

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD REMOTELY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2020**

Present: Cllr Philip Cole (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Dena Bex
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Mike Jennings
Cllr Steve Mammatt
Cllr Chris Povey
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
13 Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

At the outset of the meeting the Town Clerk provided some opening remarks regarding remote meetings, the recording of remote meetings and the procedure for this remote meeting.

20/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Helen Cope and Sgt James Timmis.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

20/20 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

20.1 Sgt Timmis Police had supplied a written report in his absence which had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

20.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that the vast majority of the Covid-19 reallocation of roadspace fund had already been spent on schemes in Exeter, Barnstaple, Bideford and Newton Abbot. He would support Kingsbridge Town Council's (KTC) suggestions for expenditure of its share of the re-opening of high street fund for Kingsbridge town centre. The chief matter was that high streets would never be the same again however, Kingsbridge had been remarkably resilient to date in identifying itself as a destination and he hoped that local businesses could recover.

20.3 District Cllr Jackson reported that she had been liaising with Dan Taylor, locality officer, who had been South Hams District Council's (SHDC) Covid-19 liaison for the Kingsbridge area. There had been some issues with rubbish collection and she noted that public toilets had re-opened. Fusion managed Quayside Leisure Centre remained closed at the present time.

20.4 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that SHDC had been discussing Covid-19 related matters including vulnerable and homeless persons. While SHDC had been in a healthy financial position before the pandemic the loss of car parking revenue would be felt. A revised budget would be considered in September. Grants were available to local businesses with application forms available on SHDC's website. The revised proposals for the K5 development off West Alvington Hill would be considered at the next Development Management Committee. She had written to the local newspaper about planning performance agreements because, while such schemes were allowed, Ward Members had not been informed. There was no news on maintenance at the Kings Arms and clarity was required. Resurfacing of the Town Bowls Club green would commence on 29 June for 10 working days which required a compound and access in Duncombe Park. There had been litter bin emptying issues at Bowcombe amenity space. She was aware of artwork on the exterior wall at Quay toilets, while tasteful, permission had not been granted. She was aware of KTC's ambitions for further public art in the town. Finally, there would be a parking permits consultation in due course.

20/21 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Cole agreed to take 2 items of urgent business. An update on town centre public realm improvements and a complaint received regarding a Black Lives Matter banner positioned on the Bandstand. The latter would be required to be taken in confidential session in accordance with KTC's complaints procedure.

20/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Edmonds declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 20/25.

20/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 12 May 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman; subject to one minor amendment.

20/24 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions, and Recommendations, in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 19 May 2020 and 2 June 2020.

It was further **RESOLVED** to amend the Recommendation for planning application 0826/20/ARM by adding a condition for the construction management plan to address environmental control matters.

The latter committee meeting had explored suggestions for how social distancing could be managed in Fore Street as Covid-19 restrictions were relaxed and the town

centre received greater footfall. Designs for Fore Street banners had been circulated to Members, a colour scheme was agreed, and it was **RESOLVED** to purchase 3 in number to be installed for Monday 15 June.

Further suggestions were aired including a major mail drop reporting Kingsbridge is Open and to promote the quality of town centre shops alongside production of large boards at the remote entrances to town similar to those for the Food & Music Festival e.g. positioned at Palegate Cross. It was further **RESOLVED** to organise an independent meeting for Members and traders to be held later in the week to work-up detailed ideas to manage the re-opening of town centre shops.

20/25 PLANNING APPLICATION 2434/18/ARM

The following planning application was received:

Reference: 2434/18/ARM
Applicant: Mr T Biddle & Mr & Mrs Manisty (c/o Baker Estates Ltd)
Proposal: Readvertisement (revised plans received and amended description)
Application for approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for 53 no. dwellings and associated garages, infrastructure and landscaping following outline approval 28/0508/15/O for up to 60 no. dwellings, 0.5 hectares of employment land, 2 no. vehicular accesses, open space, play provision and drainage
Site: Allocated Site K5 Land at SX 729 440 West Alvington Hill Kingsbridge

Members had closely studied the revised plans and noted KTC's recommendation for Refusal for the original readvertisement on the grounds of: inappropriate house sizes, non-integration of affordable homes across the site, and the inappropriate height, scale and massing of the block of homes in the east site adjacent to West Alvington Hill. KTC's recommendation had been presented to SHDC's Development Management Committee on 12 February 2020. Members also noted said Committee's decision for Deferral and the reasons: the siting of the affordable homes across the site, clarity regarding biodiversity enhancement, steps and parking too remote from flats, landscaping throughout the estate, housing mix, and scale and massing of the flats at the entrance to the east site. Members further noted the applicant's amendments to address the Committee's reasons for Deferral. A full discussion took place and it was then **RESOLVED to support the proposals for planning application 2434/18/ARM** via a recorded vote:

For:	Against:	Abstentions:
Cllr Cole	Cllr Balkwill	None
Cllr Jennings	Cllr Bex	
Cllr Mammatt	Cllr Edmonds	
Cllr Povey	Cllr Fishman	
Cllr Price	Cllr Wingate	
Cllr Vann		

20/26 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Members received the Internal Audit report dated 18 May 2020 and a draft Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 Part 3. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the unaudited Annual Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2020 for despatch to the External Auditor.

20/27 MEETINGS CALENDAR

Members received a draft council meeting and committee calendar which had been delayed due to Covid-19. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the meetings diary for mayoral year 2020/21.

Members noted that the next Property Committee on Tuesday 23 June would take place at 3.00 p.m. with timings of subsequent such meetings to be reviewed.

20/28 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

28.1 Commonwealth War Graves Commission had written to KTC requesting a plaque be installed outside the Cemetery identifying that there were 5 war graves within (3 from WW1 and 2 from WW2). Information of the casualties is reported on CWGC's website and there was some fascinating original documentation held in the Council Offices.

28.2 New defibrillator outside Well Pharmacy was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kingsbridge Estuary to replace the old device which had been in place for 7 years. According to the South West Ambulance Service this was one of the most heavily used defibrillators in Devon. The defibrillator has been donated to KTC however, maintenance would be actioned by the Rotary Club during its 8 year warranty period. The Asset Register would be updated and KTC would continue to provide third party indemnity insurance.

28.3 Love Your Park – Sunday 23rd August was still marked on the KTC calendar and government's relaxation of Covid-19 lockdown was being closely followed.

28.4 Covid-19 Kingsbridge Guardian Angels featured on Radio Devon on Wednesday 3 June.

28.5 Kingsbridge Fair Week had been postponed for 2020 which meant that KTC's contributions and sponsorship were cancelled e.g. Glove Hanging ceremony, community reception and town criers' competition.

20/29 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

29.1 Trebblepark Allotments site visits 22 May and 5 June 2020 attended by Cllr Cole, Town Clerk and Ann Gomm had identified an extremely well cultivated site

following a successful campaign by Ann which had resulted in 3 new tenants taking over plots.

29.2 Pavillion in the Park remote meeting 27 May 2020 attended by Cllr Price and the Town Clerk had further explored the ambition for a new community hub in the Recreation Ground. A feasibility study funded by Awards For All was progressing.

29.3 Kingsbridge & District Light Railway was reported as being the only solar powered railway in the world! Fellow Members congratulated Cllr Mammatt on his ingenuity.

20/30 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 9 June 2020. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £13,519.33 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Ralph joined the meeting

20/31.1 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS

Members considered that the re-opening of shops and businesses from Monday 15 June provided an opportunity for KTC to exhibit its ambitions for new street furniture (seating, planters, litter bins and waymarking) and potential future pavement widening as a positive news story for a progressive Fore Street. Members noted that Devon County Council's local highways officer and road safety officer were due to visit on Tuesday 16 June to consider KTC's plans. It was **RESOLVED** to organise a well-publicised exhibition of council's ambitions for public realm improvements/new street furniture to be held at the Market Hall on Saturday 4 July 2020.

20/32 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions for the Chairman.

20/31.2 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: COMPLAINT

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 in accordance with the Complaints Procedure. It was further **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to progress over a 2.5 hour time limit.

Members received a formal complaint from a local resident regarding a banner positioned on the Bandstand at 11.45 p.m. on Thursday 4 June. The banner stated "Black Lives Matter" and "The UK is not innocent". The complainant considered that the banner was offensive and incited racial hatred. The banner had provoked

several passing comments from members of public with roughly a 50/50 split support versus objection.

The Bandstand was managed by KTC however, no person had requested KTC's permission for installation of the banner. Following consultation with Members, the banner had been left in situ until removal by another person, again without permission, at 8.30 a.m. that morning Tuesday 9 June.

Members recognised that the current Black Lives Matter movement was a highly emotive subject for many people and noted a protest was due to take place at The Promenade at 1.00 p.m. on Saturday 13 June.

A discussion took place which explored many aspects of the above information and it was then **RESOLVED** to reply to the complainant, to thank the person for their comments and to explain the banner had been removed by a third party.

It was further **RESOLVED** for KTC to make individual judgements on any future banners at the time.

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex A:

Public Open Forum

Public Open Forum

1. Karen Churchill, Rhiannon Augenthaler, Katherine Armitage, Andrea Quintana and Tere Wells implored KTC to respond and object to the current Ofcom consultation: Proposed measures to require compliance with international guidelines for limiting exposure to electromagnetic fields, which had a deadline of 12 June 2020.

Cllr Cole thanked them for bringing the matter to Members attention but given the short deadline it would not be considered at the meeting however, he requested Members to consider replying to the consultation as individuals.

2. Samantha Dennis, Kingsbridge Information Centre, stated that funding had been earmarked for re-opening high streets in relation to the current Covid-19 pandemic. SHDC had received £77k from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and KTC would receive £5k; she queried if any restrictions would be placed on expenditure? She then provided suggestions worked up by the Kingsbridge Traders Group which had 116 members to enable safe shopping and the maintenance of social distancing in the town centre. These included pedestrianisation, widening of the western footway by removing car parking spaces, restricted car parking/click and collect, enhanced advertising and lowering the speed limit.

Cllrs Cole and Povey thanked Sam for her statement and replied that the Planning Committee held on 2 June 2020 had explored similar suggestions and banners across Fore Street had been agreed however, the potential for further interventions was likely to be addressed. The Town Clerk added that he had already enquired whether there were any restrictions on the ERDF monies received and a SHDC response was awaited.

3. Graham Hutton, Baker Estates Limited, applicant for planning application 2434/18/ARM, stated that his company had addressed SHDC's reasons for Deferral in February 2020 and had submitted revised proposals. All statutory consultees apart from KTC has supported the proposals and the S.106 developer contributions package had been retained. He felt it was a good scheme and hoped that KTC and SHDC could now support it.

Cllr Cole thanked Graham for his briefing and that the planning application would be considered at the meeting.