

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 25 MAY 2021

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

In attendance: Martin Johnson (Secretary)

21/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Fishman was elected Chairman of the Policy Committee for mayoral year 2021/22.

21/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Povey.

Public Open Forum

None.

21/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21/04 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 5 November 2020 were approved as a correct record. Members note that actions were still required to be taken on Policies and Procedures.

21/05 COVID-19 – MEETINGS

Members received South Hams District Council's (SHDC) letter RR/AG/3004 dated 30 April 2021 which requested local councils to support its quest for a permanent change in the Local Government Act 1972 to allow the flexibility to hold meetings remotely. Members were content with face-to-face meetings and it was **RECOMMENDED** to note the lobbying for remote meetings.

It was then reported that for the period between Covid-19 Step 3 opening-up of Lockdown restrictions on 17 May to the anticipated Step 4 on 21 June that the

number of persons in the Council Chamber for meetings should be closely monitored in accordance with the risk assessment available on the Town Council's (KTC) website. Local authorities had to hold face-to-face meetings as remote meetings via video conferencing had completed on 7 May. It was then **RECOMMENDED** to adopt the following routines:

- Committee meetings to allow the admittance of press and public and for said meetings to include a Public Open Forum.
- The full council meeting on 8 June to allow admittance of the press only and for the Public Open Forum to be held prior to the meeting with the Chairman and Town Clerk between 6.30 p.m. and 6.45 p.m. and for any questions or statements to be presented to the meeting on behalf of local residents.
- It was anticipated for pre-Covid practices to be restored from 21 June.

21/06 SOCIAL MEDIA

Members discussed KTC's social media and it was **RECOMMENDED** to note/action the following:

- KTC's increased use of the website, Facebook and Instagram to communicate information to local residents and that different platforms had different users and different demographics.
- Shared links between Instagram and Facebook would be explored shortly.
- The website had much historic news and articles which needed deletion.
- Direct links from website to Facebook and Instagram were required.
- Feedback on all social media still revealed some confusion amongst local residents regarding which authority provided which services i.e. who did what? notwithstanding that KTC's website provided said information in 'common speak'.
- A new social media policy would be worked up.

21/07 TOUR OF BRITAIN – DEVON STAGE

Members noted that Cllr Wingate and the Town Clerk had held a recent Zoom meeting with Devon County Council (DCC) officers and Cllr Brazil to discuss the Devon Stage of the Tour of Britain which would pass through Kingsbridge on Monday 6 September and include an intermediate sprint. Members also received written information on the same. The route was for the cyclists to remain on the A379 from New Bridge i.e. Embankment Road, Ilbert Road and Cookworthy Road. However, attendees had suggested for the race to travel up Fore Street which would slow the riders down and enable better viewpoints. Members also received estimate costs for a large screen on the Bandstand to televise the whole stage but it was expensive, may not have a wide appeal, provided nil legacy and the cost/benefit was hard to justify.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to:

- Continue liaison with DCC regarding the Tour of Britain Devon Stage.
- Not support the event to be screened on the Bandstand.
- Lobby for riders to race up Fore Street rather than remaining on the A379 (noting KTC may have to pay for and manage temporary barriers).

21/08 SAVE OUR HOSPITAL SERVICES

Members received information from the health campaign group Save Our Hospital Services regarding a recent White Paper which sought to restructure the NHS via Integrated Care Systems (ICSs). It was **RECOMMENDED** for KTC to sign a petition to pause progress on the White Paper and to voice concerns about the implementation of ICSs as a major threat to health care services in Devon.

21/09 PRIORITIES & AMBITIONS FOR 2019-2023

The following reports were received on KTC's 'frontrunner' Priorities and Ambitions and it was **RECOMMENDED** to note/action the following:

- Public realm improvements for the town centre (design, supply and installation of new public seating, planters/trees, litter bins and waymarking signage). The 3 in number waymarking signs and 5 in number litter bins had been installed. KTC's potential application to the SHDC managed Business Environment Fund had been refused as it was deemed to be 'physical infrastructure' which was not allowed. Members were disappointed at the outcome as SHDC had clearly signalled previously that it was a viable project. Therefore, the project would return to the council meeting on 8 June.
- New skatepark. Members reiterated the need for a new facility to be worked up alongside local residents and youth groups and a Zoom meeting had been held with the same. Initial steps were: for the group to be formalised, funding opportunities to be explored, a skatepark manufacturer to visit and liaison with SHDC officers.
- Electric vehicle charging points. Points had been earmarked for installation by SHDC in Fore Street and Quay car parks and Members considered there was little influence which KTC could exert on the matter. Therefore, the item should be deleted from the Priorities and Ambitions' listing.
- Climate change market. Delayed due to Covid-19 however, 3 climate change items would be received for consideration at the council meeting on 8 June.

21/10 CODE OF CONDUCT

Members received the Local Government Association's new code and it was then **RECOMMENDED** for KTC to adopt a new Model Code of Conduct (customised version approved by SHDC's Overview & Scrutiny Panel on 1 April 2021).

21/11 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Not required.

21/12 INTERNAL MATTER

Members noted a confidential internal matter, and it was **RECOMMENDED** to call an extraordinary meeting of the Policy Committee if required.

21/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 30 November 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.