

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2020**

Present: Cllr Anne Balkwill (Chairman)
Cllr Dena Bex
Cllr Philip Cole
Cllr Helen Cope
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Mike Jennings
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
Tom Ladds, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Eight Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Town Clerk)

19/138 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Povey and Kingsbridge Neighbourhood Police.

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

19/152 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED** that the public and press should not be temporarily excluded for the business at agenda item 19/153.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

Two members of public left the Chamber

19/139 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

139.1 County Cllr Brazil thanked the Town Council's (KTC) Planning Committee for a great turnout at the K5 development site inspection the previous day during atrocious weather. South Hams District Council's (SHDC) Development Management Committee, which he chaired, would receive the K5 planning application at 2.00 p.m. the following day. It was likely to be an interesting debate

given a new Joint Local Plan and because the Planning Inspector had taken out K5 as an allocated site. The AONB was likely to feature heavily and it was about the subjective benefits versus disbenefits.

Devon County Council's (DCC) Cabinet meeting would take place on 14 February and the budget would be received on 20 February by the full council. Central government had provided £8m extra funding for adult social care but effectively it was for councils to provide increases. It was likely to be a difficult discussion and cuts were inevitable. He noted the comments by the local Extinction Rebellion group; DCC had declared a climate emergency and a Citizens Assembly would be formed to meet over weekends to realise an action plan for the county. Councils themselves could only make a difference within their own spheres and ultimately everyone had to shoulder responsibility. However, an action plan for local councils would be available which KTC could use as guidance and there was a likelihood of SHDC funding to follow for local projects. Finally, he reported upon Roger Pope's retirement and that he had been a fantastic servant to Kingsbridge during his time at the Community College.

Cllr Brazil then took Member's questions:

- He was aware of the Prime Minister's 'bus bonanza' plan and suggested that Cllr Fishman worked up ideas for local improvements.

139.2 District Cllr Jackson reported that an alternate budget had been agreed for SHDC to include £400k for climate change projects. A proposed cut at £10k for South Hams CVS may be re-instated given it was as small sum for such a vital service.

KTC Members hoped that:

- the climate change commitment would be an ideological shift rather than purely financial and cited SHDC's recent purchase of a high street store in Dartmouth, and
- progress would be made on the proposed introduction of electric vehicle charging points.

139.3 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that it was the opposition at SHDC which had lobbied for climate change funding which had to be ratified alongside a new proposal for CVS funding which was likely to be 50% of the current sum at £5k for 2020/21. It had also lobbied for the proposed 4% increase in car parking charges to be frozen. SHDC's proportion of council tax was likely to rise by £5 at 3%. She was trying to arrange an on-site meeting at the Kings Arms with SHDC's heritage officer given further deterioration; Members agreed for KTC to write to the owner to lobby for maintenance to take place. She was aware of funding for 'ring & ride' services for other towns and that KTC should liaise with her to explore funds for Kingsbridge.

Members brought up SHDC's recent purchase of the former Marks & Spencers building in Dartmouth and the Ward Members replied that they had been unaware of the matter beforehand. Members agreed for KTC to write to SHDC's Director of Place to suggest that the authority should have consulted with local taxpayers before such a large expenditure.

Members were also concerned that new parking permits could not be purchased, and it was agreed for KTC to request an update from SHDC.

19/140 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

19/141 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Balkwill declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 19/143 (sub agenda item 104.2).

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

19/153 ROPEWALK CONSULTATION

Members received a draft letter from the Town Mayor and Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, and it was **RESOLVED** to send it unamended to the Leader of SHDC in lieu of a survey return for the Ropewalk public consultation. The letter addressed KTC/Neighbourhood Plan joint aspirations for a sustainable town and requested discussion with SHDC when the outcomes of the current consultation were known.

County Cllr Brazil and a member of public left the Chamber

19/142 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 14 January 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

19/143 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 21 January 2020 and 4 February 2020.

It was further **RESOLVED** to support local residents' requests to County Cllr Brazil for the current 20 mph speed limit zone in Belle Hill to be extended/moved further up the hill/out of town towards the former playing fields given the recent planning permission for the Applegate Park housing development.

19/144 POLICY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Policy Committee held on 28 January 2020.

19/145 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee held on 31 January 2020.

19/146 GB SPRING CLEAN & RHS GROW SOCIAL

It was **RESOLVED** to support participation in Keep Britain Tidy's GB Spring Clean between 20 March and 13 April in combination with the Royal Horticultural Society's campaign Grow Social in 2020. Members earmarked 2.00-4.00 p.m. on Saturday 28 March for a KTC, traders and community town centre 'spring clean'.

19/147 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

147.1 Meeting with SHDC officers. A meeting has been arranged for Members to meet with SHDC officers at 1.00 p.m. on Monday 2nd March in Follaton House, Totnes to discuss KTC's ambitions for a pocket park at the entrance to Fore Street Car Park (and related one way entry/exit). It was agreed for KTC to be represented by Cllr Chris Povey, Trish Hawes of MeiLoco landscape architects and either Cllr Cole or Cllr Price.

147.2 Inclement weather/high tides. A high tides (over 5m) timetable was available on KTC's website which was promoted on KTC's Facebook page giving townfolk advice. Peter Trembath (volunteer Flood Warden), Cllr Jennings and the Town Clerk had been on lookout duties from the previous weekend onwards in preparation to turn-on the flashing flood warning signs in Ilbert Road and The Promenade.

147.3 Town Mayor & Deputy Town Mayor for mayoral year 2020/21. A memorandum would be distributed shortly to report the administration for selection of the Mayor and Deputy for the next mayoral year beginning at the Annual General Meeting on 12 May. The Mayor to be chosen at the next March council meeting and the Deputy to be selected at the following April council meeting.

19/148 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

148.1 Cllr Price and the Town Clerk had attended a Pavillion in the Park working group meeting on 16 January; attendees held ambitions to either refit the current cottage/Park Bowling Clubhouse or build a new community hub facility at the same location.

148.2 Cllr Povey had visited MeiLoco landscape architects in Truro on 23 January; visualisations were being worked up for a public exhibition of KTC's ambitions for public realm improvements in the town centre i.e. new seating, bins, planters and plants.

148.3 Members had attended a memorial tree planting for Tyler Peck in Quay House grounds on 7 February; all attendees commented on how moving the event had been with over 100 persons, largely young people, in attendance.

148.4 Cllr Ralph had attended a recent meeting of Kingsbridge Feoffees; the housing development off Derby Road was going ahead. The homes would be affordable for rent; applications would be considered by the Feoffees from persons on the Devon Home Choice listing.

148.5 Cllr Price reported that Kingsbridge In Bloom was on schedule with their plans for summer 2020. The Town Clerk and himself had attended a worthwhile on-site meeting with Landmarc at the Recreation Ground pond and the company would provide suggestions for its refit.

148.6 Cllr Wingate reported on a recent traders' meeting; KTC/MeiLoci plans for public realm improvements had been well received. There was a public perception of several empty shops in Fore Street however, it was at 9% with the national figure at 15% for high streets empty premises. Moreover, building works were ongoing in some with new tenants in readiness. KTC was liaising with a professional artist who may be willing to paint murals on internal shop windows and Reception staff were making enquiries to seek landowner permissions.

148.7 Cllr Mammatt reported that the passing of Nick Tee had left a huge void for the Kingsbridge Food and Music Festival; it was still hoped to progress an event for 2020.

19/149 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 11 February 2020. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £43,625.45 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

19/150 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD

None.

19/151 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Rachel from Extinction Rebellion Kingsbridge and Area requested for KTC to declare a climate and environmental emergency. Government targets were to reduce carbon emissions at 45% by 2030 and to reach zero by 2050. About half of local councils in Devon had made a declaration; she distributed information and queried how KTC could consider this.

Cllr Balkwill thanked Rachel for her statement; the matter would be considered at the next council meeting on 10 March and Cllr Vann was content to act as lead Member for KTC.

2. Richard Bateson stated that Premier Inn had been earmarked for SHDC's land off Ropewalk. The company had made a 17% annual profit margin while SHDC's estimate for a hotel on the site was 1%. Premier Inn's build costs at the Ashburton site for an 80 room hotel, including land acquisition, was £5.2m (SHDC's estimate costs were circa £10m). He had particular issues with the proposed hotel's appearance, its height, impact on other hotels/B&Bs in the area, suggested the business model was flawed and SHDC's estimated positive impacts on the local economy were wildly optimistic.

Cllr Balkwill thanked Richard for his statement however, she understood that Premier Inn did not currently feature in future plans for the site.