

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2018**

Present: Cllr Anne Balkwill (Chairman)
Cllr Dena Bex
Cllr Philip Cole
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr John Gall
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Peter Ralph

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Rufus Gilbert
District Cllr Keith Wingate
Sam Acourt, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

18/108 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

It was confirmed that a Declaration of Acceptance of Office had been received from co-opted member Cllr Peter Ralph.

18/109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Samantha Dennis, Mike Jennings and Chris Povey, and Sgt David Green.

Public Open Forum

There were no members of public present.

18/110 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

110.1 Sgt Green had provided a Police report for November 2018 which was received by Members. A total of 32 crimes had been committed; 36 crimes had been recorded during the same period in 2017, 14 in 2016 and 20 in 2015. Crimes had included: 4 minor injury assaults, 4 non-injury assaults, 5 threats or harassment, 3 sexual offences, 2 non-dwelling burglaries, 4 criminal damages, 5 shopliftings, 1 miscellaneous theft, 1 drink driving, 1 drug driving and 2 dangerous dogs.

A drugs operation had been conducted in pubs on 23 November. Several people were searched but no drugs were found. The initiative had been welcomed by Licensees. Chief Superintendent Keith Perkin had visited Kingsbridge on 16 November. He left with a clear understanding of what works well locally in terms of

Police/community connectivity. The annual Have Your Say Survey took place on 19 November; a successful exercise confirmed the vast majority of people feel safe in Kingsbridge. Detailed results were shared with Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC) and the media. Finally, Sgt Green sent best wishes from the Kingsbridge Police team for a Happy Christmas and thanked Members for their ongoing support throughout 2018.

110.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council (DCC) had announced extra funding for highways maintenance and KTC should make him aware of any matters which the authority could address. It was difficult to find carers in rural areas. While the issue affected a small number of people it was pivotal to their well being and the current situation was likely to get worse. South Hams Community & Voluntary Service which was trying to encourage students at Kingsbridge Community College to consider voluntary work. Finally, he wished all at KTC a Merry Christmas.

Cllr Bex reported that DCC had not allowed Christmas Lights displays to be attached to lamp posts in the town centre as they were now deemed to be too old to carry loads. Cllr Brazil replied that he would investigate the matter.

Cllr Edmonds thanked Cllr Brazil on behalf of Waverley Road residents for DCC's decision to turn down a recent Traffic Regulation Order request for double yellow lines in the locale.

110.3 District Cllr Gilbert reported that South Hams District Council (SHDC) had agreed to contract out its waste procurement service (waste collection, public toilet cleaning, street cleaning, street waste bin collection and all recycling) and answered Members' questions. It was anticipated to make a saving of £3.2m over 8 years. All staff would transfer under TUPE. Customers would notice no difference. Recycling would improve during 2020. Free garden waste would continue for the present. Any complaints from the public would still be dealt with by SHDC. The authority was optimistic that an improved service would be achieved.

110.4 District Cllr Wingate reported that SHDC had agreed to commit a grant of £50k from the predicted 2018/19 business rate pilot gain to support the formation of South West Mutual and answered Members' questions. The mutual sought an initial investment of £500k in order to progress a banking licence application and other regional principal councils had expressed an interest. The mutual would need to find circa £2.5m in 2019 to set up operations and complete the banking authorisation process, and then secure further investments circa £17.5m in 2020 to capitalise the bank and enable it to start trading. In return for the grant SHDC would receive shares, the shares were anticipated to receive a dividend of 7.5% and the vision was to support the local economy. It was too early to provide a dedicated answer on matters such as ethics.

The next Executive meeting on 13 December would receive agenda items including clean air strategy and commercial development opportunities.

18/111 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

18/112 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

The following agenda items 18/116 & 18/117 were taken early out-of-turn:

18/116 FORE STREET PUBLIC TOILETS – PAY ON ENTRY

At September's council meeting, Members had agreed to pay SHDC's estimated income in lieu of Pay of Entry at £1,000 in order to enable Fore Street toilets to remain free-of-charge. Members now received a revised request at £4,200. District Cllr Gilbert apologised for SHDC's error and confusion caused. Given a 20p charge, £1,000 per annum equalled £2.74 per day i.e. about 13 visits per day whereas the revised request equalled circa 55 visit per day. SHDC's Executive decisions regarding public toilets had been called-in to the following day's Overview & Scrutiny Panel. It was **RESOLVED** to await the outcome of SHDC's ultimate decision(s) on public toilets and for Members to then re-consider KTC's position regarding a proposal to introduce Pay on Entry at Fore Street public toilets.

18/117 TESCO COFFEE KIOSK – PLANNING REFUSAL

Members had noted SHDC's Refusal dated 9 October 2018 for retrospective change of use of land for a coffee kiosk at Tesco (planning application 1846/18/FUL) given it would breach a condition imposed on the original development of the store. However, SHDC had subsequently advised that the kiosk would be removed on 24 December 2018; no formal action had been taken on the Refusal notice as it would have taken longer to expedite, allowed a right of appeal and a time period for compliance. District Cllrs Gilbert and Wingate had been made aware of the above proposal and were satisfied with the course of action however, Members considered that the matter made a mockery of the planning process and effectively allowed planning refusals to be re-negotiated.

County Cllr Brazil and District Cllrs Gilbert & Wingate left the Chamber

18/113 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 13 November 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

18/114 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 20 November 2018 and 4 December 2018.

18/115 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 27 November 2018.

Members were content with the first draft of the budget for financial year 2019/20 which would be progressed by the Finance Committee and considered again at the council meeting on 15 January 2019.

18/118 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

118.1 Sale of Land at Derby Road. KTC had accepted a quotation and instructed Bartons Solicitors to progress the sale to Kingsbridge Feoffees.

117.2 Survey of Holm Oaks at Embankment Road Cemetery. KTC had accepted a quotation and instructed Dart Tree Consultancy to conduct a tree survey to include condition of trees, quantified tree risk assessment, recommended actions and estimate costs. It was anticipated to be completed by week ending Friday 14 December.

117.3 Public consultation at Montagu Road Play Area. To take place on site 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday 15 December to assess local residents' wishes to be included in a proposed refit of the play area. Conceptual drawings and questionnaires would be available alongside hot chocolate & mince pies! Promotion to take place via website, Facebook, posters, press release and flyers in the locale. Cllrs Cole, Jennings, Griffin and Ralph would attend.

117.4 Winter/Flood resilience. Confirmation of conditions to erect new Community Resilience Store in Quay House grounds was progressing. Further sandbags had been supplied recently and another pallet load of grit. An update to all Winter Weather & Flood Wardens would be emailed shortly.

117.5 Red telephone box/world's smallest night club. It had been hoped to introduce a Christmas theme however, there were current snags with the dial-a-disc system which required rectification.

117.6 Stainless steel litter bins. The bins had been received to be installed in Duncombe Park and Recreation Ground shortly.

117.7 Christmas Reception. The Town Mayor's community reception would take place on Wednesday 19 December from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

117.8 SHDC Executive meeting 13 December 2018. The final agenda item "Commercial Development Opportunities" listed a proposal for a 4/5 storey, 79 bedroom hotel on the former Ropewalk learning centre site. It was agreed that this

was a significant proposal for Kingsbridge and Members agreed for Cllr Balkwill and the Town Clerk to issue a press release.

18/119 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

119.1 Ch Supt Keith Perkin, South Devon BCU Commander meeting 16 November 2018. Several Members had attended and strongly lobbied for the requirement to retain the town's Neighbourhood Team/PCSO resource.

119.2 Police, KTC, OPCC & Plymouth University "Have Your Say" day 19 November 2018. Cllrs Cole, Fishman, Griffin & Price and the Town Clerk had attended and discussed topical matters with townsfolk. The Town Clerk had some issues to investigate e.g. lack of street lighting at specific locations.

119.3 Tree Trail walkabout 19 November 2018. Cllr Price and the Town Clerk had conducted a survey with SHDC's locality officer; several matters needed to be addressed.

119.4 Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas 1 December 2018. Members commented on the success of the event and supported a letter of thanks to Samantha Dennis and her committee.

119.5 Public realm design guidelines meeting 6 December 2018. Cllrs Cole, Dennis & Povey had met Trish Hawes, MeiLoc landscape architects, to review her findings. The presentation would be emailed to all Members and considered at January's council meeting.

119.6 Recreation Ground community hub meeting 7 December 2018. Cllr Price had met with Community Tennis, Café Decks and SHDC's Leisure/Recreation officer. The Bowling Club had supported a proposal for a new community hub. Community Tennis had produced a high level scoping study and several actions points were raised. The next meeting would be held on 31 January 2019.

119.7 South Hams District Council Mayors & Clerks meeting 10 December 2018. Cllr Balkwill and the Town Clerk had met District Cllr Tucker and SHDC senior officers alongside representatives from other town councils. Discussion items included: corporate peer review, Joint Local Plan & Neighbourhood Plans update, general service review, budget update, town centres' update and Operation London Bridge.

119.8 Fore Street Task Force meeting 11 December 2018. Cllrs Cole & Gall had met local business owners and the Task Force would be wound up as it had effectively served its purpose creating an independent shopkeepers forum. Julia Wingate of the Trading Post would attend the next Policy Committee on 29 January.

119.9 Kingsbridge In Bloom. Cllr Price had been invited to SHDC's full council meeting on 6 December in recognition of the recent Best Small Town in Britain award. He had provided a presentation on KIB's work which he would be content to show to Members which was supported.

18/120 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 11 December 2018. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £22,174.87 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

18/121 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

18/122 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

Cllr Balkwill thanked Members for their support, diligence and hard work throughout 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate