

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE MARKET HALL, FORE STREET,
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Present: Cllr Mike Jennings (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Dena Bex
Cllr Philip Cole
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Steve Mammatt
Cllr Chris Povey
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Paul Vann
Cllr Julia Wingate

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Susan Jackson
District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
Graham Hutton, Baker Estates Ltd
Tom Ladds, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

20/48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Ralph and Insp James Timmis.

Public Open Forum

A statement was made at Annex A.

**20/49 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

49.1 Insp Timmis had provided a written Police report as he was off-watch that evening. In August, 37 crimes had been reported in Kingsbridge and 78 incidents. Crime included petty criminal damage, petty thefts, minor assaults including domestic related matters, assaults on Police and street scuffles. There had one serious assault outside the Regal Club which was considered to be an isolated offence and CID officers were investigating. Many of the incidents the Police attended resulted in crimes being reported. Related matters included missing person, road incidents and anti-social behaviour. There were no significant crime trends or patterns taking place. Following the meeting with Town Council (KTC) Members on 18 August the emergency phone on the exterior of the Police Station had been fixed and indeed, had been used the previous day. Officers had recently attended and dealt with car parking causing an obstruction near The Crabshell Inn. There had been no further reports of anti-social behaviour at Duncombe Park. Moreover, there had no further reports of 'boy racer' activity in Quay Car Park. Officers were heavily involved in the safeguarding of several children and vulnerable adults within the town ensuring appropriate agencies were acting to keep people

safe. Some of the anti-social behaviour in town could be attributed to these youths so work was progressing to resolve the issues. Salcombe and other beauty spots were placing high demand on the Police and it was hoped that this would decrease as children returned to school and seasonal visitors returned to their homes. He reminded all residents to secure cars overnight. Finally, he continued to encourage the reporting of matters at the time they occur which helped the Police to attend incidents at the time, identify repeat offenders, achieve justice for victims of crime and provide the best service to the town. It also ensured that the Police staff resource was not diluted. The Police could be contacted 24/7 via 101, webchat and 999 services and the Neighbourhood Team could be emailed via the force website.

49.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council had produced a Covid-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan and was confident that local outbreaks could be contained using the resource of local environmental health officers. Some recent Covid-19 cases in the South Hams had been attributed to international travel. A long-standing issue of vehicles parking on a grass verge which was permanently a mud bath would be resolved by tarmacing the surface; there would be no loss of parking. Lorry parks proposed near Plymouth were linked to Brexit procedures and could be authorised via emergency powers.

49.3 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that South Hams District Council's (SHDC) had adopted a Supplementary Planning Document in July which amplified policies in the Joint Local Plan. Planning conditions for redevelopment of the Kings Arms were still being discharged; Derry Owen architects had confirmed that maintenance work on the guttering would require scaffolding to be erected and was unlikely to go ahead before planning support had been obtained. The Red Propeller Gallery was keen to promote further artwork in town and the owner of the Kings Arms would allow the Gallery to produce art to cover the boarded up windows. A long-standing planning enforcement case was progressing and SHDC was likely to issue a breach of conditions notice shortly; there was no right of appeal against such action. SHDC's parking permit public consultation ended Friday 11 September. She was aware of and supported the concerns of residents and local councils as permits were essential for many people. A meeting would take place on 21 September to discuss the current condition of Fusion managed leisure centres ahead of SHDC's council meeting on 24 September. New waste service routines for recycling would be introduced in Spring 2021. She noted several comments from Members:

- Fusion were still charging membership fees despite ongoing closure of the Quayside Leisure Centre swimming pool; it was suggested that charges should be frozen and/or use of other pools provided.
- Existing parking permit holders had not been contacted about the current public consultation and a public meeting was suggested. Local residents were concerned about the proposed hike in pricing and suggested fees in some outlying villages were scandalous. No evidence had been provided that there were not enough parking spaces for visitors. Customers in a Fore Street shop had been asked about parking issues and 9 out of 10 did not have a problem.

49.4 District Cllr Jackson reported that waste collection dates for Kingsbridge would change from Tuesdays to Thursdays. She considered that there had been no open dialogue from Fusion about the mothballing of leisure centres, shared the frustrations

of local residents and queried how people could stay healthy? She would be writing to the local MP about the current situation and would copy the letter to KTC. Kingsbridge Area Foodbank had found new premises at the former Countrywide store at Wallingford Road.

20/50 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

County Cllr Brazil left the meeting

20/51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Edmonds declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 20/53; sub-agenda item 20/42.1.

20/52 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

20/53 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 21 July 2020 and 1 September 2020.

The latter meeting had Deferred a recommendation on 2273/20/HHO for Members' site visits to be undertaken and had a made a recommendation for Refusal on 2434/18/ARM to be considered by the full council as it was a major application.

Reference: **2273/20/HHO**
Case Officer: Bryony Hanlon
Site: Addlehole House, Belle Cross Road, Kingsbridge, TQ7 2DY
Applicant: Mr & Mrs T & S Golding
Proposal: Householder application for proposed alterations and extension to dwelling to include modifications to existing garage
KTC: Recommend Refusal on the grounds of over development

Reference: **2434/18/ARM**
Case Officer: Bryn Kitching
Site: Allocated Site K5, Land at SX 729 440, West Alvington Hill, Kingsbridge
Applicant: Mr T Biddle & Mr & Mrs Manisty (c/o Baker Estates Ltd)
Proposal: Re-advertisement (Revised Plans Received and Amended Description) Application for approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for 52 no. dwellings and associated garages, infrastructure and landscaping following outline approval of 28/0508/15/0 for up to 60 no.

dwellings, 0.5 hectares of employment land, 2 no. vehicular accesses, open space, play provision and drainage

KTC: **Recommend Refusal** on the grounds that the development does not provide appropriate house sizes which conflicts with the Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan (March 2019) policy DEV8: Meeting local housing need in the Thriving Towns and Villages Policy Areas and the Supplementary Planning Document (July 2020) policies DEV8.1: Overall housing mix, DEV8.1(i) Redressing imbalance and DEV8.1(iii) Younger people, working families & older people; via a recorded vote:

For the motion:
Cllr Balkwill
Cllr Bex
Cllr Edmonds
Cllr Fishman
Cllr Jennings
Cllr Wingate

Against the motion:
Cllr Cole
Cllr Mammatt
Cllr Povey
Cllr Price
Cllr Vann

Abstentions:
None

The above 2 KTC recommendations to be forwarded to SHDC Development Management.

Mr Hutton left the meeting

20/54 FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

20/55 PARKS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Supported Comments in the notes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on 31 July 2020.

Members noted that several requests for SHDC interventions had not been actioned e.g. pond cleaning, Bowcombe amenity space toilet repairs and Duncombe Park grass cutting/maintenance. It was Agreed for Members to provide comments to the Town Clerk by 11 September and then to write to Cllr Pearce, SHDC Leader, to make her aware of current concerns and to request action.

20/56 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 4 August 2020.

It was Agreed to gain an estimate for the introduction of bollards on the access route to Quay House and to request part-funding from a neighbour.

20/57 KINGSBRIDGE AREA FOODBANK

Members received letters from Kingsbridge Area Foodbank dated 29 July and 28 August 2020. The Foodbank had requested financial support from KTC, queried what policies/plans KTC had in place to take over the work of the Foodbank if it ran out of resources and invited a KTC Member to become a Trustee. The organisation also clarified some recent issues it had experienced. Members acknowledged the work carried out by Foodbank volunteers and noted the Foodbank was an independent registered charity and did not belong to the Trussell Trust. KTC had agreed not to consider requests for Grant Aid within the current financial year, it did not have contingencies in place to assist the group and no Member wished to be a Trustee. It was **RESOLVED** to respond to Kingsbridge Area Foodbank that it could not assist its operations.

20/58 RE-OPENING HIGH STREETS

Members received an income and expenditure account; £5000 had been received and £3,106.06 had been spent on: cross-street overhead banners, Shop Kingsbridge posters, photography of businesses, Heart radio adverts, direction signs to shops and adverts in local parish magazines. Therefore, the balance was £1,893.34 at 20 August. It was **RESOLVED** to note the Re-Opening High Streets accounts statement.

20/59 PUBLIC SCULPTURE

Members received a written report from a walkabout held on 6 August to consider locations for an art and sculpture project. The base of the former Victorian water fountain in Quay House grounds had been identified to be used as the plinth for an iconic sculpture at the head of the estuary. This would require liaison with an artist who had earmarked the base for a different project some years ago which had not been realised. It was **RESOLVED** to earmark the grass verge at the very head of the estuary adjacent to The Promenade and to liaise with SHDC to gain permission to use the location.

20/60 OFF-STREET PARKING SPACES AMENDMENT ORDER NO.1 2020

Members received SHDC's public consultation for its review of parking permits to realise more parking spaces for residents and visitors via Pay and Display parking. Reports from Members were also received. After a long discussion it was **RESOLVED** to respond to the consultation as follows:

- KTC strongly objected to the proposed increase in parking permit charges which were deemed to be outrageous i.e. between 19% and 22% on 1 April 2021 and 44% on 1 April 2022.
- An inflationary rise would be acceptable in accordance with the Consumer Prices Index which identified a 12 month inflation rate at 1.1% in July 2020.
- The proposals appeared to be a revenue raising exercise only; had other options been considered in order to raise SHDC revenue?
- Local residents and key workers were being asked to bear the burden of a 44% rise in charges to allow visitors to park with ease.

- There were many people living in the South Hams who derived no financial benefit from visitors to the area.
- The proposals highlighted SHDC's lack of empathy for its own residents.
- No statistical evidence had been made available to substantiate that parking spaces were currently unavailable for shoppers and visitors.
- KTC Members wished to meet with SHDC Members/Officers to discuss the review further before any action was taken and a public meeting is called for.

It was agreed to Suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue over 2.5 hours duration

District Cllr O'Callaghan left the meeting

20/61 PUBLIC SEATING – HEAD OF THE ESTUARY

Ten Members had taken part in a walkabout on 21 August to consider seating in the Town Square and around the head of the estuary. Members were very content with the proposed house-style of wood/metal seating for Fore Street and it was queried whether the ambition should be to extend the scheme to the above locations or to support SHDC's policy of replacing wooden seats with recycled plastic seats as required. Indeed, SHDC had removed some rotten seats without replacing them as the authority was awaiting KTC's feedback. Members had received brochures of recycled seats from a local company which supplied SHDC. It was **RESOLVED:**

- To source a 'Hyde Park' model recycled plastic seat and position it alongside KTC's 'Montseny' wood/metal individual seats in the Town Square to judge said seating on the ground.
- To work up costs of the above models.
- Members to re-consider public seating with more information available.

Cllr Vann & Mr Ladds left the meeting

20/62 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

62.1 Council meeting venue. Members noted KTC's Covid-19 risk assessment for the Council Chamber identified a capacity of 16 persons. The Market Hall was spacious but acoustics were unsatisfactory. However, Members much preferred meeting face-to-face rather than remote meetings via Zoom. St Edmunds Church would allow use of the main body of the church if 2m social distancing could be assured alongside other protection e.g. hand gel. It was noted that the latter venue may be required for the next council meeting on 13 October.

62.2 Renewal of insurance schedule. Following a renewal consultation with WPS Brokers (Finance Committee minutes 28 July) a new insurance schedule had commenced with RSA effective from 1 September.

62.3 Remembrance Sunday. Royal British Legion HQ current advice was for all Remembrance parades to be cancelled in 2020. However, KTC had applied for a road closure for Remembrance Sunday on 8 November as there was a 3 month

timeframe involved. If it was not required, i.e. the event did not go ahead, then DCC, emergency services and bus companies needed to be informed. There had been no costs for the above and it had been made in case there was a (highly unlikely) change in present Covid-19 restrictions. The decision to cancel the event was local authority driven, taking stock of government advice, rather than the RBL's. However, Kingsbridge RBL still wished to hold a 2 minute silence and lay a wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday which was understandable given the enormity of this historic and meaningful commemoration. Members supported a single large wreath to be laid on behalf of all Kingsbridge organisations including KTC. Said wreath laying could encourage an unofficial event with a potentially large crowd. Therefore, it was agreed that KTC and KRBL in partnership should request local residents to pay their respects at home in 2020 and not to attend the War Memorial on either Sunday 8 November or Wednesday 11 November.

62.4 Councillor Vacancy and Co-option. Members received and supported the following timetable to Co-opt a new Member:

- Thursday 10 September Gazette public notice, noticeboard advert, website and Facebook
- Friday 25 September Deadline for expressions of interest
- W/b Monday 5 October Potential interviews (with delegated decision to the Interview Panel)
- Tuesday 13 October New Member acceptance of office at council meeting

62.5 Bunting. The bunting was normally taken down in early September but would remain hanging to feed into the Re-opening High Streets project.

62.6 Tour of Britain 2021. The Devon stage via Kingsbridge would take place on Monday 6 September 2021. The peloton will ride along the A379 arriving from Torcross and would include an intermediate sprint (one of 3 during the stage) along the Embankment Road.

62.7 Kingsbridge Community Support Group. Dr Rachael Kiddey addressed Members during the Public Open Forum in July 2019 regarding the Kingsbridge community supporting a refugee family via a Home Office scheme. An update reported that Covid-19 had prevented an open meeting and the project had been paused. She had a letter published in the Gazette recently which announced the same. A further update was likely in late 2020.

62.8 Channel 4 series "Devon and Cornwall". TV production company True North made the Channel 4 series "Devon & Cornwall" and aimed to run a series 3 due to its success. Tom Copland, Assistant Producer, had spoken to Cllr Price and the Town Clerk and wished to engage with Kingsbridge characters and storylines.

62.9 SHDC Playing Pitch Strategy. Belap based in Newton Abbot had been contracted by SHDC to liaise with local councils to prepare a new Playing Pitch

Strategy. The linked up with the emerging Kingsbridge, West Alvington & Churchstow Neighbourhood Plan and Kingsbridge Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan. Interested parties would be informed and liaison with Belap would take place.

62.10 SHDC Meeting with KTC, Salcombe TC & Modbury PC. The Chamber of Commerce reported that District Cllr Bastone & Chris Brook, SHDC Director Place & Enterprise, wished to arrange a meeting with the Chamber and Mayors & Clerks of Kingsbridge, Salcombe and Modbury together. The purpose was to discuss local business support to build a stronger SHDC/business interface. This would be repeated at other area centres in the South Hams. A Zoom meeting had been earmarked for either Wednesday 30 September at 12.30 p.m. or Thursday 1 October at 2.00 p.m.

Cllrs Fishman, Jennings & Mammatt left the meeting

20/63 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

63.1 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting 23 July 2020. The Town Clerk had attended a worthwhile remote meeting via Zoom which received updates from Members working on local area details e.g. green spaces and protected views.

63.2 Wallingford Road amenity space meeting 6 August 2020. Cllr Price, Laura Cregan and the Town Clerk had met on site to further explore KTC's ambition for a community orchard. Feedback was awaited from SHDC whether the concept had a green light.

63.3 KTC/Police get together 18 August 2020. Sgt Timmis had met with Members and some notes had been circulated.

63.4 KTC/KingsbridgeXR cycling event 30 August 2020. Cllrs Vann and Wingate reported that the event had been successful.

63.5 Public realm enhancements exhibiton 5 September 2020. Cllrs Cole, Price and Ralph and the Town Clerk had spoken to many local residents and much support for the concept had been received. Some summary notes were received by Members. A street utilites survey had been commissioned.

20/64 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 8 September 2020. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £26,596.78 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

20/65 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

20/66 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

20/67 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the nature of the business about to be transacted at agenda item 20/68, it was advisable in the public interest, that the public and press be temporarily excluded.

20/68 QUOTATIONS

Members received the following quotations for the Christmas Lights display 2020/21 and considered the same:

- supply of new seasonal displays for all Fore Street street lamps,
- supply of new integrated timers/plugs for all Fore Street street lamps to enable new power supplies,
- additional resource to install above extra street lamp displays, new cabling and connection of existing cross-street displays to new power supplies, and
- additional unmetered electricity for new displays.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the above quotations to install extra Christmas festive illuminations for Fore Street at circa £11k and for the enhancements to be funded from Capital Receipts.

The meeting closed at 10.12 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex A:

Public Open Forum

Public Open Forum

Mr Graham Hutton, Baker Estates Ltd, provided an update on planning application 2434/18/ARM for a housing development at the K5 site off West Alvington Hill. He had provided reports to KTC at several meetings and noted a recommendation for Refusal from the Planning Committee would be received that evening. The scheme had been revised to address the 2 reasons for Deferral by SHDC's Development Management Committee and other improvements had been made related to SHDC's recent adoption of a Supplementary Planning Document. He requested Members to carefully consider the proposals and hoped that they could support it.