

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Present: Cllr Anne Balkwill (Chairman)
Cllr Philip Cole
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Mike Jennings
Cllr Steve Mammatt
Cllr Chris Povey
Cllr Julia Wingate

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Susan Jackson
District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
Sgt David Green
District Cllr Judy Pearce, Leader, SHDC
Sophie Hosking, Chief Executive, SHDC
Chris Brook, Strategic Director, SHDC
Tom Ladds, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Eleven Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Town Clerk)

19/53 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Dena Bex, Helen Cope, Graham Price and Peter Ralph.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

19/54 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

54.1 Sgt Green presented the Police report for July and August 2019. A total of 51 crimes had been committed; 67 crimes had been recorded during the same period in 2018 and 55 in 2017. Crimes had included: 15 assaults (8 minor injuries and 7 nil injuries), 9 criminal damage, 8 threats/harassment, 5 thefts, 1 sex offence, 5 frauds (on line and all independent crimes), 2 drug possessions, 1 drink driving, 1 dwelling burglary, 1 non-dwelling burglary, 1 shoplifting, 1 prohibited weapon and 1 dog out of control.

Kingsbridge Fair Week, Salcombe and Dartmouth Regattas had all been successful from a policing perspective with Special Constables providing support. A traffic operation in August had been carried out by the 'No Excuses' team; 162 vehicles were stopped for a variety of offences which included 142 for speeding. Both marked and unmarked Police cars were used; the operation would be carried out again which may earmark town centres. He championed "Call the Cops" on Channel

4 on Monday evenings as a realistic portrayal of the Devon & Cornwall force; the initial episodes had concentrated on Plymouth and Torquay. Finally, PC Jane Gerrard had retired on completion of 30 years' service; she had been a highly valued member of the Neighbourhood Team and had done much work at Kingsbridge Community College. Members joined Sgt Green in giving their thanks and appreciation for Jane's professionalism and hard work for the community.

Sgt Green then answered Members' questions:

- There was a nationwide scheme which allowed members of public to provide vehicular dashcam footage via a Police portal over the internet.
- The Police were preparing at force level for the UK leaving the EU/Brexit and it was likely that the Home Office had provided guidelines for national co-ordination.

Sgt Green left the Chamber

54.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that the Slapton Line had made recent presentations and held workshops to discuss its future. It was very unlikely that a new road could be realised and the current project was to build up resilience to face the eventual loss of the A379. Contingency plans were required and the area could be built up as a tourist destination. Devon County Council (DCC) had discussed Brexit; there would be enough cover for adult social services however, every day the authority was 4 carers short. Many carers were EU citizens who could apply for UK status however, this was not happening which was an area of concern. DCC would mitigate Brexit risks as best possible.

54.3 District Cllr Jackson reported that she was a member of South Hams District Council's (SHDC) Overview & Scrutiny Committee which had considered Fusion's decision to go cashless in the leisure centres which the authority could not oppose. She was conscious that this may have a negative impact on children and elderly people.

54.4 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that SHDC proposed to introduce 2 charging points by the end of 2020. Members considered this to be unsatisfactory and requested further information at the October council meeting e.g. type of equipment identified. SHDC had agreed to hold a public consultation regarding the proposal for a Premier Inn at Ropewalk. She had been liaising with the owner of the Kings Arms Hotel and had received feedback that guttering repairs would be actioned in September. Street sweepers followed waste collection vehicles up Fore Street; she was aware of recent problems with bagged waste and the situation would be closely monitored. Members commented that further education was required to promote the use of seagull sacks and provide information to Air B&Bs; she acknowledged that further work was required and SHDC had a Waste Working Group.

19/55 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

19/56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

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

19/62 HOTEL AT ROPEWALK

Members received SHDC's draft survey, with amplifying comments, for a forthcoming public consultation regarding the concept to develop a Premier Inn at Ropewalk. It was reported that an Economic Impact Assessment would be available shortly. A 5 week public consultation to commence in late September would include drop-in sessions with Premier Inn personnel involved and 2,000 actual mail drops to Kingsbridge and its hinterland. The results would be assessed by end October and a public meeting could be held mid-November. The Town Council's (KTC) comments had been requested on the draft however, Members did not consider that they had had enough time to consider the information. It was **RESOLVED** to re-convene at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 17 September to consider the draft survey with the aim to provide feedback to SHDC.

It was agreed for SHDC Ward Members for the Kingsbridge area to be invited to the above meeting as much interest had been expressed in the matter.

Cllrs Brazil, Jackson & O'Callaghan, other SHDC Members/Officers and 10 members of public left the Chamber.

19/57 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 9 July 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

19/58 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 16 July 2019 and 13 August 2019.

19/59 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee (public session) held on 23 July 2019.

19/60 PARKS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Proposals in the notes from the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on 26 July 2019.

19/61 POLICY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Policy Committee held on 30 July 2019.

19/63 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANT FOR 2020-21

Members received SHDC's proposal to make a final Council Tax Support Grant at a 50% reduction of £3,435 on 1 April 2020 and then to withdraw the same. Data reported that the grant as a percentage of the Precept varied significantly amongst local councils from as little as 0.63% however, Kingsbridge came third out of 61 authorities in such a league table with the grant for the current financial year of £6,871 representing 4.62% of the Precept. Members noted that the grant had decreased by circa 10% year on year and that obviously KTC would have to increase its Precept by circa 5% just to retain the status quo. It was further commented that central government reported austerity had ended so Members found it curious that the grant was proposed to end. It was **RESOLVED** to request SHDC to retain the current method to phase out the Council Tax Support Grant and for it to be retained for financial year 2021/22 and beyond in order to allow local councils to better manage their finances.

19/64 CASUAL VACANCY

Members noted that a casual vacancy in Kingsbridge North Ward had been alerted to ward electors and an election could be called by the due date of 13 September 2019. After discussion, should an election not be called, it was **RESOLVED** to advertise the position widely and seek expressions of interest for informal interviews; candidates for a previous vacancy to be notified.

19/65 KINGSTON FIRE STATION

Members received the proposal to close Kingston Fire Station as an option within the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service's current consultation regarding service delivery. It was **RESOLVED** to feedback to the Fire Service's consultation that Kingston Fire Station was an essential element of firefighting operations in the South Hams and should be retained.

19/66 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

66.1 Insurance Schedule. Visit by Steve Harvey, WPS Insurers, on 6 August reviewed KTC's insurance requirements. Nil major changes but accepted insurance cover for Crime & Cyber. WPS now insured its local councils via RSA; the company had been awarded the contract on completion of a competitive tendering process.

66.2 Street Lighting. Visit by Les Pym, DCC Lighting Engineer, on 21 August reviewed requests made by KTC and local residents alongside DCC observations:

- Fore Street and Saffron Park street lamps will be changed to LED units by end 2019.
- Eastern & Western Backways proposal to install 2 new street lamps in each to provide more lighting. In the first instance, DCC local highways officer to write to private properties to request trees and shrubbery be cutback which are

overhanging into the Backways and affecting light spillage from current and proposed lighting.

- Quay Lane, link Ebrington Street to The Promenade, proposal to replace existing wall mounted lamp with a newer model on extended arm and to install a second lamp in the lane. In the first instance, KTC to undertake some local public consultation.
- Prince of Wales Road, link Mill Street to Ilbert Road, nil lighting at present and proposal to install a new street lamp on western side adjacent former Indian Restaurant.
- Duke Street request from a local resident for more lighting in vicinity of The Codfather, objection from a local commercial unit, so unlikely to be introduced. Not perceived to be a priority as light spill was achieved from existing street lamps in Bridge Street and Fore Street.
- Approval for KTC to re-introduce Christmas Lights displays to 5 in number street lamps in the Quay roundabout area.

66.3 Trees. Visit by Alex Whish, SHDC Natural Environment, on 21 August reviewed Town Square and trees around the head of the estuary:

- Proposal to build plinths around 2 trees to mitigate roots lifting paving slabs in the Town Square; similar to previous SHDC action. Members suggested that circular benches around the trunks would be a more suitable, useful and attractive option. Town Clerk to feedback to SHDC.
- Tree adjacent to Creeks End Inn requires some limbs to be removed and a proposal for decking around its base to overcome current unstable paving slabs. KTC to be consulted in due course.
- Some works to other trees in Quay Car Park and along The Promenade will be actioned to take off dead limbs, better shape etc.
- Large Eucalyptus (Gum tree) adjacent to the toilets to be reviewed. Tree works probably unlikely to stop current debris drop and effectively the decision is likely to be: does it stay, or does it go?
- David Baisie memorial tree earmarked for planting on Saturday 28 September. SHDC will identify species, supply to KTC and contractor will prepare the ground. Actual location to be confirmed at the head of the estuary in vicinity of wall repairs/RNLI sculpture.
- SHDC content to devolve management of Tree Trail labelling to KTC which would result in a quicker turnaround for replacements. A local resident keeps a close lookout. Labels from the current supplier were inexpensive at circa £1.60 each but metal labels, different design and greater longevity, could also be supplied. KIB had secured financial sponsorship.

66.4 Highways. Visit by Lisa Edmonds, DCC highways officer, on 4 September reviewed some current highways matters:

- Site visit at Valley Cottage, Belle Cross Road, to explore flooding issues following householder enquiries received by Cllrs Bex & Jennings.
- Trees lifting paving outside Boots, Ilbert Road, to be considered.

- Concept for public realm improvements in Fore Street provided and to be considered by DCC senior highways technician.
- Vegetation cutbacks in Eastern and Western Backways (see 66.3 above).
- Cookworthy Road potential for a speed limit 'reminder' sign.
- Current DCC policy on Residents Parking Schemes given another recent request (from Manor Park).

66.5 Saturday September events.

- Saturday 14 September: Kingsbridge 800. Cllr Balkwill & Town Crier open the event in the Town Square at 10.00 a.m. with events throughout the day in the Town Square, Market Hall, Cookworthy Museum, Crabshell Inn & St Edmunds Church. KTC sponsorship at £1,000 and support from Cllrs Ralph & Wingate.
- Saturday 21 September: RNLI 150th anniversary. Councillors to attend at the head of estuary at 9.15 a.m. to await arrival of HRH Duke of Kent followed by an introduction and welcome by Bruce Williams, reply by Cllr Balkwill, HRH then speaks to attendees and unveils the sculpture.
- Saturday 28 September: David Baisie memorial tree planting (see 66.3 above). Time to be confirmed subject to Members' availability or could be postponed to a later date.

66.6 Thank Yous.

- From Kingsbridge Fair Week, for all Members' support and particularly Cllr Balkwill for her participation and enthusiasm throughout the week.
- From Kingsbridge Group for Cancer Research UK, for use of the Bandstand. The stall raised £333.20 and a street collection in Fore Street raised a further £355.30. The group appreciates KTC's continued support.
- From local residents and various groups which took part in the Love Your Park fun day who encourage KTC to consider making this an annual event!

66.7 SHDC Standards & Governance Training. On Thursday 3 October at 2.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Follaton House, Totnes. No Members or Staff were available to attend on this occasion and apologies would be provided.

66.8 Emergency Resilience Store. Vandalism had caused rain to seep into the unit and therefore it could not be stocked until repairs had been actioned.

66.9 Bunting. To be taken down over the weekend 21 and 22 September 2019 as the autumn weather deteriorated the polyester flags; 2 in number "Hello Kingsbridge" banners would then be reinstated.

66.10 Bench in Fore Street. A public seat located on the pavement adjacent to the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Fore Street had deteriorated to the extent that it had been removed by SHDC. A surplus wooden seat from Welle House Gardens after updating was suggested as a temporary replacement. Such action was supported by Members.

**19/67 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND
 AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES**

67.1 Kingsbridge In Bloom RHS national final judging on 1 August 2019; the town was wonderfully presented on the day and the results would be announced in October.

67.2 Love Your Park on 11 August 2019 in the Recreation Ground was acknowledged as a super event however, the budget was heavily over spent by circa 46%.

67.3 Cllr Cole had a worthwhile and informative visit to the recycling plant in Plymouth on 14 August 2019.

67.4 Visit by Assistant Chief Constable Paul Davies on 22 August 2019 discussed several topical matters including manpower resources.

67.5 Members received notes from the Public Realm Improvements working group meeting held on 23 August 2019 which agreed to progress matters alongside MeiLoci landscape architects for the next stages i.e. development of some outline designs which did not require 'street narrowing' and a design guide for all street furniture. The group wished to get to a stage where costs could be realised for different elements of the project. Members supported further progress with the Public Realm Improvements guidelines.

19/68 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 10 September 2019. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £18,231.68 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

19/69 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

19/70 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

19/71 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the nature of the business about to be transacted at agenda items 19/72 and 19/73 below, it was advisable in the public interest, that the public and press be temporarily excluded.

19/72 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee (confidential session – Grant Aid) held on 23 July 2019.

Public Open Forum

1. Andrea Glashier and Rosi Gladwell stated that there were significant consequences to human health and ecosystems from 5G radiation and cited several reports to evidence their assertions. For example, a study reported on an increase in dementia attributed to 5G radiation. They distributed packs to Members including information on an International Appeal to stop 5G on earth and in space which had been signed by scientists, doctors, environmental organisations and citizens from countries across the world. 5G wireless radiation was much different to 3G or 4G as the wireless beam was greater and more concentrated. France, Italy and Israel had already banned 5G from schools. Frome and Totnes Town Councils had issued a moratorium on 5G citing the precautionary principle.

Cllr Balkwill reported that a central government consultation was underway regarding permitted development rights to support the deployment of 5G and extend mobile coverage; the deadline for feedback was 4 November 2019. She was content to place the matter as an agenda item at the next full council meeting on 8 October 2019.

2. Rosemary Dunstan stated that the proposed Premier Inn in Ropewalk was earmarked for an unsatisfactory location, would bring about highways issues along a narrow road, had its own restaurant which would impact on local trade, there were plenty of B&Bs and Air B&Bs in the area and council houses would be far more suitable for the site.

Cllr Balkwill reported that the agenda item that evening would only discuss a forthcoming public consultation however, any subsequent planning application would address the points she made.