

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

**Present:** Cllr Anne Balkwill (Chairman)  
Cllr Dena Bex  
Cllr Helen Cope  
Cllr Martina Edmonds  
Cllr Barrie Fishman  
Cllr Steve Mammatt  
Cllr Graham Price  
Cllr Peter Ralph  
Cllr Paul Vann  
Cllr Julia Wingate

**In Attendance:** County Cllr Julian Brazil  
District Cllr Susan Jackson  
District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan  
Sgt David Green  
Tom Ladds, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette  
Two Members of Public  
Martin Johnson (Town Clerk)

**19/89 COUNCILLOR VACANCY – CO-OPTION**

It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Paul Vann to fill the councillor vacancy in Kingsbridge North Ward and to receive his Declaration of Office.

**19/90 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Philip Cole, Mike Jennings and Chris Povey.

**Public Open Forum**

A member of public made the statement at Annex A.

**19/91 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

**91.1** District Cllr Jackson reported that South Hams District Council (SHDC) had provided a discount for the weekday market in the Town Square at £50 rent for 10 weeks in order to encourage trading over the autumn and winter. Members commented that a meeting had been arranged with SHDC officers on 19 November to discuss the markets as the Town Council (KTC) wished to enhance them.

**91.2** Sgt Green presented the Police report for October 2019. A total of 31 crimes had been committed (9 related to one person arrested and charges for all of them); 26 crimes had been recorded during the same period in 2018 and 15 in 2017. Crimes had included: 7 assaults without injury, 4 assaults with minor injury, 2 threatening behaviour, 2 burglary dwelling (both arrested and charged), 9 criminal damages, 2 thefts, 2 shopliftings, 1 drug drive, 1 possession of Class A drug, and 1

possession of pointed article. The Neighbourhood Team had attended the annual Junior Life Skills event in October and gave a presentation about online safety to Year 6 children. The team had taken part in Remembrance Sunday laying wreaths at Kingsbridge, Modbury and Salcombe ceremonies. Finally, a new PCSO Justin Willis had joined the team on 11 November having transferred from Exmouth.

**91.3** District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that the Premier Inn's interest in SHDC's land asset at Ropewalk had gone cold and therefore the anticipated public consultation would be amended. She was aware that KTC had already provided comments on the revised draft. The Public Works Loan Board had increased its interest rate by 1% for new projects without notice which could affect the project; the message was: watch this space. Maintenance work had been actioned at the Kings Arms and the guttering had been fixed. Duncombe Park small children's play area had been refitted and looked well. She had attended alongside KTC Members the Green Flag award event in the Recreation Ground. Representations had been received about the cleanliness of the swimming pool and she was part of a working group which would tour all Fusion managed leisure centres shortly. She had lobbied BT about the payphone removal in the Town Square which had been actioned without notice. BT had reported that a wayleave arrangement with SHDC deemed the location to be private land without the need for consultation however, this appeared to be at odds with a recent district wide consultation on the potential closure of payphones. SHDC was unable to recycle Christmas wrapping paper however, a new recycling system effective from November 2020 may be able to accommodate such waste.

She then answered Members' questions:

- A faulty downpipe at the Kings Arms would be reported.
- Bookings and cancellation issues at Quayside Leisure Centre were noted alongside negative feedback for the recent cashless system, cleanliness of shower cubicles and lack of hot water.

**91.4** County Cllr Brazil reported that he had attended Devon County Council's (DCC) recent highways meeting at Rattery; a new system for dealing with potholes was being devised. The Children's Overview & Scrutiny Committee had noted the increase in class sizes over 30 students due to the lack of funding. The Heart of the South West local enterprise partnership had produced an industrial plan for Devon, Somerset, Plymouth and Torbay. There had been a recent flooding incident on the A379 at Charleton. He provided his congratulations to Kingsbridge In Bloom which continued to make a huge difference to the town and highlighted great community spirit and a can do attitude.

He then answered Members' questions:

- DCC requested S106 developer contributions for education.
- Kingsbridge Community College could not accommodate every student who wished to study there e.g. Blackawton Primary School used to be a feeder school however, this year only 50% transferred to KCC.
- KTC should explore a 'brown sign' to direct visitors to the town e.g. historic market town.

- Family Advice Support Team at Horizons, Fore Street, needed to liaise with DCC in order to address rental/sub-letting matters with Kingsbridge Foodbank.

*County Cllr Brazil left the Chamber*

**19/92 URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**19/93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**19/94 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 8 October 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**19/95 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 15 October 2019 and 5 November 2019.

**19/96 FINANCE COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 29 October 2019.

**19/97 POLICY COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Policy Committee 29 October 2019.

**19/98 PARKS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee 1 November 2019.

*District Cllrs Jackson & O'Callaghan left the Chamber*

**19/99 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

**99.1 Town Square – Markets.** Staff were investigating a continental market(s) for spring/summer 2020. SHDC officers would visit Quay House at 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday 19 November to discuss weekday markets in the Town Square in accordance with discussions at Policy Committee. Samantha Dennis, Kingsbridge Information Centre, had agreed to attend.

**99.2 Christmas Lights – Update.** All faulty displays from the 2018/19 festive season had been fixed by Lamps & Tubes team on site. Lights installation would take place on Sundays 17 and 24 November. The Christmas tree would be delivered on Thursday 21 November; with the installation team required at 1.00 p.m. Unfortunately, a cross-street display at the very bottom of Fore Street i.e. Hassall Law to former Fulfords could not be installed as it was deemed unsafe.

**99.3 Traffic Regulation Order.** KTC has been copied an objection sent to DCC relating to DCC's proposed 'no waiting at any time' in the vicinity of Estuary Edge, Embankment Road. KTC has supported the proposal.

**99.4 Fireworks.** Two independent representations had been received from local residents regarding fear and distress for people and animals. The RSPCA had drafted a motion for local authorities to consider adoption i.e. advanced advertising of public displays, public awareness campaign, lobbying government to introduce maximum noise level legislation and encouragement for local suppliers to stock 'quieter' fireworks. This was received too late for October's council meeting.

**99.5 Bandstand – vandalism.** Damage had been caused to the wooden pillars surrounding the Bandstand's metal framework. Suspects were identified by CCTV and subsequent investigation by PCSO Hawkes; a chief concern was that young people could easily have harmed themselves. Alongside parents a Restorative Justice solution had been worked up for the persons involved to rub down, prepare and repaint the wooden pillars.

**99.6 Sandbags.** Circa 40 sandbags had been handed out towards the end of the previous week to Charleton residents and a business in Lower Union Road industrial estate. More sandbags had been made up the previous day which was a drain on the staff resource. The aim was to keep building a ready-use stock in the new Resilience Store.

## **19/100        REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND                   AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES**

**100.1** SHDC/Mayors & Clerks meeting 10 October 2019 included general service and budget updates, council tax referendum limits for local councils and independent matters from town councils.

**100.2** Cllr David Baisie memorial tree planting 12 October 2019. Many of David's friends attended for a memorable event.

**100.3** KTC/Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting 15 October 2019. Richard Benton and Peter Sandover provided a briefing on Steering Group progress to date and their proposals for a Kingsbridge settlement boundary and local policies.

**100.4** KTC Neighbourhood Plan development sites/settlement boundary meeting 21 October 2019. Outcomes reported in the Planning Committee minutes dated 5 November at minute 19/63.3.

**100.5** Kingsbridge In Bloom awards' event at Newquay 11 October 2019 and at Westminster 25 October 2019. KIB had enjoyed a very successful year winning Gold in both competitions including the latter national recognition. The RHS promoted that In Bloom "changed people's lives" and this was the case in Kingsbridge.

**100.6** Recreation Ground Green Flag award event 29 October 2019. The park had won the national recognition for the 7<sup>th</sup> year running however, much work was required by SHDC, KTC and KIB working in partnership to sustain the level of success in 2020.

**100.7** KTC/SHDC litter bins meeting 31 October 2019. Members received a briefing from the meeting. Next steps: KTC to identify locations for new Fore Street litter bins in liaison with DCC, inform SHDC of its preferred design and to arrange another on-site meeting with SHDC officers with waste contractor FCC in attendance.

**100.8** KTC/SHDC play areas & amenity spaces meeting 31 October 2019. Members received a briefing from the meeting which had discussed: new skatepark, bmx/bike track, community orchard, Green Flag, Recreation Ground pond, Church Street amenity space, pocket parks, tree maintenance/planting, public benches and grounds maintenance.

**100.9** Remembrance Sunday 10 November 2019. The Royal British Legion had organised a moving event.

**100.10** Quay House solar energy. A local contractor had visited to investigate solar panels for the Council Offices and feedback was awaited. It was noted that there were several potential locations for solar panels in town. Moreover, it was hoped to power the light railway off-grid.

**100.11** Chamber of Commerce. Reports from committee meetings would be received at future meetings.

**100.12** Christmas shopping late night on Friday 29 November and Friday 20 December were promoted.

## **19/101 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 12 November 2019. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £16,946.47 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**19/102 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD**

None.

**19/103 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN**

None.

**19/104 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the nature of the business about to be transacted it was advisable in the public interest, that the public and press be temporarily excluded.

*Members of the press and public left the Chamber*

**19/105 QUOTATION**

Members received a revised quotation for the renewal of the timeview and maintenance contract for the flood warning rain and river gauges which included part-funding via DCC. However, it was considered that Met Office warnings and local knowledge was sufficient to enable the community to prepare as best possible for potential flood incidents. It was **RESOLVED** to not take over the continued maintenance/telemetry of flood gauges.

*The meeting closed at 8.47 p.m.*

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

Annex:

- A. Public Open Forum.

**Public Open Forum**

1. Andrea Glashier thanked Members for acknowledging concerns about the potential harm of 5G radiation to humans and the environment at the previous council meeting.

Cllr Balkwill thanked Andrea for her statement and reported that said minutes were due to be adopted at the current meeting.