

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2019**

Present: Cllr Anne Balkwill (Chairman)
Cllr Dena Bex
Cllr Philip Cole
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr John Gall
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Mike Jennings
Cllr Chris Povey
Cllr Peter Ralph

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Keith Wingate
Sgt David Green
Sam Acourt, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Three Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

18/153 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Samantha Dennis, Irene Jeeninga & Graham Price and District Cllr Rufus Gilbert.

Public Open Forum

Members of Public made the statements at Annex A.

**18/154 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

154.1 Sgt Green presented the Police report for February 2019. A total of 28 crimes had been committed; 19 crimes had been recorded during the same period in 2018 and 13 in 2017. Crimes had included: 3 assaults (nil injury), 1 possession of a knife (person arrested), 5 sex offences, 7 criminal damages, 6 threatening behaviour/harassment, 3 shopliftings, 2 possession of drugs (cannabis), 1 possession with intent to supply class A drugs (person arrested), and nil thefts/burglaries. Six people had been stopped and searched; 3 were carrying drugs and one person arrested as above. Two new adults had been added to regular safeguarding visits under Operation Minuet. Two Misuse of Drugs Act warrants had been executed in Salcombe during the previous week under Operation Saracen. A quantity of believed class A drugs were seized and a male was arrested. Further enforcement activity was planned. Drugs awareness talks had been given to all year groups at Kingsbridge Community College (KCC); an evening talk for parents had also taken place. Anti-social behaviour letters had been hand delivered to some homes with advice from local Police to parents.

A Road Crime Unit had visited on 11 March via unmarked Police cars using automatic number plate recognition technology; 13 vehicles were stopped including a local drugs dealer who was searched, 10 had no insurance and 2 cars were confiscated. Finally, he briefed Members on the Turning Corners project. Central government's Early Intervention Youth Fund had allocated £0.5m for the South Devon & Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership. This would fund 2 outreach workers for the South Hams to focus on Kingsbridge initially supporting children on the fringe of drugs/ASB activity working alongside Kingsbridge Youth For Christ, KCC and local Police. Parenting support groups trialled in Newton Abbot were also proposed.

Sgt Green then answered Members' questions:

- Local residents could provide intelligence using the 101 service (by phone or email) or via Crime stoppers. Information received from GPs or the Community College were all fed into the same Police information streams. The Police thrived on community intelligence and he would supply a report to the Kingsbridge Gazette to highlight this. Such intelligence was graded i.e. accuracy and reliability.
- The term drugs dealer was identified due to previous convictions and current intelligence.
- Unmarked Police cars were used from a remote source so that they could not be identified.

Cllr Balkwill thanked Sgt Green for his comprehensive report, for taking the Town Council's (KTC) concerns about drugs onboard and acknowledged the Police's busy workload.

Sgt Green left the Chamber

154.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council's (DCC) core budget had increased by 3% and adult social care by 1%. The A379 road works at Frogmore had been completed early and the authority apologised for the inconvenience to the local community. Extra funding was available for the rural road network and any roads in Kingsbridge which required repairs should be reported as soon as possible. He was impressed by the Community Safety Partnership meeting he had attended and supported Sgt Green's report that the £0.5m funding for 18 months was very welcomed and it was hoped to provide a legacy. He acknowledged that DCC youth service provision had been much diluted.

Cllr Brazil then made Members aware of KCC's recent letter to parents/carers which highlighted the intense pressures on school funding and that requests to meet the Secretary of State for Education had been declined. Central government was not investing in young people and the matter would be raised at DCC's Children's Scrutiny Committee the following week. Members agreed to write a letter to the Department for Education supporting KCC's position and requesting greater funding for schools.

154.3 District Cllr Wingate reported that an affordable housing scheme for Ropewalk would be received by South Hams District Council's Executive that week for 65 homes in total with 17 for Kingsbridge. The founder share threshold for South West

Mutual bank had been met which included a SHDC investment at £50k; he could not comment on whether a similar model in London was still trying to achieve capital and acknowledged that the proposal was high risk and challenging.

County Cllr Brazil & District Cllr Wingate and a Member of Public left the Chamber

18/155 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Balkwill agreed to take one item of urgent business at agenda item 18/166: Apologies for Absence.

18/156 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Balkwill declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 18/158; sub agenda item 114.9.

Cllrs Cole & Gall declared pecuniary interests in agenda item 18/158; sub agenda item 116.2.

Cllr Balkwill declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 18/158; sub agenda item 123.3.

18/157 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 12 February 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

18/158 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 19 February 2019 and 5 March 2019.

18/159 FLOOD & WINTER RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Flood & Winter Resilience Committee held on 26 February 2019. Cllr Jennings had agreed to take on the role of out-of-hours contact for the Community Emergency Response Team.

18/160 EASTERN & WESTERN BACKWAYS

Members were aware that graffiti in the Western Backway had been painted over and similar action would take place in the Eastern Backway shortly. Effectively, the current condition provided an easily identified contrast and only the graffiti itself had been painted over in square blocks. Suggestions going forward included: take no further action, promote the repainting, consider further painting to match the new palette, and consider painting the new 'blank canvases' with art e.g. flowers. It was **RECOMMENDED** for all Members to walk both Eastern and Western Backways and to review the way forward at a future meeting.

18/161 KINGSBRIDGE 800

Members received an itemised listing of approximate costs to run Kingsbridge 800 on Saturday 14 September 2019. It was considered that promotion of the 800th anniversary of Kingsbridge as a market town should run throughout the year rather than being targeted solely at the one day celebration. Such promotion to include banners through Fore Street. Members were mindful that a £1k budget allocation for Fore Street public toilets for the following financial year 2019/20 would not be required. It was **RESOLVED** to support Kingsbridge 800 at £1,000 to promote the celebration throughout 2019 commencing in April.

18/162 LAND AT DERBY ROAD

Members received a proposed amendment to the minute which administered the sale of land at Derby Road in order to satisfy Land Registry requirements. It was **RESOLVED** to amend minute 18/05 dated 13 November 2018 to read as follows: "It was **RESOLVED** to accept an offer from Kingsbridge Feoffees (Kingsbridge Town Lands Charity) to purchase council owned land at Derby Road and for the Town Clerk to sign a legal deed on behalf of council".

18/163 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

163.1 Annual Town Meeting – 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday 16 March. The interactive drop-in would showcase:

- Budget for financial year 2019/20 (where KTC's portion of local residents' council tax will be spent).
- Adopted Public Realm Design Guidelines (future plans for Fore Street).
- Local Council Elections – Thursday 2 May (how to become a Councillor with nomination packs available).
- Neighbourhood Plan update (progress to date on the planning blueprint for Kingsbridge, West Alvington & Churchstow i.e. survey just completed and setting-up of 6 focus groups).

A press release and advert had been forwarded to the Kingsbridge Gazette plus noticeboard, Facebook and website promotion. Several Members agreed to be present.

163.2 Local Council Elections – Thursday 2 May. Nomination paperwork had been received from SHDC and extra copies had been printed. Nominations could be submitted after 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 21 March (date the notice of election is published). The times for delivery were between 10.00 am and 4.00 p.m. weekdays and the last time for delivery was 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday 3 April. Nominations had to be hand delivered to the Elections Office at the Civic Entrance, Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes, TQ9 5NE. They would be dealt with on a first come first served basis and SHDC was expecting over 800 during the period. KTC was required to inform SHDC if it required poll cards to be sent out if district councillor seats were uncontested. Poll cards were automatically sent out if a District Council seat goes to poll which would include KTC elections; these are paid for by SHDC. The statutory deadline for notification is 4.00 p.m. on 3 April.

An Elections Guide had been received from SHDC which had already been forwarded to Members and was available for members of public. Current Members retire on the 4th day after the election and newly elected Members take office (provided they have made Declarations of Office) on the same day that their predecessors retire. The Chairman continues in office unless a successor becomes entitled to act. The current KTC meetings' diary scheduled a Planning Committee on Tuesday 7 May and the Annual General Meeting on the following Tuesday 14 May. The former had been cancelled to be replaced by an informal get together for the new council leaving the first formal meeting and election of Chairman on 14 May.

163.3 Recreation Ground Green Flag Judging – 11.00 a.m. Monday 1 April. Richard Taylor & Jane Nicholls from the Royal Horticultural Society would judge the Green Flag Award for 2019. Liaison had taken place with SHDC and KTC would arrange local attendees alongside Cllr Price & Town Clerk i.e. Café Decks, Community Tennis, Bowls Club & Kingsbridge In Bloom. SHDC to arrange grass cutting/weeding plus clean-up of children's/teen zone play equipment and pond with attendance by SHDC Place Making and Green Space officers on the day. KTC to clean benches, Trim Trail equipment, table tennis table and refresh notice board etc. Much work to complete week beginning 25 March. It was hoped that the red wall at the play zone could be repainted in time for judging.

163.4 The Coleridge Bus – 40th anniversary celebration. Cllr Dennis would represent KTC at Sherford Village Hall at 2.00 p.m. on Monday 25 March.

163.5 Resilience Store. The galvanised container for Quay House grounds had been ordered.

163.6 Surface water drains clearance. Exjet had been contracted to clear circa 50 drains around town during the week beginning 18 March.

163.7 Public Realm Design Guidelines. A 'next steps' report had been received that day from MeiLoco for Members to consider and a further meeting with the landscape architects had to be arranged.

163.8 Visit by Principal, Kingsbridge Community College. Kenny Duncan would meet Members on Tuesday 2 April at 6.00 p.m. to discuss KTC/KCC liaison.

163.9 Police Liaison Committee. The meeting earmarked for 21 March had been cancelled; to be re-scheduled after the annual general meeting in May.

18/164 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

164.1 Recreation Ground community hub meeting 21 February 2019. Cllr Price reported (via email) that the community aspiration/Kingsbridge OSSR project was for a new building however, SHDC had to confirm its preferred option i.e. refurbishment of the existing College or a new development. An estimate of costs for a new build would be gleaned, a visit to a community hub in Okehampton had been arranged and the need for a definitive listing of groups which would benefit from an enhanced

facility was required to include Park Bowling Club, Community Tennis and South Hams Area Wellbeing.

164.2 Traffic Regulation Order meeting 27 February 2019. Cllrs Cole, Fishman and Gall had met Neil Oxtan, DCC Highways, to discuss potential TRO matters for the next financial year. Seventeen requests had been discussed, e.g. introduction of double yellow lines at various locations, and had been circulated to Members. Those items supported would be considered by the South Hams Highways & Traffic Orders Committee and the ensuing Order would be advertised for public consultation.

164.3 Quay wall landscaping meeting 1 March 2019. Cllrs Cole, Dennis, Edmonds, Griffin & Ralph had met Dan Field, SHDC Assets, on site. Members were content with SHDC's proposal to widen the footpath/shorten the grass verge adjacent to the current harbour wall repairs when the car park boundary wall is reinstated. Potholes would be repaired, a surface water drain would be cleared to enable better soakaway and wooden bollards would be replaced by cast iron Manchester bollards at the rebuilt flower beds. Such bollards would not be in keeping with others in the car park but would provide a new house-style for future replacements. Members had raised concerns about the proposed location of the RNLI 150th anniversary sculpture near the harbour wall and had earmarked a location at the very head of the estuary in the vicinity of the half-moon seating. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with interested parties to discuss the same.

164.4 Drugs education for parents meeting 1 March 2019. Cllrs Cole & Griffin had attended. The key message from the speaker was the safest way to take drugs is not to take them at all.

164.5 Cemetery tree risk assessment meeting 5 March 2019. Cllrs Balkwill, Bex, Cole and Griffin had attended an on-site meeting to establish KTC's position regarding the risk of Holm Oaks bordering the Embankment Road/A379. It was agreed that tree T5 was a poor specimen and precarious in high winds. Members then considered options for the way forward and agreed to feedback to SHDC that T5 should be felled, alongside tree surgery for the remaining 4 in number Holm Oaks and to request a further meeting with SHDC tree specialists.

18/165 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 12 March 2019. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £16,855.83 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

18/166 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Balkwill requested for Members to notify the Town Clerk in advance if they were unable to attend council or committee meetings.

18/167 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions for Cllr Balkwill.

The meeting closed at 8.54 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Annex A to KTC minutes dated 12 March 2019

Public Open Forum

Derek Weaving of Kingsbridge & Saltstone Caring briefed Members on the charity's work:

- The charity started operations 13 years ago.
- It was grateful to KTC for its continued financial support.
- The Kingsbridge, Salcombe and surrounding parish areas were covered alongside sister organisations elsewhere e.g. South Brent Caring.
- References for its assistance were received from GPs, Social Services, carers and neighbours.
- Assessments of clients was undertaken including physical and mental health.
- It employed part-time staff and had 75 volunteers who worked for about 2 hours per week.
- The charity assisted local people upon leaving hospital, for outings, shopping etc.
- It was a small but totally invaluable assistance.
- Operations cost circa £40k per annum and the 4 part time staff accounted for 80% of costs.
- The charity had £30k in the bank.
- No funding was received from statutory agencies.
- Income was gained from donations, fetes, lunches etc.
- A couple in their late 80s required help, sadly the wife passed away and the husband became a volunteer himself. More recently 6 Community College students became volunteers and one of them was the gentleman's grandson.

Cllr Balkwill thanked Derek for his report, for the outstanding service provided by Kingsbridge & Saltstone Caring to the local community and reported that KTC was happy to provide its support.