

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE, AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 8 JUNE 2021

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

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Susan Jackson
District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

21/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Martina Edmonds, Chris Povey and Graham Price and Sgt James Timmis.

21/25 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

25.1 Sgt Timmis had provided a Police report in his absence on remote duties. There were no particular crime trends at present and crime remained low. He was aware of recent damage to the railway station at the Embankment. The Police advised local residents that many of the local team would be deployed in various roles across the force area over the forthcoming week but there was still a core of officers in South Devon to cover emergency calls however, less pressing incidents and reports would receive a lower priority response.

25.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that he was a member of Devon County Council's (DCC) Children's Scrutiny Committee. Children's services had failed its last 2 Ofsted assessments and a new head officer had been appointed to manage this vital service. He also served on the Devon & Cornwall Fire Authority and a meeting was scheduled for 29 June. A scrap metal van parked permanently in Embankment Road outside Jewsons and a request had been received for the locale to become no parking in order to exclude the van i.e. double yellow lines. Members discussed the issue and considered that such action was likely to result in the transfer of the current operation elsewhere and that no parking would impact on the wider community. It was agreed that nil action should be taken and Cllr Brazil would feedback to the enquiry. He had also been lobbied for Duke Street to be pedestrianised. Members noted that no parking restrictions/double yellow lines were regularly ignored, that pedestrianisation would provide a better ambience and it was in the interests of everyone to improve the street scene. However, large business litter bins at the eastern/far end of Duke Street were unattractive and smelly which

were an inherent distraction. It was agreed to explore pedestrianisation in Duke Street. Finally, progress was being made to re-open the A381 at Stumpy Post Cross following a road closure for South West Water emergency works.

25.3 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that the pilot had commenced for motorhome overnight stays in South Hams District Council (SHDC) nominated car parks which included the Cattle Market. She requested KTC feedback in due course. The Overview & Scrutiny Panel would meet on 10 June to consider the new recycling service; SHDC had demanded improvements from the contractor FCC. KTC Members noted several issues with the new recycling service which needed to be addressed. SHDC Members had been awarded £3k each to disburse for environmental projects alongside their general £2k allowance. South Hams Crowdfunder had commenced recently whereby SHDC would commit up to £5k for eligible community projects. She was conscious that the town's litter bins required cleaning and KTC had lobbied for tree maintenance around the head of the estuary; both issues would be explored.

25.4 District Cllr Jackson reported that she had attended a SHDC waste and recycling meeting that day; the Ivybridge depot was full to capacity and roadshows were required for local communities. The recent housing meeting alongside Roof Kingsbridge had been worthwhile with several matters discussed.

Cllrs Brazil, Jackson and O'Callaghan left the meeting

21/26 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

21/27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

21/28 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 4 May 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

21/29 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 18 May 2021 and 1 June 2021.

21/30 POLICY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Policy Committee held on 25 May 2021.

21/31 SUPPORTING ACTION TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Members received information on the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill, potential for solar PV on the town's largest roof areas and a Kingsbridge household survey/carbon offset scheme.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill.

It was **RESOLVED** to request Tesco to install a significant Solar PV array on its store roof to set an example for tackling Climate Change locally; a letter signed by all Members and (if willing) DCC and SHDC Ward Members to be sent to the company.

It was **RESOLVED** to support a Climate Change & Nature Emergency Survey to be delivered to every household in Kingsbridge to be completed by either Survey Monkey or paper copy return to the Council Offices. The overall findings to demonstrate what progress Kingsbridge households were making with climate change matters; the survey to include reference to what homes could usefully consider doing if they were not already taking action.

It was **RESOLVED** for the above Survey to link up with a South Hams Offset your Carbon Scheme (SHOCS) for households to consider funding local tree planting and other local carbon reduction schemes. This would enable people, in due course, to see locally what was being done and what they had contributed towards.

Members acknowledged that further work was required to achieve the latter 2 in number Resolutions i.e. setting up a SHOCS website to enable one-off for monthly offsetting payments to be made.

21/32 BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FUND

Members noted that KTC's original proposal to apply for match-funding for new street furniture would not be sanctioned given it had been determined as a 'physical infrastructure' project which was ineligible. Members also noted comments from the Chamber of Commerce during the Public Open Forum held prior to the meeting. The deadline for bids was 30 June. It was then **RESOLVED** to:

- hold an informal meeting at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 15 June to work up proposals for a bid to SHDC for the Business Environment Fund,
- to liaise and request ideas/support for the above from Fore Street traders, Chamber of Commerce and Information Centre, and
- for the actual application to be delegated to the Town Clerk.

21/33 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

33.1 Public Open Forum. The following comments were received before the meeting commenced given Covid-19 restrictions/capacity in the Council Chamber:

Samantha Dennis, Secretary for the Chamber of Commerce, championed its Dress to Impress project which encouraged local businesses to invest in their public presentation e.g. shop front signage or van livery. The project proposed to provide £250 to businesses plus a period of free membership to the Chamber and there had

been a high volume of expressions of interest. The Chamber was aware that KTC was likely to make an application to SHDC for the Business Environment Fund; given the funds were earmarked for business support the Chamber lobbied for its project to be included in the bid.

Cllr Jennings thanked Samantha for her statement and replied that the application would be considered at the meeting and the Chamber's project would be brought up (*subsequently considered at agenda item 21/32 above*).

33.2 Kingsbridge, West Alvington & Churchstow Neighbourhood Plan – Public consultation 20 May to 19 July 2021. The Steering Group requested KTC Members to consider their availability for the following Question & Answer sessions:

- Saturday 19 June – Farmers Market – 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. or 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. (*Cllr Cole & Town Clerk available*)
- Saturday 3 July – Farmers Market – 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. or 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. (*Cllr Edmonds available*)
- Wednesday 23 June – Zoom session – 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
- Wednesday 7 July – Zoom session – 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. (*Town Clerk available*)

33.3 Kingsbridge Community Sponsorship Group – resettlement of refugees. CSG was a government scheme launched in 2016 and the Kingsbridge CSG was formed in 2019 (now a Community Interest Company) with the aim of welcoming a refugee family to Kingsbridge. A public meeting had been earmarked for September 2021 to explore local support for the project and KTC would be invited to attend. Members noted the proposals and supported the project.

33.4 The Coleridge Bus. The group was formed in 1978 with the assistance of local councils when national bus services reduced their services to outlying villages to the east of Kingsbridge and had been running continuously for over 40 years. Over the last 10 years there has been a decline in passenger numbers and it had become more difficult to recruit volunteer drivers as they had to train and pass a bus driving examination. Members noted the above report and agreed to actively promote the bus service.

21/34 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

34.1 Police catch-up Sgt Timmis/KTC 5 May. KTC representatives had joined another local council for a catch-up on policing matters.

34.2 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 5 May & 2 June 2021. The group, including KTC representation, had considered progress to the commencement of Regulation 14 public consultation on the draft Plan 20 May to 19 July.

34.3 Skatepark breakfast meeting 6 May & working group meeting 11 May 2021. Subsequent work had scheduled a meeting on 14 June between the New Skatepark for Kingsbridge group, Maverick Skateparks, SHDC and KTC Members.

34.4 Tour of Britain Devon Stage meeting DCC/KTC 11 May 2021. DCC lead officer, local highways officer, Cllr Brazil and KTC representatives had considered the route through Kingsbridge and a request had been made to for the cyclists to ride up Fore Street.

34.5 SHDC senior management/Mayors & Clerks meeting 21 May 2021. Attended by Cllr Cole and the Town Clerk; had discussed topical local government matters.

34.6 Housing meeting SHDC/Room Kingsbridge/KTC 26 May 2021. Attended by Cllr Edmonds had discussed topical housing matters.

36.7 Bus routes. Cllr Fishman had liaised with DCC Public Transport Co-ordination and reported that new bus routes had been agreed including a direct 164 service from Salcombe to Totnes.

Cllr Ralph left the meeting

21/35 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 8 June 2021. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £22,260.67 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

21/36 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

21/37 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Bex asked if the artists who had contributed to the Kingsbridge Lockdown Art Project could be acknowledged; Cllr Jennings agreed that individual thank you letters should be written.

It was Resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to exceed a period of 2.5 hours (SOs 3.x).

21/38 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Not required.

21/39 QUOTATIONS

At the previous meeting Members had received quotations and an update on the public realm improvements project to install new street furniture and had supported the whole project dependent on a successful bid for £50,000 from the SHDC

managed Improving the Business Environment Fund. The latter had been unsuccessful and therefore the proposals were reviewed.

After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Waive contract procedures, in accordance with Financial Regulations 11.1(d), in order to purchase specific street furniture from specific suppliers e.g. there was only one UK supplier for the proposed chairs and benches.
- Note an available KTC budget at £68,000 and to accept the quotations at circa £67,383 to supply and install the following street furniture in Fore Street: 2 large flat benches, 2 benches, 8 individual chairs, 10 square planters with Silver Birch trees.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

..... Presiding Chairman Date