

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 14 JULY 2020**

Present: Cllr Mike Jennings (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill (via remote video conferencing)
Cllr Philip Cole
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Steve Mammatt
Cllr Chris Povey
Cllr Graham Price (via remote video conferencing)
Cllr Julia Wingate (via remote video conferencing)

In Attendance: District Cllr Susan Jackson
District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
One Member of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

20/33 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Dena Bex, Martina Edmonds, Peter Ralph, Paul Vann and County Cllr Julian Brazil.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

**20/34 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

34.1 Nil Police report. Members requested a meeting be set-up with the local inspector and sergeant.

34.2 County Cllr Brazil had supplied a written report in his absence at another local council meeting. Devon County Council (DCC) had produced a Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) in order to co-ordinate action given the scenario of a localised Covid-19 outbreak. Further funding for pothole repairs had been made available and the local highways officer would be reviewing priorities; the worst area in Kingsbridge was lower Church Street/Bridge Street. DCC's annual general meeting would take place on 23 July which would be a remote meeting. Finally, he wished to provide a huge thanks to the Town Council (KTC), Kingsbridge Foodbank, Kingsbridge & Saltstone Caring and all other groups that had done so well to support the local community during lockdown. He felt very lucky to live in such an exceptional area.

34.3 District Cllr Jackson reported that South Hams District Council's (SHDC) Overview and Scrutiny Committee would meet on 16 July to discuss leisure centres as government was likely to allow them to re-open shortly. At present discussions with Fusion had been confidential. She had attended Covid-19 recovery workshops.

Finally, she reported on SHDC locality officer operations which were much supported by Members.

34.4 District Cllr O'Callaghan confirmed that the opposition group at SHDC had met that day. The Development Management Committee on 8 July had debated revised plans for the proposed K5 development for over 3 hours but did not support them. A decision had been Deferred for a second occasion due to concerns with access to flats and the visual impact of the block of flats adjacent to West Alvington Hill. Feedback from the applicant/developer was awaited. Church Steps Passageway had been closed for 2 years given concerns for a leaning wall; she was unable to meet SHDC's lead officer on site that week however, the Town Clerk would try to do so. She had spoken to the architects for the Kings Arms re-development and planning conditions were trying to be met however, current decisions were due to lapse in late 2020. EU funding was available to introduce electric vehicle charging points and the project was at tender stage; Phase 1 to include Quay Car Park was anticipated by end 2021 and Phase 2 to include Cattle Market and Fore Street Car Parks at a later date. Various workshops had been held including budget and climate emergency e.g. it had been proposed for some grass cutting to stop to allow re-wilding. Finally, a local art gallery was keen to get involved with town art projects.

20/35 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Jennings agreed to take one item of urgent business at agenda item 20/46: Car Boot Sales.

20/36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

20/37 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 9 June 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

20/38 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 16 June 2020 and 7 July 2020.

20/39 POLICY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Policy Committee held on 30 June 2020.

20/40 COMMITTEES

It was noted that there were committee vacancies and it was **RESOLVED** to circulate the listing to all Members.

20/41 CASUAL VACANCY

Feedback from SHDC was awaited regarding whether a by-election had been called in East Ward; if it had not, it was **RESOLVED** for the councillor vacancy to be advertised and to invite applications for the position.

20/42 STANDING ORDERS

It was **RESOLVED** to amend Standing Orders to include a new paragraph:

1.u The mover of a motion, or the mover of an amendment, or a speaker to a motion/amendment shall have a right to speak not exceeding 3 minutes unless otherwise directed at the discretion of the Chairman.

20/43 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Cllr Price and the Town Clerk, alongside SHDC's locality officer, had reviewed all public seats around the head of the estuary from the Slipway to the Memorial Shelter. Several were in an unsatisfactory condition and SHDC policy was to replace them with recycled plastic models. KTC had requested this strategy be put on hold pending the opportunity for Members to agree its own house style replacement, funding for the same, and management/liaison with SHDC. It was agreed that a Members' walkabout was required shortly to review the situation.

20/44 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

44.1 SHDC Leader & Chief Executive/Mayors & Clerks meeting 15 June 2020.

Cllr Cole reported that the majority of the meeting had explored Covid-19 related matters and the re-opening of high streets.

44.2 DCC Highways/KTC meeting/Fore Street walkabout 16 June 2020.

Cllr Povey reported that it had been a successful meeting and DCC's Road Safety Officer had supported KTC's ambitions for new seating, planters, litter bins and waymarking. The way forward was to pinpoint exact locations allowing 450mm distance to kerbs and to research any underground utilities at earmarked locations which would require further liaison with Meiloci landscape architects.

44.3 New street furniture & public realm improvements exhibition 4 July 2020.

Following the meeting at 44.2, a Saturday morning exhibition had been held in the Market Hall which had received positive feedback; comments had been forwarded to Members. Members agreed that the exhibition material should be set-up in the Council Chamber for local residents during Council Offices' opening hours and a further exhibition should be explored for Quay House.

44.4 Waste/litter walkabout 10 July 2020.

Cllrs Bex & Cole had met SHDC waste management officers and enjoyed a good town centre walkabout/discussion identifying litter hotspots.

44.5 Kingsbridge In Bloom – QAVS award. Cllr Price awaited information on the presentation of the Queens Award for Voluntary Service; KIB were only the third In Bloom group to receive the prestigious award.

44.6 Traders Group. Cllr Wingate would host another Zoom meeting shortly; social media workshops were planned for autumn as there were potentially difficult trading times ahead. Unfortunately, there had been nil feedback to date on a proposal for 6th form art to be displayed in shops.

20/45 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 14 July 2020. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £13,491.66 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**20/46 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:
CAR BOOT SALES**

Kingsbridge Information Centre was unable to manage Sunday morning car boot sales in Quay Car Park and had requested if KTC wished to take over? Members had real concerns about risk assessments for hygiene of items for sale as well as hygiene controls for people, vehicles and stalls. On the ground it was considered that such assessments would be difficult to adhere to e.g. potential lack of social distancing. It was **RESOLVED** that KTC should not accept the management of running car boot sales due to Covid-19 hygiene risks.

20/47 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

47.1 Cllr Mammatt explained to the Chairman and Members that the Information Centre was closed until October as the manager was on maternity leave and the majority of volunteers were shielding. However, a remote service was well advertised and operating well.

47.2 Members noted that hybrid meetings, as anticipated, had their own teething issues similar to wholly remote video conferencing meetings. Cllr Mammatt would explore setting up a temporary large screen and a better communication system for the Council Chamber.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex A:

Public Open Forum

Public Open Forum

Andrea Quintana stated that she had identified several new wooden telegraph posts around town with many Telecom workers installing fibre which would be used for 5G technology. She had also taken high levels of radiation at the rear of Quay Court and held concerns for the residents' health; to evidence she had forwarded videos to Members. Finally, she had written to the Kingsbridge Gazette recently to suggest wi-fi free zones e.g. at the Community College in order to protect health.

Cllr Jennings, supported by fellow Members, thanked Andrea for her comments and suggested that she contacted her MP for matters regarding 5G policy and SHDC Environmental Health about potential high radiation levels.