

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,  
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2019**

**Present:** Cllr Anne Balkwill (Chairman)  
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 Chris Povey  
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  
Roberta Mason, Cardiff University  
Two Members of Public  
Martin Johnson (Town Clerk)

**18/168 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Sgt David Green.

**Public Open Forum**

A Member of Public made the statement at Annex A.

**18/169 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

**169.1** Sgt Green had provided a Police report for February 2019 which was distributed to Members. A total of 20 crimes had been committed; 27 crimes had been recorded during the same period in 2018 and 21 in 2017. Crimes had included: 5 assaults (3 non-injury), 2 sex offences, 3 threatening behaviour/public order, no dwelling burglaries (however, 1 attempt on a business premises), no criminal damages, 2 shopliftings, 1 miscellaneous theft, 3 drug offences, 2 drink driving and 1 fraud.

There had been much Kingsbridge Policing Team activity. A further search warrant had been executed under the Misuse of Drugs Act; a quantity of what was believed to be class A drugs were seized and a local man was detained on suspicion of a drugs supply offence. Such action was a follow-up from 2 recent warrants in Salcombe and a result of community intelligence in support of Operation Minuet. A local male had been stopped in the Salcombe area (Operation Saracen) and found

to be a disqualified driver and in possession of drugs. Further foot patrols by local officers had taken place to disrupt youth drug taking and had targeted anti-social behaviour. Sgt Green reminded the local community that information about suspicious activity could be rung in on 101, or emailed to 101@dc.police.uk or to Crimestoppers on 0800.555111 (which could be done anonymously). Finally, as this was the last meeting of the present council he passed on his sincere thanks to Members who were standing down for all their support. The teamwork between the Police and Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC) continued to be held up around the whole of Devon and Cornwall as a model of joined-up connectivity.

**169.2** Cllr Balkwill introduced District Cllr Gilbert to his last meeting, as he was standing down from South Hams District Council (SHDC) in May, and thanked him for all his efforts on behalf of the Kingsbridge community which was supported by fellow Members. Cllr Gilbert reported that repairs to the sea wall at the head of the estuary were excellent and was a template for the future. He had been a SHDC Member for 12 years, a Devon County Council (DCC) Member for 8 years and had been involved with KTC for over 15 years. He had many happy memories despite the difficulties with cutbacks so while he left with sadness he was content. He congratulated Members being re-elected and considered KTC to be an exceptional local council.

*District Cllr Gilbert & one Member of Public left the Chamber*

**169.3** County Cllr Brazil reported that DCC's recent South Hams Highways & Traffic Orders meeting had confirmed several changes around Kingsbridge e.g. extension of parking to 2 hours duration opposite Salt Quay Moorings and extension of double yellow lines outside Estuary Edge, Embankment Road. The following day's Cabinet meeting would discuss the lack of funding for education and the impact it was having on schools, children and families alongside a proposal to write to the Secretary of State for Education requesting him to meet with headteachers. Cllr Brazil then replied to Members' questions:

- He was aware of a dog bin issue at South Milton but this was in SHDC Cllr Wright & Pearce's ward.
- He acknowledged that train stations were making public toilets free of charge and considered SHDC's policy to introduce pay-on-entry to be wrong. It did not provide the right message and was unwelcoming in a tourism area. Members agreed to monitor the new paddle gates at Quay toilets.

**169.4** District Cllr Wingate reported that he was also very pleased with the Quay wall repairs. He had been a SHDC Member for 8 years and was standing for election for another 4 year term of office. He understood Members' concerns regarding pay-on-entry for public toilets however, SHDC had faced cut and after cut and therefore further income had to be generated.

*County Cllr Brazil & District Cllr Wingate left the Chamber*

## **18/170 URGENT BUSINESS**

Cllr Balkwill agreed to take one item of urgent business at agenda item 18/180: Quay Wall Repairs.

## **18/171        DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

## **18/172        MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 12 March 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman; subject to an amendment regarding declaration of interests at 18/158; sub agenda item 18/116.2.

## **18/173        PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 19 March 2019 and 2 April 2019.

## **18/174        PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 26 March 2019.

SHDC feedback had been received regarding potential tree works at Embankment Road Cemetery having considered KTC's recent tree risk assessment; the authority was content for Holm Oak T5 to be felled and crown reductions for the remaining Holm Oaks T1, T3, T4 and T7 to be carried out. However, SHDC advised for T5 to be replaced as an early commencement of the species being phased out. It was further **RESOLVED** for a working group to consider a replacement species for Holm Oaks at Embankment Road Cemetery.

## **18/175        EASTERN & WESTERN BACKWAYS**

Members had sighted the overpainting of graffiti in both Backways and discussed further options including: carrying out more painting, provision of a graffiti wall, mural painting and further works in the Backways e.g. lighting and planting. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to paint over graffiti if it reoccurred and for the Policy Committee to consider further enhancements for the Eastern and Western Backways.

## **18/176        75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS**

The anniversary was Thursday 6 June when a wreath would be laid at the War Memorial by the Royal British Legion (RBL) and Members noted that other towns and villages were commemorating the event in different ways. It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Balkwill and the Town Clerk to discuss with the RBL how the D-Day Landings anniversary should be marked.

## **18/177        TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

**177.1 Draft Meetings Calendar for 2019/20.** Members noted that the draft calendar identified 4 occasions during the mayoral year when 2 committee meetings would be held on the same evening if the current Tuesday evening schedule was

retained. The Town Clerk would email the calendar to Members and request their comments.

**177.2 Annual Accounts 2018/19 – timetable.** Finance Committee 23 April, draft annual governance statement full Council meeting 14 May, Internal Audit 15 May and draft annual accounts full council meeting 11 June.

**177.3 Bank Mandate.** Four new bank signatories were required for a new Bank Mandate and authorisation of online banking and the Town Clerk would email Members for their consideration.

**177.4 Recreation Ground – putting green management.** A new SHDC/Café Decks lease had highlighted that management of the putting green needed to be placed on a formal footing and that this should be authorised via an independent agreement between KTC and the café. An Agreement and revised Risk Assessment had therefore been drafted; effectively the café owner would be KTC's agent in the park and require payment for circa 26 hours work per annum. Members agreed with the suggested way forward and for liaison with the café owner.

**177.5 Turning Corners Project.** Further to County Cllr Brazil and Sgt Green's reports at the previous meeting (and subsequent meeting with KCC Principal on 2 April) Members agreed to invite the appointed youth workers to provide a briefing on the project. Thoughts on their office base in Kingsbridge would be forwarded to Sgt Green.

**177.6 Local Elections 2019.** The Kingsbridge Wards would not be contested and therefore elections would not take place. Current Members retired on the 4<sup>th</sup> day after polling day and the new council formed up on the same date (subject to declarations of office). KTC welcomed Cllr Julia Wingate in Westville Ward. Revised Members Handbooks, Declarations of Office and Register of Interests would be administered shortly. The first meeting of the new council's 4 year term of office, Annual General Meeting and appointment of new Town Mayor & Deputy would take place on 14 May; Members agreed to meet up earlier that evening. An agenda item for this meeting would be the potential co-option of a further 2 Members in East Ward to make up KTC's full complement.

**177.7 Duncombe Park & Montagu Road play areas – refit tender documents.** Further to November's council meeting and a Montagu Road public consultation in December; draft information had been received from SHDC and Members agreed for Cllr Price and the Town Clerk to review and feedback with comments.

## **18/178           REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES**

**178.1 Annual Town Meeting 15 March 2019.** Several Members had attended, alongside the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, to discuss topical issues with

local residents. Comments/suggestions had already been distributed to Members and in particular, support had been received for KTC's adopted public realm design guidelines for the town centre.

**178.2 SHDC/Mayors & Clerks meeting 20 March 2019.** Cllr Balkwill and the Town Clerk had attended; feedback had been minuted within Planning Committee minutes and in particular SHDC was confident of a 5 year land supply of housing sites.

**178.3 RNLI 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary statue meeting 21 March 2019.** Several Members had met Bruce Williams (Chairman, Salcombe RNLI) and Jim Martins (sculptor) to receive a situation report on the proposed statue and to review its suggested location at the head of the estuary. Members supported the identified position on the west side/Quay Car Park side of the estuary footpath and the widening of the footpath in the locale as part of the Quay Wall repairs.

**178.4 Recreation Ground community hub meeting 28 March 2019.** Cllr Price and the Town Clerk had attended; South Hams CVS and Kingsbridge Community Tennis would work up a funding bid to Awards For All for a feasibility study.

**178.5 Recreation Ground Green Flag judging 1 April 2019.** Cllr Price and the Town Clerk had attended alongside Rob Sekula, SHDC Assets & Place Making, to accompany the judges Richard Taylor and Jane Nicholls on a 'show & tell' tour of the park. Feedback was awaited. A matter identified that the signage from SHDC litter bins had been removed as the contents could not be recycled.

**178.6 Kingsbridge-Salcombe Multi-Use Trail feasibility study meeting 1 April 2019.** Cllr Dennis and the Town Clerk had met Iain Stewart of Sustrans, he had subsequently completed his study over 2 days and his report was awaited.

**178.7 Principal, Kingsbridge Community College meeting 2 April 2019.** Several Members had met Kenny Duncan and received information on drugs prevention and education at KCC; Members agreed that it had been very worthwhile and the liaison should be continued.

**178.8 Town Centres Strategy Working Group 3 April 2019.** Cllr Dennis had attended the meeting hosted by Modbury Parish Council. Led by Tom Jones, SHDC Place Making, this was a series of meetings which would have different themes. Matters discussed included: electric charging points, cycle trails, town wi-fi, markets and community buses. The information shared had been very worthwhile.

**178.9 DCC Highways site visit Devon Square 3 April 2019.** To be carried forward to Confidential Matters due to the receipt of a quotation for works.

**178.10 Kingsbridge 800.** Cllr Ralph distributed flyers for the event on Saturday 14 September which would celebrate Kingsbridge's 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a market town.

**18/179 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 9 April 2019. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £10,806.52 (13-31 March 2019) and £17,625.88 (1 -9 April 2019) be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**18/180 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:  
QUAY WALL REPAIRS**

SHDC had requested KTC comments on how to mark the completion of the Quay wall repairs. Members acknowledged the excellent restoration works by the contractors which had drawn many favourable comments. It was **RESOLVED** to support promotion of the Quay wall restoration by way of a photoshoot and press release.

**18/181 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN**

There were no questions for Cllr Balkwill.

**18/182 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.

*Brought forward:*

**178.9 DCC Highways site visit Devon Square 3 April 2019.** Members received a situation report on the condition of DCC managed land at the rear of Devon Square which had been worked upon by a local resident. DCC had confirmed it was content for KTC to carry out further works on the site. It was **RESOLVED** to accept a quotation to clear gravel in situ and bag for disposal, hire a digger to remove small tree stumps, action levelling/re-profiling of the round, prepare the ground and supply/sow a dual purpose Wildflower Meadow seed mix.

**18/183 KINGSBRIDGE COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS 2019**

Members received nominations and it was **RESOLVED** to select 6 local people as Kingsbridge Community Champions for 2019. It was further agreed for: prizes similar to previous years, a presentation and photoshoot to be arranged, press release to follow and to invite Community Champions to the Glove Hanging Ceremony and Town Mayor’s Reception on 24 July.

*The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.*

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

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum

## **Public Open Forum**

Martyn Rest introduced the Lighthouse Project which was aimed at supporting young people in school years 10, 11, 12 and 13 in a new hub area to include Hope Cove, Malborough, Salcombe and South Milton. He had already made a presentation to the area's town and parish councils alongside County and District Councillors. There was no current youth support in this area for the 4 year groups as Devon County Council's youth budget had ended 6 years ago and young people had no youth club or way of meeting up. The project aimed to focus on a range of activities including: growing gifted adults, life skills training, identifying parents who may be struggling with teenagers and equipping parents with skills. It would ideally be run from Malborough Village Hall. The concept for the project had been borne out of 2 recent tragedies and had the support of Kingsbridge Churches Together.

Cllr Balkwill and fellow Members supported the initiative and wished Martyn every success with his endeavours.