

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD REMOTELY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 9 MARCH 2021**

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 Mel Rollinson
Cllr Paul Vann
Cllr Julia Wingate

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Susan Jackson
District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
Sgt James Timmis
Three Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

At the outset Cllr Jennings provided guidance on Zoom remote meetings

20/145 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Ralph.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

Two members of public left the meeting

**20/146 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

146.1 Sgt Timmis reported that a male rough sleeper had been offered help and was not in town at present. There had been engagements with young people in the Quay area and some stop and search actioned near the pumping station in Embankment Road; an adult had been found in possession of cannabis. The G7 Summit would be held in St Ives in mid-June; protests were likely and the Police would be tasked to facilitate this in a peaceful manner. Due to manpower resources required, Kingsbridge public order trained officers were likely to attend. Crime and policing incidents continued to be low and there were no trends or series of crimes. Some second home occupancy had been investigated during the current Lockdown. A PCSO at Torcross had been relocated to Exeter and would not be replaced at the present time. In the last 5 years the Kingsbridge team had reduced from 4 PCs, 4

PCSOs and 10 Response Officers to 3 PCs, 1 PCSO and 10 Response Officers and there were nil incoming resources. It was discussed that while the town's Neighbourhood Team did a fantastic job, the Police Precept had increased with no benefits accrued locally. Officers were allocated to high demand areas and the South Hams was seasonal in nature; the public needed to keep reporting incidents via the 101 non-emergency system. The Town Council (KTC) was part of the Councillor Advocate system and further information on resources would be requested.

Sgt Timmis left the meeting

146.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council (DCC) had raised its share of council tax by 5% (2% core services and 3% social care). Fore Street would be closed 29 March to 1 April for utility services' works; the closure had been requested to take place one week previously however, it was probably the best time for the closure given non-essential would still be in Lockdown and the works would be completed by Good Friday. He was disappointed that Police resources had been diluted and would lobby the regional Commander.

Cllr Brazil left the meeting

146.3 District Cllr Jackson reported that South Hams District Council's (SHDC) super recycling scheme would commence shortly and residents should have received letters. There were likely to be teething issues and collections would commence early on Thursday mornings with assistance provided for some people. An information roadshow had been suggested to take place e.g. outside Tesco retail store. A local artist wished to speak to KTC about a potential outdoor arts event along the Quayside on a Sunday. District Cllr Kate Kemp had engaged with the Sustrans feasibility study for a Kingsbridge-Salcombe multi-use trail; it had been identified to her she that the study had met some obstacles.

146.4 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that there were no definitive dates for the new recycling boxes to be delivered in Kingsbridge however parts of town would commence shortly i.e. top of Fore Street, Northville Park and Trebblepark areas. The gradual withdrawal from Lockdown would impact on SHDC e.g. potential re-opening of leisure centres on 12 April. Cllr Jackson and herself had not been invited to the discussion between SHDC senior officers and KTC Members in late 2020 regarding a proposed development in Ropewalk, she had not received feedback on enquiries to SHDC Assets, much public monies had been spent and nil tangible benefits had been derived to date. Members reported that they would request for Ward Members to be present at any future meetings which discussed SHDC's Ropewalk assets.

20/147 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman agreed to receive a further quotation at agenda item 20/161.

20/148 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

20/149 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 9 February 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

20/150 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 16 February 2021 and 2 March 2021.

20/151 HIGH STREET AMBITIONS

Members had noted the presentation by Fore Street traders during the Public Open Forum. Cllr Wingate had also met with SHDC Communications, and representatives from fellow town councils, to explore joint working towards re-opening high streets from the current Covid-19 lockdown. Moreover, Cllr Bex reported that there was enough art from the Lockdown Art Project to produce banners in April alongside Kingsbridge In Bloom hanging baskets. There was circa £300 left from the original Re-opening High Streets Fund monies which could be go towards said art banners. It was **RESOLVED** to progress: Fore Street traders' ambitions, art project banners and to further investigate the potential for high streets re-opening safely funding.

20/152 FLOOD & WINTER RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Fishman reported that the Kingsbridge Urban Integrated Drainage Management study had been completed but had not been made available to date from South West Water. A recruitment drive for new Flood Wardens had not been possible due to the current pandemic however, tide times and weather warnings continued to be closely monitored. It was **RESOLVED** to mothball the Flood & Winter Resilience Committee and for any future business to be received by the Policy Committee.

20/153 CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY BILL

Members received an introductory report and rationale behind the Bill and noted it had to progress through parliamentary process to become law. It was **RESOLVED** for Members to gain further knowledge of the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill and then to re-consider.

20/154 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

154.1 New bicycle stands. Eight in number new bike stands had been installed in the town centre via support and assistance from Cllr Wingate, SHDC Localities and DCC Highways.

154.2 West Alvington PC & Operations Forth & London Bridge. A recent WAPC meeting had considered how the parish would respond to the death of a senior member of the Royal family and it wished to link up with Kingsbridge in respect of condolence book signing. Members supported the proposal.

154.3 Kingsbridge “Art on the Quay”. Members had been forwarded a proposal from a local artist, and member of South Hams Arts Forum, who wished to apply to SHDC to use the Quayside for an art event and sought KTC support. Members were content in principle if the event took place on the Quay Car Park grass verge/footway.

154.4 Covid-19 – Council Offices arrangements. Government’s guidance for “Reopening businesses and venues in England” identified a 4 step approach with nominated dates for the gradual dilution of current Lockdown restrictions of 8 March, 29 March, 12 April, 17 May and 21 June. Public buildings may re-open on Monday 12 April with safeguards in place and there was the potential for meetings to be held in Quay House from Monday 17 May subject to Covid-secure conditions being met.

20/155 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

155.1 KTC working group wayfinding meetings 15 February, 25 February & 3 March 2021. The working group anticipated sharing the designs for waymarking signs with fellow Members shortly.

155.2 SHDC/FCC/KTC recycling walkabouts 16 February & 2 March 2021. SHDC had carried out walkabouts with Cllr O’Callaghan and KTC Members to fine tune the new super recycling arrangements.

155.3 Kingsbridge, West Alvington & Churchstow Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting 24 February 2021. A draft plan was anticipated in early summer for public consultation.

20/156 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 9 March 2021. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £11,047.46 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

20/157 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

20/158 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

20/159 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the nature of the business about to be transacted at agenda items 20/160 and 20/161 below, it is advisable in the public interest, that the public and press be temporarily excluded.

Cllrs Jackson & O’Callaghan and a member of public left the Chamber

20/160 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR/CHAIRMAN FOR MAYORAL YEAR 2021/22

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Jennings as Town Mayor/Chairman for mayoral year 2021/22 and for him to take office at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 4 May 2021.

20/161 QUOTATIONS

Members received the following quotations:

- Public realm improvements: waymarking, litter bins, planters, trees and seating.
- Quay House 2nd floor attic room conversion to meeting room: repairs, plastering, electrics, decoration and carpet.
- Bandstand electricity cabinet: replacement cabinet and internal electrical circuits.
- *Urgent Business.* Estuary lighting: new distribution board.

Members discussed the above and then it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Note that KTC had ambitions to provide a uniform style of quality street furniture in Fore Street, the Town Square and along the Quayside footways however, planters and seating options should be further explored, more quotations gleaned and brought back to the full council for re-consideration.
- Accept quotations to convert an attic room to an office/meeting room.
- Note that the Bandstand was wholly KTC business and to provide a grant of £1,700 to Kingsbridge Fair Week to part-fund a new vehicle trailer for their events. A new electricity cabinet and internal electrics to be funded via KTC in the next financial year.
- Note that the festoon bulb lighting alongside the estuary was faulty and to accept a quotation to renew the distribution board and timer switch.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Leigh Brimicombe from the General Store, and Danny from Mark Davis Antiques, presented a concept from the Fore Street traders' group: A Plan to Support the Safe Re-opening of Kingsbridge. The salient points were:

- The mission was twofold, to renew local community positivity and to encourage people to shop in Kingsbridge safely rather than elsewhere.
- There were several reasons to come to Kingsbridge e.g. new and improved town look and lots of car parking.
- It was about establishing a new idea, having a conversation (e.g. video and radio advertising) and embedding it for the long term (e.g. a post-Covid town event).
- "Love Kingsbridge" was the strap line to be promoted via paid social media and window/car stickers.
- The message would also be promoted via print and digital media plus external advertising.

KTC had applied for re-opening high streets safely grant funding from SHDC and it was hoped that this could be released to manage the above concept.

Members thanked Leigh, Danny and Cllr Wingate for their hard work and supported the above Plan.

2. Peter Trembath from Kingsbridge Fair Week Committee presented drawings which identified that new barriers installed at 2 locations on perimeter entrances to the Town Square for public safety would mean that large vehicles could not gain access. Therefore, they were not fit for purpose. Moreover, 2 catch posts had been erected within the square itself which were a hazard. He suggested that the original removable/lockable bollards were more suitable and could have been replaced/upgraded however, if the barriers were to be retained they should be re-hung to open 180 degrees.

Members thanked Peter for his statement and drawings which would be forwarded to SHDC with a request for comments and a Covid-proof site visit involving interested parties.

