited. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the unaudited Annual Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2018 for despatch to the External Auditor.

18/32 RED TELEPHONE BOX/WORLD'S SMALLEST NIGHT CLUB

Cllr Balkwill thanked Cllrs Cole, Fishman & Povey for their liaison with BT and huge efforts in assisting the transformation of the kiosk into 'the world's smallest night club' which had achieved national and international promotion for Kingsbridge. Members noted that the installation would require regeneration through the summer to the anticipated end date in September, staff would empty monies on a weekly basis and a working party was required to sustain the project.

18/33 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

33.1 Community Transport. Feedback had been received from Dr Sarah Wollaston MP (letter SW/ns dated 11 May 2018) regarding KTC's lobbying for nil reduction in community transport services. Dr Wollaston reported that she had made direct representations to the Transport Secretary about the integral role that organisations such as Coleridge Bus play in rural communities.

33.2 Quay Wall – Replacement Works. SHDC officers and the appointed contractor had visited Quay House on 5 June to provide an update on the project regarding: trees' removal/replacement, move of disabled parking spaces, press releases, potential night/weekend working and anticipated timetable Sep/Oct 18 to Jan/Feb 19.

33.3 PCC's CCTV Project – Devon Local Councils. KTC had expressed an interest in the Police & Crime Commissioner's project to establish the monitoring of towns' CCTV systems at key times. The Town Clerk had attended a meeting that day to discuss future development.

33.4 Bunting. A team which had fixed summer bunting in the town centre over recent years could not do so in 2018 due to a lack of resources. Members noted that a local construction company or tree surgeon would be investigated in lieu.

33.5 Hello Kingsbridge Banners. Members supported a thank you letter to David Griffiths for installing the banners as a community spirited gesture.

33.6 General Data Protection Regulation. Effective from 25 May, KTC was progressing well towards compliance.

33.7 Members' Handbook. Members were requested to bring in their Handbooks to check that they were up to date.

18/34 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

34.1 Several Members had met Chief Inspector Julian Pezzani and Sgt David Green on 16 May to discuss topical policing matters. The liaison between KTC and the Neighbourhood Team was appreciated alongside other agencies e.g. Spiritulized and Estuary Boat Club. However, the future for policing in the South Hams remained unclear.

34.2 Cllr Price had discussed the condition of the Recreation Ground pond with SHDC officers and it was likely to be cleaned shortly.

34.3 Cllr Fishman had met with SHDC and DCC officers to discuss the ongoing Bus Station refit. Benches had been agreed to be fitted in the new bus shelters and the electronic information board was anticipated to become operational however, its re-orientation was likely to be expensive.

18/35 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 12 June 2018. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £6,336.08 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

The following agenda item was taken early out-of-turn:

18/37 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

18/36.1 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: 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.

Two members of the public and press left the Chamber

**18/36.2 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:
RISK REPORT – LONG TERM INVESTMENTS**

Members noted that shares held with the CCLA Local Authorities' Property Fund had achieved quarterly dividends at a mean of 5.14% since purchase in August 2014 and had also achieved capital growth at over £5k. However, Members considered that the investment was also high risk. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to cash-in an investment held with the CCLA.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Matthew Radford, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (DSFRS), reported that he was a Station Manager with the responsibility of being the local risk manager for the South Hams. DSFRS had recently completed a public consultation for the Integrated Risk Management Plan and he was now visiting all local councils to provide an update. Part of the tiered response strategy would see the introduction of Rapid Intervention Vehicles. This was a new concept for DSFRS and they were smaller than traditional fire engines meaning they could reach many places a larger fire engine could not. Moreover, they carried new items of equipment introduced to utilise new technologies and trials had been successful. The location of such vehicles was still to be determined but was likely to include one in the South Hams so it would form part of a response to an incident within the Kingsbridge area. Information sheets were distributed which identified the evolution of the new Rapid Intervention Vehicle.

District Cllr Wingate stated that he had driven the local fire engine for 21 years as a volunteer and he supported the new concept however, he held concerns regarding recruitment and manning for the Kingsbridge fire station. Matthew replied that during the daytime DSFRS did struggle in certain areas but Kingsbridge was supported by a crewing advocate via the operations resourcing centre as the station had to be fully complemented. At present, 2 persons had applied to join the local crew and another 2 were in training. The financial reward was not huge and the ethos was about community service/resilience. A recruitment drive was ongoing and an emergency services' event was scheduled for the forthcoming Saturday.

Cllr Balkwill thanked Matt for his comprehensive report and the Town Council (KTC) would assist and promote the local service where it could.

2. Veronica Sutton stated that dog faeces in Darky Lane was not being picked up by dog walkers and the strong smells affected the amenity value of residents in Archery Close and Northville Park. There were no dog bins in the vicinity and they were required.

Cllr Balkwill replied that all dog owners should manage their pets and pick up dog faeces. Bins were multi-purpose but she queried if offenders would use bins even if they were provided. However, KTC would fix new dog signs along Darky Lane and liaise with South Hams District Council if a current bin could be re-located to the area.

3. Neil Pykett stated that egress from Estuary Edge to join the Embankment Road (in vicinity of Crabshell Inn) was very difficult due to vehicles parked in the highway. Such vehicles parked up to and often across the entrance and he could not see when pulling out. He had made County Cllr Brazil aware of the situation and had been advised to liaise with KTC.

Cllr Balkwill replied the matter would be added to KTC's listing of potential Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) business however, impacts would need to be investigated.

The Town Clerk added that parking restrictions had recently been introduced to the area following a recent TRO and KTC's speed alert sign was currently operating in the area to encourage motorists to keep to the speed limit.

4. Ursula Ferguson had moved to the town in late 2017, did not have access to a car parking space and regularly struggled to park in upper Fore Street. During a recent bout of flu she was not able to move her car for 10 days and had to park illegally.

Cllr Balkwill replied that parking permits were available from SHDC. The Town Clerk added that Devon County Council would be unlikely to support a residents parking scheme, which may push parking to an ever decreasing area, and there were private car parks in town which could be explored.