

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD REMOTELY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2020**

Present: Cllr Philip Cole (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Dena Bex
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Steve Mammatt
Cllr Chris Povey
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Mel Rollinson
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
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

At the outset of the meeting, Cllr Cole provided advice on the structure of Zoom meetings.

20/85 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Public Open Forum

There were no members of public present.

20/86 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

86.1 Insp Timmis had provided a written Police report in his absence on annual leave. Calls to the Police were on the decline and less anti-social behaviour was being reported. The Neighbourhood Team had been putting in extra time in the Town Square and Bandstand area, particularly after school hours, which may have caused some disruption to less desirable activities. Plain clothes patrols during evenings had targeted some specific policing matters. There had been no serious crimes or crime series during the previous month. He reminded the community to look out for vulnerable and elderly friends and relatives during the second lockdown period.

86.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council (DCC) activity had been curtailed by Lockdown 2. DCC was the public health partnership lead authority for Covid-19 and had worked up Devon wide contingency plans. The A379 closed at

Frogmore for works would re-open for Thursday 12 November; Cllr Brazil would liaise with the Town Clerk if matters changed. Action would be taken to overcome parking on grass verges in Waverley Road; residents would be informed and tests would be carried out in January with the likelihood of actual works in August 2021. An option to widen the road could be explored but this was not currently planned.

86.2 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that South Hams District Council (SHDC) would raise its share of council tax to the maximum without going to referendum. A Green Homes grant at £336k had been received to action energy efficiency initiatives in private housing; £20k from the Climate Change Fund had been granted to support delivery. She would ascertain how the funds would be distributed. Garden waste matters raised at the last meeting had been explored and people tended to take their waste to recycling centres indeed, a charge for such waste was due to be discussed. Some Wallingford Road residents were concerned about South West Water's (SWW) plans to discharge surface water from the new Applegate development off Belle Hill as the company had statutory rights to dig up gardens and cut across private properties. SHDC Enforcement would investigate whether the developer had followed approved plans for the development. A remote meeting had been arranged at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday 19 November to discuss matters with attendance from DCC, SHDC, Environment Agency, SWW and KTC; Cllrs Bex, Cole, Edmonds and Povey expressed an interest. Finally, scaffolding had been erected at the Kings Arms Hotel.

86.3 District Cllr Jackson reported that she had discussed electric vehicle charging points with District Cllr Baldry and SHDC's lead officer; the deadline for procurement submissions of interest was 13 November. Project delivery was anticipated to commence in January 2021 with completion in February 2022. SHDC would bid to DCC for further funds and Kingsbridge was due 4 in number EV points. She had argued that due to its geography Kingsbridge should be first in line for the scheme.

County Cllr Brazil and District Cllr Jackson left the meeting

20/87 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman agreed to take 3 items of urgent business at agenda item 20/97: free Christmas parking, reports to meetings and a potential funding application. The latter 2 items to be taken under closed matters after the exclusion of press and public.

20/88 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

20/89 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 13 October 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

20/90 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 20 October 2020 and 3 November 2020.

Members were disappointed that permission had been given to fell a tree without replacement and agreed to discuss net loss of trees at an anticipated future meeting with SHDC.

20/91 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 27 October 2020.

Members agreed a steer for the Precept for next financial year 2021/22 to be zero or minimal increase to reflect the hardship brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. Moreover, the Fair Week Committee had been consulted regarding the unspent budget for the current financial year given cancellation of the 2020 event.

20/92 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 30 October 2020.

Members had reviewed the Hyde Park recycled plastic bench and Montseny cast aluminium/wood individual seat in the garage with neither gaining support. More information/examples were inbound from different suppliers. However, other elements of the overall public realm improvements strategy could still be progressed. A further meeting with a waymarking/totem company had been scheduled for 18 November. A Mill Street mural and drinking fountains were highlighted as other potential improvements.

20/93 POLICY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Policy Committee held on 5 November 2020.

It was agreed for Cllrs Bex, Rollinson and Wingate to explore the introduction of Instagram.

20/94 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

94.1 The bunting and banners had been taken down in readiness for the installation of Christmas Lights on Sundays 15 and 22 November.

94.2 Cllr Jennings, in his absence, thanked Cllr Cole for laying the wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday alongside the Chairman of the Royal British Legion.

**20/95 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND
 AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES**

95.1 KTC/SHDC Senior Management policies/operations meeting 16 October 2020. Attended by Cllrs Cole, Jennings, Price and the Town Clerk. Members had been forwarded feedback from SHDC's Deputy Chief Executive and supported the outcomes. It was agreed to respond with KTC's thanks and to request the protocol for meetings with named SHDC officers.

95.2 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group economic strategy/policies meeting 2 November 2020. Attended by Cllr Balkwill and the Town Clerk. The consultant's report was likely to be used to influence policies in the draft plan.

95.3 Town Centre working group/waymarking meetings 22 October and 4 November 2020. Several Members had attended recent meetings and a supplier for waymarking monoliths had been supported.

95.4 Cllr Price reported that Kingsbridge In Bloom volunteers were continuing to work safely during Covid-19 and had actually recruited 4 new members.

District Cllr O'Callaghan and the Press left the meeting

20/96 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 10 November 2020. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £4,571.95 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders in order to run over a 2.5 hour time limit

20/97 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

97.1 Free Christmas parking. Costs to provide free parking on Saturday 5 December had been received from SHDC at £1,780 and there was a £1,447 balance remaining from the Re-opening High Streets Fund. Members discussed that coming directly after Lockdown 2 completed the town was likely to be full and free parking would not be a key consideration for residents/visitors. Moreover, the funding may be required for positive interventions in January and February 2021. It was **RESOLVED** not to pay for free off-street car parking prior to Christmas.

The following 2 agenda items would have been taken as confidential matters after the exclusion of the press and public if any were in attendance however, there were none at this stage of the council meeting.

97.2 Reports to meetings. It was **RESOLVED** to request external reports in person or via colleagues.

97.3 Potential funding application. It was **RESOLVED** to make a funding application for a Kingsbridge based charity.

20/98 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

The meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

..... Presiding Chairman Date