

## KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Quay House  
Kingsbridge  
01548.853296

Dear Councillor,

The next meeting of Kingsbridge Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Quay House at **7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 10 March 2020**. You are summoned to attend.

### AGENDA

#### 19/154 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

#### Public Open Forum

Fifteen minutes is set aside to enable Kingsbridge electors to ask questions or to make statements.

#### 19/155 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

To receive reports, as above, on matters relevant to Kingsbridge.

#### 19/156 URGENT BUSINESS

To identify any urgent items of business not on the agenda which, at the Chairman's discretion, may be considered at this meeting under agenda item 19/165 below (please notify the Chairman or Town Clerk in advance of any such items).

#### 19/157 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To invite Members to declare any pecuniary interests and non-pecuniary interests that they may have in any matters to be considered at this meeting; and to note that a Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter must withdraw from the Chamber at the commencement of the consideration of that business or, if later, the time at which the interest becomes apparent.

#### 19/158 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

#### PAPER 1

To take as read, and if approved, to authorise the Chairman to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 February 2020.

#### 19/159 PLANNING COMMITTEE

#### PAPER 2

To receive the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 3 March 2020 and to consider the resolutions therein.

#### 19/160 FLOOD AND WINTER RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

#### PAPER 3

To receive the minutes of the Flood & Winter Resilience Committee held on 25 February 2020 and to endorse the recommendations therein.

#### 19/161 CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURE EMERGENCY

#### PAPER 4

To consider the declaration of a climate and nature emergency and to work up a climate change action plan for Kingsbridge.

#### 19/162 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

#### PAPER 5

To receive the Town Clerk's Report.

19/163 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

To receive any reports by Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies and/or attending meetings with outside authorities and other agencies. To include:

- South Hams District Council's Development Management Committee 12 February.
- Pavillion in the Park working group 27 February.
- SHDC/KTC public realm improvements/pocket park meeting 2 March.
- Love Your Park meeting 4 March.
- Kingsbridge inaugural Sports Hub meeting 6 March.
- Salcombe TC/KTC community land trust meeting 9 March.
- Kingsbridge, West Alvington & Churchstow Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 9 March.

19/164 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

To approve the schedule of payments.

**PAPER 6  
(to follow)**

19/165 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

To consider any urgent business as identified under item 19/156 above.

19/166 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

To give Members the opportunity to question the Chairman on matters previously raised in council meetings.

19/167 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

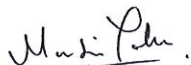
To consider a resolution that in view of the nature of the business about to be transacted at agenda item 19/168 below, it is advisable in the public interest, that the public and press be temporarily excluded.

19/168 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR/CHAIRMAN FOR MAYORAL YEAR 2020/21

To receive nominations and to elect the Town Mayor/Chairman for mayoral year 2020/21 by secret ballot (to take office at the Annual General Meeting on 12 May 2020).

*FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS*

*Members are invited to notify the Town Clerk of any future agenda items.*



Martin Johnson  
Town Clerk  
4 March 2020

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 MeiLocl 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 townsfolk 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 MeiLocl 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/MeiLoc 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 Chairman      .....Date

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.



**Kingsbridge Town Council**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE  
HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 3 MARCH 2020 IN QUAY HOUSE**

**Present:** Cllr Chris Povey (Chairman)  
Cllr Anne Balkwill  
Cllr Philip Cole  
Cllr Dena Bex  
Cllr Dena Edmonds  
Cllr Mike Jennings  
Cllr Graham Price  
Cllr Peter Ralph

**In Attendance:** Martin Johnson (Secretary)

**19/107 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**Public Open Forum**

There were no members of public present.

**19/108 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

**19/109 PLANNING DECISIONS, CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS**

**DECISIONS**

The following planning decisions were received from South Hams District Council (SHDC):

<b>109.1</b>	<b>3483/19/FUL</b>
<b>Decision:</b>	<b>Conditional Approval</b>
Decision date:	21 January 2020
Applicant:	Mr & Mrs G N Rogers Devon Care Group
Proposal:	Proposed extension to create new entrance area and improve access into building
Site:	Quay Court Care Centre, Squares Quay, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1HN
<b>KTC:</b>	<b>Recommended Approval</b>
 <b>109.2</b>	 <b>3922/19/VAR</b>
<b>Decision:</b>	<b>Conditional Approval</b>
Decision date:	22 January 2020
Applicant:	Mr T May

Proposal: Application for variation of conditions 2 and 3 of planning permission 3378/18/HHO  
Site: 28 Vincents Road, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1RP  
KTC: **Recommended Approval**

**109.3** **3764/19/HHO**  
**Decision:** **Conditional Approval**  
Decision date: 31 January 2020  
Applicant: Mr & Mrs A Head  
Proposal: Householder application for proposed extension to dwelling  
Site: 26 Lower Warren Road, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1LF  
KTC: **Recommended Approval**

**109.4** **3883/19/HHO**  
**Decision:** **Conditional Approval**  
Decision date: 3 February 2020  
Applicant: Mr B Trapp  
Proposal: Householder application for replacement roof to existing rear conservatory  
Site: 1 Oaklea Close, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1HW  
KTC: **Recommended Approval**

**109.5** **3910/19/FUL**  
**Decision:** **Conditional Approval**  
Decision date: 6 February 2020  
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Allen  
Proposal: Erection of new dwelling  
Site: Rooftops, Ebrington Street, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1DE  
KTC: **Recommended Approval** subject to drainage matters raised by SHDC being resolved

**109.6** **3981/19/HHO**  
**Decision:** **Conditional Approval**  
Decision date: 5 February 2020  
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Wightman  
Proposal: Householder application for alterations and extension to dwelling  
Site: 14 Waverley Road, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1EZ  
KTC: **Recommended Refusal** on the following grounds:  
The introduction of a pitched slate dormer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at the front of the property would be out of keeping and detract from the overall design and visual appearance of an attractive row of terraced homes none of which have dormers

Members reported their frustrations that planning consent had been approved given KTC's strong representations on the proposals.



<b>109.7</b>	<b>3822/19/VAR</b>
<b>Decision:</b>	<b>Conditional Approval</b>
Decision date:	10 February 2020
Applicant:	Mr C Martin
Proposal:	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning consent 28/2197/15/F
Site:	Court Farm, Washabrook Lane, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1RS
<b>KTC:</b>	<b>Recommended Approval</b>
<b>109.8</b>	<b>4038/19/LBC</b>
<b>Decision:</b>	<b>Listed Building Consent Granted</b>
Decision date:	13 February 2020
Applicant:	Mr & Mrs R Prior
Proposal:	Listed building consent for internal and external alterations and modifications to dwelling
Site:	18A Fore Street, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1NY
<b>KTC:</b>	<b>Recommended Approval</b>
<b>109.9</b>	<b>4087/19/LBC</b>
<b>Decision:</b>	<b>Listed Building Consent Granted</b>
Decision date:	10 February 2020
Applicant:	Mr B French
Proposal:	Listed building consent for replacement of 1no. existing external ATM sign with 1no. new external ATM sign
Site:	32-34 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1PB
<b>KTC:</b>	<b>Recommended Approval</b>
<b>109.10</b>	<b>4088/19/ADV</b>
<b>Decision:</b>	<b>Advertisement Control Consent Granted</b>
Decision date:	10 February 2020
Applicant:	Mr B French
Proposal:	Advertisement consent for replacement of 1no. existing external ATM sign with 1no. new external ATM sign
Site:	32-34 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1PB
<b>KTC:</b>	<b>Recommended Approval</b>
<b>109.11</b>	<b>4119/19/VAR</b>
<b>Decision:</b>	<b>Conditional Approval</b>
Decision date:	13 February 2020
Applicant:	Mr & Mrs Burgess
Proposal:	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) following planning consent 0207/18/FUL (Erection of two detached houses and garages) for design changes.
Site:	Proposed development site at Sx 7318 4302, Warren Road, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1LB
<b>KTC:</b>	<b>Recommended Approval</b>

## CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS

The following correspondence was received:

**109.12**                      **0110/20/ARC**  
Case Officer:              Charly DeAbreu  
Location:                   Land off (west of) Belle Hill, Kingsbridge  
Applicant:                  Devonshire Homes Ltd and Westco Properties Ltd  
Proposal:                   Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 8, 14,  
   18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of planning consent 0692/19/VAR

**SHDC reported that there was no statutory consultation requirement for the above application i.e. the application has been forwarded for information only**

**109.13**                      Application for a new premises licence for 46 Fore Street,  
   Kingsbridge TQ7 1NY known as Green and Wild.  
   The application is for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the  
   premises Monday to Friday 0900-1700 and Saturday 0900-1600

**The above licensing application had subsequently been withdrawn (SHDC email dated 24 February 2020).**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the above planning decisions and correspondence.

### **19/110                      TREE WORK DECISIONS, CORRESPONDENCE & APPLICATIONS**

The following tree works' application was received from SHDC:

**110.1**                      **0470/20/TCA**  
Applicant:                  Miss J Bill  
Proposal:                   T1: Ash – Fell to allow progression of T2 Elm  
   T3: Hawthorn – crown height reduction by 1 metre and lateral  
   reduction by 0.5metres on all sides to manage growth and  
   maintain shape  
Site:                           62 Church Street, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1DD  
Case Officer:              Lee Marshall  
**KTC:**                      **Recommend Approval**

It was **RESOLVED** to forward the findings of the above tree works' consultation to SHDC Development Management.

### **19/111                      PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The following planning application was received from SHDC for consideration:



**111.1**                      **0387/20/FUL**

Case Officer:            Carlo Josi  
Location:                7 The Loft, Station Yard Industrial Estate, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1ES  
Applicant:               Marvel Fitness (SW) Ltd  
Proposal:                Change of use from Class B1 (Workshop & Offices) to D2  
                                 (Gymnasium)

**KTC:**                      **Recommend Approval**

It was **RESOLVED** to forward the findings of the above planning consultation to SHDC Development Management.

**19/112**                      **ANY FURTHER CURRENT PLANNING MATTERS**

**112.1** Cllrs Cole and Povey, Patricia Hawes from MeiLoci landscape architects and the Town Clerk had met with SHDC senior officers the previous day to discuss KTC's ambitions for public realm improvements. KTC's plans were presented and drawings of proposed new street furniture in situ at various locations. The salient points were:

- KTC's ambitions were acknowledged as very positive.
- A stumbling block for use of Fore Street Car Park for a pocket park was the loss of parking spaces and therefore revenue.
- A parking space generated circa £800 revenue per annum. Ten parking spaces would be required to re-locate the 6 current disabled spaces at the mouth of the car park i.e. loss of £8k revenue per annum.
- KTC was invited to propose how: a) it could mitigate an immediate loss of motor cycle parking spaces to accommodate 3 in number large planters, and b) how it could mitigate re-location of current disabled spaces which could include re-configuration of the entire car park to gain further parking spaces. A further proposal for entry only from Fore Street with all exit to Cookworthy Road was part of the overall KTC scheme.

It was **RESOLVED** to progress KTC's plans for planters and a pocket park at the mouth of Fore Street Car Park, to include potential re-design of the car park and for further liaison with SHDC.

**112.2** SHDC had reported that the results of the recent Ropewalk public consultation were known and a report was being finalised. It was **RESOLVED** to request an independent meeting with SHDC to receive the Ropewalk consultation findings and to discuss the way forward.

**112.3** Members were aware that the proposed K5 development (planning application 2434/18/ARM) had been deferred by SHDC's Development Management Committee and that feedback from the applicant was awaited by SHDC for further consideration. Such feedback may or may not trigger a further public consultation prior to SHDC's decision on the proposals.

*Cllr Jennings left the Chamber*

**112.4** Members discussed the worthiness of an independent housing needs survey for Kingsbridge which had previously been discounted by KTC and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Povey to hold exploratory discussions with 2 local estate agents to establish what type of housing people were making enquires for at present.

**112.5** SHDC Outstanding Enforcement Cases listing dated 2 March 2020 was distributed to Members; the listing was confidential and was not for dissemination to the public or outside bodies.

A further potential enforcement case was raised and the Town Clerk would report the same to SHDC.

Members would review drawings for an approved planning application and ongoing development.

Devon County Council would be informed of potential harm to a public footpath.

**19/113**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 17 March 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

*The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.*

**Kingsbridge Town Council**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FLOOD & WINTER RESILIENCE COMMITTEE  
HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2020 IN QUAY HOUSE**

**Present:** Cllr Barrie Fishman (Chairman)  
Cllr Anne Balkwill  
Cllr Mike Jennings  
Cllr Philip Cole  
Cllr Chris Povey  
Cllr Graham Price

**In Attendance:** Johnathan Hubbard, Pell Frischmann  
Two Members of Public  
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

**19/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies.

**Public Open Forum**

Mr Alexander Fulcher, of Western Backway, stated that his end terraced property was next to the leat and that he had experienced flooding in the past and kept a stock of sandbags and flood board in readiness. He was particularly concerned that the water level adjacent to his home was shallow at circa one foot depth however, it was a much greater depth at either side at circa 2 feet deep. He suggested that the leat required dredging.

Cllr Fishman and Johnathan Hubbard explained that gravel deposits would be flushed downstream from the Norton Brook watercourse. It may be a simple case that an obstacle in the leat had increased the height of deposits and water level at his location over time. Dredging of the leat was earmarked as an option in the Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan but to date external funding had not been made available to action physical interventions in town. However, Kingsbridge had been fortunate to achieve Defra Pathfinder funding in the recent past. He was advised to contact the Environment Agency to establish management of the watercourse, potential riparian ownership matters and to request dredging of the leat to limit the flood risk to his property; the Town Clerk could assist if required.

**19/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**19/13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members were in receipt of the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 September 2019 which were approved as a correct record.



## 19/14 KINGSBRIDGE CATCHMENT STUDY

Pell Frischmann (PF) provided an update on the Kingsbridge Integrated Urban Drainage Management project; the salient matters were:

- PF anticipated its report to be completed by late March for Devon County Council (DCC), Environment Agency (EA) and South West Water (SWW).
- The report would provide a range of options to mitigate flooding in the town.
- All options had been assessed as feasible e.g. a discrete pumping station situated in the Bus Station locale.
- SWW anticipated carrying out some independent drainage and sewage works in 2020. Sewage had been historically overlooked and allowed to discharge into the estuary however, regulations were being tightened. Indeed, further SWW drainage works were anticipated in the next 2 to 3 years.
- Mill Street should not flood with debris if a pump was installed however, it was not cost effective for pumps to have an independent power supply. Such measures should be available within the next 5 years subject to capital projects' funding.
- A solution for Devon Square flooding could be available within the next 12 months which would require a storage area in the locale.
- All partners would be required to communicate going forwards and align funding streams in order to pay for such works.
- Other options included: a flood gate near the former railway line in Westville and improvements for attenuation in the Duncombe and Norton Brook streams.
- New housing developments identified in the Joint Local Plan would be required to evidence flood mitigation schemes in their plans.
- There was likely to be potential environmental concerns if a barrage at the head of the estuary was proposed.
- The removal of vegetation from watercourses would assist the risk of flooding however, there were no immediate concerns with vegetation growing adjacent to the Norton Brook watercourse to the north of the Tesco retail store.
- Ultimately, the future looked positive for Kingsbridge, but it may take 5 to 10 years for all flood mitigation projects to be achieved.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to note Pell Frischmann's update on the Kingsbridge catchment study.

## 19/15 FLOOD RESILIENCE

**15.1 Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan (last updated June 2019).** The plan required minor updates. A redacted version was available on the town council's (KTC) website.

**15.2 Recruitment of volunteer Flood Wardens and potential training by the Environment Agency.** Members received a draft press release which invited expressions of interest from local residents to become volunteer Flood Wardens. High risk neighbourhoods were identified. It was **Recommended** to release a press release via the website, Facebook and notice boards to recruit Flood Wardens.

Unfortunately, the EA was unable to undertake further Flood Warden training at present due to a lack of resources (see 15.3 below). However, it was noted that Communities Prepared had recently produced 2 worthwhile guides:

- Flood Volunteer Training Part 1 – Understanding flooding and your role as a Community Emergency Volunteer, and
- Flood Volunteer Training Part 2 – Flood risk awareness.

#### **15.3 Town Clerk attendance at the EA's East Cornwall flood warden training 26 March.**

The EA had arranged for the Town Clerk to attend the above training event. On completion, the Town Clerk would feedback to Members whether a KTC managed, i.e. in-house, flood warden training event could be worked-up or whether an external agency was required to deliver such training. If an external agency was needed then other local parishes could also be invited to take part.

#### **15.4 Feedback from the Devon Resilience Forum held at Rattery 27 November.** Cllrs Cole and Fishman, and the Town Clerk, had attended the event.

**15.5 Flood alarm for the town centre?** Members recognised that a loud audible alarm was probably not required however, there was a desire to make local residents sit-up and take notice of potential flood incidents by subscribing to receive Met Office weather alerts.

**15.6 Flood incidents since the last meeting including tidal surge 13 February and operation of highways flood warning signs.** PF reported that the flood incident on 13 February had been the second biggest tidal surge since 2014. Bridge Street, Ilbert Road, Prince of Wales Road and Mill Street were all flooded from circa 0815 to 1000 however, there had been no reports of properties being flooded. The flashing highways flood warning signs had been operated. A roster of Peter Trembath (flood warden), Cllr Jennings and the Town Clerk had covered the period of high tides.

**15.7 Spring tides diary (182 in number high tides over 5m in 2020).** Members noted a very large number of high tides for 2020 and hence the potential for further tidal surges. The timetable was available on KTC's website and identified a flood risk time window of 45 minutes before/after high tide.

**15.8 Community Resilience Store and stock of community resilience equipment.** Cllrs Cole, Cope, Fishman, Price and Vann had completed sandbag filling over the Christmas period. Circa 50 sandbags had been handed to residents of Charleton during a recent flood incident given the immediacy of their plight. However, the Town Clerk had replied to a recent request that unfortunately KTC could no longer supply sandbags as they were needed for the Kingsbridge community and Charleton Parish Council had been informed. It was agreed that an absolute minimum ready-use stock of 50 sandbags should be maintained in the new Community Resilience Store located to the rear of the Garage.

A simple system was in place to gain access to all community resilience equipment held including radios, headtorches, hi-viz clothing, highways signage etc. via combination lock



access to the Garage only i.e. an information board behind the Garage door identified locations/keys to equipment supplies.

**15.9 Deletion of river and rain gauges.** Confirmed with Devon County Council following previous consideration by Members.

**15.10 Highways surface water gullies – Devon County Council clearance 2019/20.** DCC's annual, and every third year, clearance of drains had taken place simultaneously in late 2019 therefore, the local highways officer had advised that KTC was not required to clear again during the current financial year.

Members noted that water settled over drains in Embankment Road near Estuary View and the Recreation Ground.

**15.11 Budget financial year 2020/21 – budget and expenditure.** The budget included £750 for salt, grit bins, sand and sandbags; and £2,500 for surface water drains clearance (which would be required in late 2020).

## **19/16 WINTER RESILIENCE**

**16.1 Winter weather incidents 2019/20.** None to date.

**16.2 Winter weather wardens.** Circa 20 in number wardens covered almost the whole of the town and had bags of grit stored at their homes ready for use in local neighbourhoods. They were contacted each October to ensure they were content to continue in their role. Members noted that they may also wish to become Flood Wardens.

**16.3 Grit bins and potential of extra grit for winter weather situations.** KTC managed 10 in number grit bins around town and a pallet of extra grit bags had been recently delivered by DCC free of charge. It was reported that the grit bin in Higher Warren Road had been tipped over and required to be re-secured.

## **19/17 IMMEDIATE MATTERS**

It was agreed to write to Pell Frischmann to thank Johnathan Hubbard for his catchment study updates at committee meetings.

## **19/18 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed in September 2020.

*The meeting closed at 8.34 p.m.*



## **Why Kingsbridge Town Council Should Declare a Climate and Nature Emergency and have an appropriate Action Plan in Response**

1. Latest thinking on Climate Change and its global impact is powerfully summarised by the following key statements, interestingly, from a very recent report by JP Morgan multi-billion dollar US financial services company:

- Global heating is on course to hit 3.5C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. Most estimates of the likely economic and health costs are far too small.
- We cannot rule out catastrophic outcomes where human life as we know it is threatened.
- Although precise predictions are not possible, it is clear that the Earth is on an unsustainable trajectory. Something will have to change at some point if the human race is going to survive."
- Policymakers need to change direction because a business-as-usual climate policy would likely push the earth to a place that we haven't seen for many millions of years, with outcomes that might be impossible to reverse.

2. A particular Kingsbridge issue is that by being a coastal town it is at risk from:

- a) a 7m sea level rise if Greenland's ice melts (ice-melt there is accelerating) and
- b) a further 50m rise if Antarctica's ice melts (ice melt there is accelerating too). It hardly needs saying that either would be catastrophic.

3. The nature emergency is also significant with a wide variety of habitats, insects, birds and small mammals in decline across the country that will have wide ranging adverse impacts.

4. Kingsbridge Town Council has already been doing some great things that help address this double Emergency. But those that represent significant groups of people, households and/or businesses have a special role in raising awareness and being an exemplar. This is what declaring a Climate and Nature Emergency and having an appropriate Action Plan is about.

5. As well as having already taken some exemplary action, Kingsbridge has plans to do more (at various stages of formulation and delivery) and can draw on a range of other ideas for further action eg those suggested by Friends of the Earth: 20 Actions that parish and town councils can take on the climate and nature emergency<sup>1</sup><https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/print/pdf/node/140> and those suggested by local groups and individuals.

6. It is therefore proposed that the following approach is taken by the Council:

- a) We declare a Climate and Nature Emergency - at our Full Council meeting on 10th March
- b) We develop a simple rolling Action Plan that:
  - identifies deliverable projects that the Council, and those with whom we engage, want to see happen;
  - identifies who is best placed to take these projects forward and deliver results as quickly and effectively as possible;
  - is a basis for supporting projects financially as and when appropriate/financially possible;
  - is regularly (quarterly?) reported on - to Full Council and Kingsbridge area households and businesses.

An illustration of such an Action Plan is appended.

## Kingsbridge Climate and Nature Emergency Illustrative 10 Point Action Plan

- 1. Low Carbon Energy Use by KTC:** Ensure that KTC is purchasing all its energy from renewable sources and that all its lighting is lowest energy. Campaign for other organisations/householders to do likewise (part delivered)
- 2. Extensive Flower Bed Creation:** Continue/expand the national exemplar delivery of such by the Kingsbridge in Bloom team with a major focus on insect life
- 3. Planning Policy on Minimising Energy Use in New Build:** Work with SHDC to require leading approaches to minimising energy use in new build/conversion schemes (NB a Neighbourhood Plan intent)
- 4. Electric Cars (and Bikes and Boats):** Establish an Electric Vehicle Hub including the provision of even more electric charging points and considering a possible Electric Car Sharing Scheme and maybe a Community Electric Bus Scheme? (Neighbourhood Plan proposes much of this)
- 5. Renewable Energy Generation on Existing Buildings:** Push for town-wide delivery of roof-top solar PV schemes starting with the largest well-placed roofs first ie Quayside Leisure Centre, Tesco and Kingsbridge Community College. (Action already underway on this)
- 6. Arrange and host a Climate Market** – eg energy saving products local only produce (wide variety), local wildlife groups, electric vehicle promotion? (Action already underway on this)
- 7. Tree Planting/Carbon Capture:** Identify tree planting potential in and around Kingsbridge (including by engagement with landowners) and support tree planting days involving local schools other groups to deliver, say, 100 trees a year initially, perhaps rising to many hundreds pa (initial site already proposed and 'Orchard Town' idea mooted).
- 8. Tackling Fuel Poverty and Climate Change Together:** Establish a **Kingsbridge Air Travel Offset Fund** to support an insulation/lower energy use scheme for those in need.
- 9. Kingsbridge Climate Action Promotion Scheme:** Promote local businesses that are taking action and can help/encourage others to.
- 10. Art Promoted Action** – Support action through community artwork using TC facilities, empty shop windows (Engage with XR?)



**19/162 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT****Kingsbridge Aspirations**

- Cllr Judy Pearce, Leader of SHDC, replied on 19 February to KTC & Chairman NPlan's letter dated 11 February which reported shared aspirations for Kingsbridge; the importance of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan for Kingsbridge, West Alvington & Churchstow; and a request for SHDC/KTC discussions about the development site at Ropewalk on completion of the public consultation.

**Temporary seating – Fore Street**

- An unwanted private bench from Welle House Gardens has been repainted and installed to replace a time-worn bench in Fore Street outside the Roman Catholic Church.
- This is a temporary measure until KTC's public realm project is progressed.

**Potholes**

- Members are requested to notify the Town Clerk/Reception of potholes around town for KTC to action repairs.
- KTC cannot action the A379 Plymouth, Cookworthy, Ilbert, Promenade and Embankment roads, the A381 West Alvington Hill nor primary roads through town i.e. Fore Street, Stentiford Hill, Duncombe Street, Waterloo Road, Belle Hill, Belle Vue Road, Church Street and Bridge Street. However, every other public road can be repairs as long as the pothole is less than 300mm wide x 40mm depth.
- To date the listing includes access to Quay House/Texaco Garage, Kingsway Park/Ropewalk and Frogmore Terrace (near Waverley Road).

**Possibly further updates at the meeting.....**