

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2021**

Present: Cllr Philip Cole (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Steve Mammatt
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Danielle Rawstron
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
Four Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

21/69 COUNCILLOR VACANCY – CO-OPTION

It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Danielle (Danny) Rawstron to fill the councillor vacancy in Kingsbridge North Ward and to receive her Declaration of Office.

21/70 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mike Jennings, Chris Povey and Peter Ralph.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

Two members of public left the meeting

**21/71 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

71.1 Sgt Timmis reported that crime remained low. There had been 22 crimes reported in September 2021 which included domestic incidents, flooding, missing persons, low level anti-social behaviour, medical issues and working alongside housing associations to improve lives. He closely studied all crimes and there were no trends and no specific problems. He encouraged the reporting of all crimes; if an incident was not reported it had not happened and therefore communication was pivotal. The Neighbourhood Team had a small resource of one Sergeant, 3 Constables and a Community Support Officer; it was crucial to retain current manpower. He acknowledged that the Police 101 phone system was slow however,

incidents could be easily reported on-line. Finally, he was content for Members to email him personally at any time.

Members responded that the Town Council (KTC) would support his message about reporting all crime and anti-social behaviour incidents to the Police. It was noted that several incidents were probably alcohol fuelled and KTC would consider re-inventing the Licensees Committee which had been mothballed during Covid-19 subject to support from publicans.

71.2 County Cllr Brazil had noted the request for parking restrictions during the Public Open Forum and reported that either residents or KTC could make a request to Devon County Council (DCC) which, if supported for further consideration, would be subject to a public consultation. He was also aware of parking issues in Linhey Close however, the situation may be improved outside the summer high season. Ultimately there were no simple solutions to overcome parking matters. Highway works in lower Church Street were being worked up. Children's services had been unsatisfactory for some time however, DCC anticipated improvements. A pilot scheme for a 20mph speed limit throughout Newton Abbot had been approved; he considered that speeds should be either 20mph or 40mph on all roads off the A38 which would stop current confusion. This would also encourage people to walk and cycle more however, DCC had supported the former pilot only. He had been re-appointed as a member of the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority.

71.3 District Cllr Jackson reported that South Hams District Council's (SHDC) Overview & Scrutiny Committee had a meeting the following day to include a Waste Service Update with the contractor FCC in attendance. It was hoped that there may be some resolution to overcome current problems across the district. Cllr Edmonds added that the litter bins had been cleaned recently however, the outcomes were unsatisfactory. Fusion was considering the introduction of solar panels at Quayside Leisure Centre. She looked forward to KTC's climate change household survey. Finally, she had attended and enjoyed Kingsbridge Gym Club's recent celebration party.

71.4 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that SHDC's waste manager had met with FCC ahead of the following day's committee meeting. She would raise concerns about the condition of litter bins as FCC did not communicate with the general public direct. The Executive would meet on 14 October to consider extending the current suspension of garden waste collection. SHDC and the developer at Lock's Hill, off Derby Road, would attend Poole Magistrates Court on 14 October for an initial hearing regarding the latter's failure to adhere to Stop Notices on site. SHDC had declared a Housing Emergency at the previous council meeting and agreed a 12 point action plan. She had attended the recent KTC and Roof Kingsbridge meeting. It was important for SHDC to consult with the public on housing matters. There was a final round of business grants which had not gone live yet: market traders' support grant, community recovery fund and business start-ups for people made redundant during Covid-19.

County Cllr Brazil, District Cllr Jackson and a member of public left the meeting

21/72 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

21/73 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Cole declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Public Open Forum second statement.

21/74 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 14 September 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

21/75 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 21 September 2021.

21/76 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 28 September 2021.

21/77 BUS SHELTER – ART PROJECT

Further to the last meeting, the proposal for a bus shelter art project was progressing. The perspex shelter in the south west corner of the bus station would be decorated in a nature/floral theme similar to shop windows in Fore Street which was supported by Members. The suggestion for the main bus shelter was to involve local students similar to the successful collaboration for the Duncombe Park mural. It was **RESOLVED** to invite the artist to the next council meeting to further discuss the bus shelter art project.

21/78 FLOOD & WINTER RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

KTC had not received the completed Kingsbridge integrated urban drainage management report from South West Water despite several hasteners. It was supported for the current listing of Snow Wardens to be requested to double as Flood Wardens to check surface water gullies in their neighbourhoods e.g. clearing autumn leaf fall. The Flood Committee had been mothballed during Covid-19 while awaiting the above catchment study. It was **RESOLVED** to re-commence the Flood & Winter Resilience Committee, to review the Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan and to hold a meeting in November 2021.

21/79 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

79.1 Fore Street seating and planters. The new street furniture was anticipated to be delivered early November; preparatory actions were progressing.

79.2 Street furniture damage Friday 1 October. A litter bin and bollard had been knocked over and damaged by vehicles in separate incidents. Both drivers had admitted responsibility and their companies had agreed to reimburse the costs of replacement works.

79.3 Embankment Road and Linhey Close – parking issues. The popularity of the Crabshell Inn during summer 2021 had led to high levels of parking in the locale. The matter to be brought up at the next Planning Committee for discussion.

79.4 Support for KTC projects. The following external funding had been achieved:

- £12.7k Recreation Ground OSSR S106 funds for play equipment, bench maintenance, boules pitch resurfacing and wall/teenzone painting. A pond feasibility study had not been approved as the funds were for tangible improvements only. Monies reimbursed on project completion.
- £1.5k SHDC Ward Members' climate change funds for Kingsbridge household survey. Monies received.
- £800 DCC Ward Member locality fund for pothole repairs. Tarmac and spray supplied. Monies received.
- £2.3k Re-opening High Streets Safely fund. SHDC reimbursement for KTC expenditure. Monies received. Plus a further commitment of £4k to financial year end 31 March 2022.

79.5 Remembrance Sunday. The road closure had been approved.

79.6 Staffing. One staff member absent for 1.5 weeks (25% of resource) however, anticipate return to work on Monday 18 October.

District Cllr O'Callaghan left the meeting

It was Resolved for the meeting to extend over a period of 2.5 hours

21/80 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

80.1 Kingsbridge Community Sponsorship Group public meeting 16 September 2021. Attended by Cllr Jennings; the proposal to host a refugee family in Kingsbridge had gained much support.

80.2 Library extension opening 30 September 2021. Attended by Cllr Jennings; the newly refurbished room was a much welcomed improvement to the Library's community offer.

80.3 The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to Kingsbridge In Bloom 5 October 2021. Lady Arran had presented the QAVS on behalf of Her Majesty and met all KIB volunteers and several KTC Members.

80.4 KTC/Roof Kingsbridge meeting 5 October 2021. Several Members and District Cllr O'Callaghan had met with a Roof Kingsbridge representative to discuss the local housing crisis.

80.5 SHDC/local councils Christmas high street and empty shops campaign 6 October 2021. Cllrs Rawstron and Wingate had attended a remote meeting, alongside other local councils, hosted by SHDC to discuss promotion of the festive season and empty shop window dressing.

80.6 KTC/SHDC Ropewalk housing meeting 6 October 2021. Several Members and District Cllr O'Callaghan had met with SHDC senior officers to discuss the SHDC owned brownfield site and its potential to deliver a housing development.

80.7 Town Bus Service. Cllr Fishman had met with Tally Ho representatives to discuss enhancing the 160 town bus service to include supermarkets and the Cattle Market car park on the route. Members supported an improved service subject to agreement from SHDC, Morrison's and Tesco.

21/81 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 12 October 2021. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £20,078.79 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

21/82 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD

None.

21/83 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

The meeting closed at 9.42 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum

Public Open Forum

1. Lawrence Townsend reported upon a recent personal incident he had experienced with the Police.

Cllr Cole thanked Lawrence for his statement however, this was a civil matter and not within the gift of the Town Council (KTC) to intervene.

2. Chris Gough and Peter James, Scholars Walk Management Company, stated there were vehicular access and parking issues in Scholars Walk. The highway was narrow and vehicles parked on the road throughout the estate and during school pick-up and drop-off times on existing double yellow lines. Both estate and non-estate vehicles at pinch points were responsible. This led to waste collection, emergency and delivery vehicles being unable to access the whole estate plus damage to drainage gullies and bollards. The company had requested assistance on several occasions from Devon County Council and other than introducing an advisory white line at a turning point their proposals had been refused. They now requested help from KTC.

County Cllr Brazil reported that any request for parking restrictions would need to be considered via the Traffic Regulation Order process which completed shortly for the current financial year.

Cllr Cole thanked Chris and Peter for their statement which would be considered at the next Planning Committee to be held on 19 October 2021.