

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE MARKET HALL, FORE STREET,
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2020**

Present: Cllr Mike Jennings (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Dena Bex
Cllr Philip Cole
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Steve Mammatt
Cllr Peter Ralph
Cllr Mel Rollinson
Cllr Paul Vann
Cllr Julia Wingate

In Attendance: District Cllr Susan Jackson
District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
Dan Taylor, SHDC Locality Officer
Tom Ladds, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
One Member of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

At the outset of the meeting Cllr Jennings provided some housekeeping information.

20/69 COUNCILLOR VACANCY – CO-OPTION

It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mel Rollinson to fill the councillor vacancy in Kingsbridge East Ward and to receive her Declaration of Office.

20/70 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Barrie Fishman, Chris Povey, Graham Price, County Cllr Julian Brazil and Insp James Timmis.

Public Open Forum

South Hams District Council's (SHDC) Locality Officer provided a report on the authority's proposed changes for the management of recycling at Annex A.

20/71 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

71.1 Insp Timmis had provided a written Police report as he was off-watch that evening; the report had been distributed to Members before the meeting. With visitor numbers decreasing, incidents and anti-social behaviour (ASB) reports were lower and crime had reduced for the second month. The Police were working with a multi-agency group to improve the living conditions of a group of young people in town to address their behavioural issues and reduce ASB. There had been reports of damage including arson to the café in the Recreation Ground and several young

persons had been spoken to. Patrols had been targeted to reduce further instances of damage.

There had been requests to deal with parking issues at the Primary School which was a nationwide matter. Motorists had been reminded that stopping on zig-zags was prohibited and could attract 3 penalty points. He had reported his observations about how nearby roads and pavements were being used, was content to discuss a solution and the Town Clerk had forwarded his findings to Devon County Council's (DCC) local highways officer.

The Neighbourhood Team had recently dealt with an assault in Bridge Street involving a male attending a wedding at Quay House and another male from the Thurlestone area. The offender was identified, arrested and subsequently charged.

External signage at the Police Station had been discussed with the Estates department and the wrap-around sign, encompassing the wall phone, would be retained as agreed for all front offices. Drug use and supply was becoming more prevalent in the youth community in Kingsbridge following the national pattern; the Police were looking at what could be done to target offenders and disrupt such activity to keep young people safe.

71.2 District Cllr Jackson reported that Cllr O'Callaghan and herself would attend the scheduled meeting between some Town Council (KTC) Members and SHDC Senior Management that Friday afternoon 16 October. The water leak which had led to the closure of the public toilets at Bowcombe amenity space was under investigation and feedback was awaited. Further to Dan Taylor's presentation she had been made aware of missed waste collections following the recent day changes; she was part of the Task and Finish Group on the matter which would report to a forthcoming Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Torbay Hospital was becoming busier again due to a rise in Covid-19 cases.

71.3 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that there had been some SHDC and FCC miscommunication which had led to blips in the day changes for waste collections. Quayside swimming pool was now open however, Members made her aware of some issues regarding booking and communications. Scaffolding was imminent for the Kings Arms to implement planning permission. SHDC had agreed £400k for climate change projects however, at the last council meeting the process had been delayed until 2021. Kingsbridge was still earmarked for electric vehicle charging points in 2021 but nil further news was available.

20/72 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

20/73 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

20/74 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 8 September 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

20/75 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 15 September 2020 and 6 October 2020.

The former meeting had made a recommendation for planning application 4158/19/FUL (revised plans for 15 modular build dwellings between Ropewalk and Kingsway Park) to be considered by the full council as it was a major application. It was **RESOLVED** to support the Recommendation for Refusal on several grounds however, that the points regarding a Homes England grant and community involvement be enhanced; the actual wording to be delegated to Cllr Edmonds and the Town Clerk for onward feedback to SHDC Development Management.

20/76 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 29 September 2020.

Members had sighted the winter bunting trial in Fore Street at circa £2.5k including installation. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to not go ahead with winter bunting given a circa £11k investment had already been made to enhance the Christmas Lights display for 2020/21.

20/77 COUNCIL PRIORITIES AND AMBITIONS

The Members' breakfast meeting on 23 September 2020 had reviewed KTC's adopted Priorities and Ambitions; Open Space, Sport and Recreation projects; and Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan in order to nominate 'frontrunner projects'. It was **RESOLVED** that KTC's priority projects should be:

- public realm improvements in the town centre i.e. seating, planters, bins and waymarking,
- a new skatepark,
- a Climate Change market, and
- the introduction of electric vehicle charging points.

Members acknowledged that 2 of the above projects, namely a new skatepark and EV charging points, would require liaison and support from other agencies.

20/78 BUS STATION – PUBLIC INFORMATION

It was reported that the 2 in number public information boards located on the wall of the Bus Station shelter should be more accessible. It was **RESOLVED** to explore increasing the size of the current boards however, any new design should conform with the waymarking monoliths currently being progressed by a working group.

20/79 PAVEMENT PARKING – OPTIONS FOR CHANGE

Members received the Department for Transport's consultation "Pavement Parking – Options for Change" and considered the same. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** for council to support:

- Option 1 – change existing legislation to improve the management of Traffic Regulation Orders to tackle pavement parking where it is a problem, and
- Option 2 – change legislation to enable local authorities to enforce against 'unnecessary obstruction of the pavement' (currently only enforceable by the Police as a criminal matter).

20/80 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

80.1 Members acknowledged that the Council Chamber could only accommodate 16 persons for 1m plus social distancing given a Covid-19 risk assessment. Therefore council meetings needed to be held via Zoom remote conferencing or held face-to-face at a venue which could accommodate more people. It was agreed that the revised seating plan for the current meeting had improved the acoustics in the Market Hall but heating would be required for winter meetings. Other local venues were suggested and would be explored as potential venues for the next council meeting on 10 November. It was agreed to purchase 2 in number portable screens to test their effectiveness at meetings, and in Quay House, in order to maintain safe social distancing.

80.2 Further to the report at the previous meeting, there was circa £1,447.00 remaining from the Re-Opening High Streets fund. Members noted that at the bottom of Fore Street the former Fulfords estate agents and Quay pub remained empty and Peacocks store had commenced a closing down sale. It was agreed to try and ascertain the future of said buildings from the landowners.

20/81 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

81.1 Salcombe TC, Malborough PC, West Avington PC & KTC meeting to explore a multi-use trail to link the 4 parishes held on 24 September 2020. Cllr Price and the Town Clerk had attended a meeting to review Sustrans' feasibility study for a traffic-free route from Kingsbridge to Salcombe. It was accepted that it was currently unfeasible to explore the concept further e.g. potential landowner objections. However, an off-road route to join up with the established Salcombe-Malborough cycle path was supported and each local council would survey their own parish area to glean potential routes.

81.2 Belap, SHDC, Salcombe TC & KTC meeting to discuss the emerging SHDC Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) held on 1 October 2020. Cllr Price and the Town Clerk had attended a meeting to discuss a new PPS which would consider pitches for cricket, football, hockey and rugby only as other sports did not fit the government definition. Belap would make contact with local sports clubs. The PPS dovetailed with the Kingsbridge Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan and the

emerging Neighbourhood Plan and the previous PPS formed part of the evidence base for the Joint Local Plan.

81.3 SHDC, Chamber of Commerce, Salcombe TC, Modbury PC & KTC meeting to discuss council/business relationships held on 1 October 2020. Cllr Wingate had attended the meeting to discuss the interface between SHDC and business.

81.4 Kingsbridge, West Alvington and Churchstow Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting held on 7 October 2020. Cllrs Balkwill, Price and the Town Clerk had attended the meeting which had discussed: a draft Forward and Introduction, Covid-19 amendments, an external consultant for economic development proposals, budget, Natural & Built Environment updates, sport and leisure facilities and housing data.

20/82 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 13 October 2020. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £37,274.49 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

20/83 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

20/84 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex A:

Public Open Forum

Public Open Forum

Dan Taylor, SHDC Locality Officer, reported on the proposals for changes to recycling to take effect in March 2021. The salient points were:

- The changes had been intended to come into effect in September 2020 but had been delayed due to Covid-19.
- The rollout was in 2 stages. Stage 1 had introduced timetable changes for waste collection which had provided some inevitable challenges given circa 48k homes to collect from across the district. Stage 2 would be a new Super Recycler Scheme.
- Stage 2 would achieve the wishes of local residents to recycle more and would bring about positive changes.
- SHDC would therefore meet recycling targets by increasing household recycling rate to 58%.
- SHDC was already in the top 15% of local authorities for recycling.
- The use of current blue and clear plastic recycling bags would be removed; over 1 million were currently used per annum.
- Twelve recycling vehicles (10 large and 2 small) would be used and a new recycling depot at Ivybridge was under construction.
- New containers would be provided to all homes.
- The containers would be delivered in January 2021 with a final promotion in January/February before going live with the new system in March.
- Two containers per home were required; the boxes were 550mm wide.
- Glass bottles and jars would be able to be recycled.
- Plastic pots, tubs and trays currently unavailable for recycling would be included in the new service.
- Recycling would be collected weekly.
- Food and garden waste would require separation.
- The recycling stayed in the UK which was identified on SHDC's website.
- There would be no further changes to the standard 2 weekly household waste collection.
- Much community engagement would take place including roadshows and 80k mail drops.

Dan then answered Members' questions:

- SHDC was working through scenarios such as no household frontages, no pavements and small courtyard gardens which had no space to store brown bins for garden waste.
- There had been several teething issues regarding the day changes which had commenced week beginning Monday 5 October.
- Homeworking had added pressure to household recycling routines which had added to current resource issues e.g. more household deliveries.
- Waste and recycling collection was managed by SHDC via contract with FCC.
- SHDC was aware of the potential for containers to be emptied after people had gone off to work thereby leaving them outside all day until they returned home at night; in Fore Street this would be unacceptable for the street scene. However, the new system was already in operation in West Devon and it worked in towns such as Okehampton and Tavistock.