

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2021**

Present: Cllr Mike Jennings (Chairman)
Cllr Philip Cole
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
Three Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

At the outset of the meeting Cllr Jennings reported that Cllr Peter Ralph had retired on the grounds of ill health, he had been a joy to work alongside and Members should remain in close contact.

21/84 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anne Balkwill, Martina Edmonds and Chris Povey.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

**21/85 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

85.1 County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council (DCC) had submitted a funding bid to central government for improved bus services and he was aware that Tally Ho was keen to explore hydrogen powered buses. The A379 in Chillington would be closed 7 to 18 February 2022 for flood alleviation works however, there were detours available for local traffic to the north and south for the works.

Cllr Fishman commented that there was enthusiasm to expand the current Tally Ho town bus service to include stops at the Cattle Market car park, supermarkets and potentially Norton Brook Medical Centre.

85.2 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that South Hams District Council's (SHDC) Leader had written to local residents across the district to explain the suspension of the garden waste collection service until Spring 2022. The matter had been discussed at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and was due for further discussion

at the Executive meeting on 11 November. A contract was in place with FCC to collect said waste however, the service itself was not a statutory requirement. A local community composting scheme could be explored as an alternative. SHDC paid £40k per month for the service however, this had stopped. Members agreed to request the garden waste collection service to be brought up at the forthcoming SHDC/Mayors and Clerks meeting given some local residents had queried whether the service would be re-introduced in Spring 2022. Four electrical vehicle charging points were due to be installed at car parks in town in June 2022 and a further 4 in number in December 2022. Finally, she had liaised with officers regarding alleged planning enforcements cases and would be able to update the town council's (KTC) Planning Committee.

85.3 District Cllr Jackson reported that SHDC's Overview & Scrutiny Committee had called in the decision to suspend the garden waste collection service. There may be some leverage to divert funds to develop a community composting scheme. SHDC intended to loan funds to Fusion to develop solar panels on the roof of Quayside Leisure Centre.

County Cllr Brazil left the meeting

21/86 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

21/87 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

21/88 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 19 October 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

21/89 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 19 October 2021 and 2 November 2021.

21/90 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 19 October 2021.

21/91 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Members received a briefing paper on a potential re-structure of the council's committees which was carefully considered and it was then **RESOLVED**:

- To disband the Policy Committee and for any future policy/forward planning matters to be received at full council meetings.

- To amalgamate the Property Committee and Parks & Open Spaces Committee into a single Property & Recreation Committee to meet quarterly with new Terms of Reference.
- To incorporate climate change matters into the Flood & Winter Resilience Committee and for it to be re-named as the Resilience & Environment Committee to meet bi-annually with amended Terms of Reference.
- For nil changes to the Finance Committee and Planning Committee.

Members noted that local residents had sat on the Parks & Open Spaces Committee (with non-voting rights) and they would be invited to the Public Open Forum of the above new committee and/or contacted beforehand for reports on their areas of interest.

District Cllrs Jackson and O'Callaghan left the meeting

21/92 OUTSIDE BODIES

It was reported that, following Cllr Ralph's retirement, there was a vacancy on Dodbrooke Feoffees and Kingsbridge Feoffees and Members should contact the Town Clerk if they were interested in either of the positions. Both charities managed properties for rent in the town.

21/93 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

93.1 Internal Audit 21 October. Nil pick-ups reported.

93.2 Christmas Lights' testing 24 October. Minor pick-ups only. Localised rust on catenary wires had been cleaned and lubricated. A new shackle had been fitted in Mill Street.

93.3 Recreation Ground – Green Flag Award 2021. The park remained the only Green Flag park in the South Hams. The judges' report was awaited.

93.4 Casual Vacancy – North Ward. Following Cllr Peter Ralph's retirement the vacancy had been advertised from Thursday 28 October. The deadline for North Ward electors to request a by-election was Wednesday 17 November. If an election was not called it would return to KTC to co-opt a new Member. In this case, the vacancy would be well promoted and it was agreed for Cllrs Price and Wingate to form the Interview Panel and to select a new Member.

93.5 Remembrance Sunday – 14 November. As previously agreed in council this would be a reduced event without a parade, band or involvement of community groups. However, a service would take place at the War Memorial and Members were requested to attend from 10.45 a.m. The Royal British Legion and Cllr Jennings would lay a single large wreath on behalf of the whole Kingsbridge community. A press/social media release had been produced in order that local residents knew what to expect on the day.

93.6 Licensees' Meeting. A meeting had been arranged at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday 30 November in Quay House. Kingsbridge Licensees, SHDC Licensing, SHDC Community Safety, Police Licensing, Police Drug & Alcohol Reduction and Police Neighbourhood Team would all be invited to attend. Cllrs Cole and Fishman would represent KTC.

93.7 Street furniture damage in Fore Street. A litter bin had been re-painted and re-fitted with all expenses refunded from the company responsible for the damage. Likewise, a company had admitted liability for damaging a bollard which would be re-fitted upon delivery.

93.8 Footway Church Street to Saffron Park. A local resident had fallen and broken his foot on the footway which was not part of the DCC network and therefore was not maintained at public expense. Feedback would be provided explaining the position.

93.9 Christmas Tree. Any feedback on KTC's decision not to install a tree for the festive season would be reported to the Property Committee.

93.10 Budget for financial year 2022/23. Cllr Balkwill and the Town Clerk would explore a preliminary draft budget the following day to be received by the Finance Committee on 23 November for discussion.

93.11 South Devon AONB Partnership Committee. Local councils could vote in the contested elections for committee membership. Members agreed that KTC should not register to vote.

93.12 Climate Change household survey. Paper copies had not been delivered to the north of the town (upper Fore Street onwards) nor the south east (Waterside Park) and this was being investigated with the Royal Mail.

93.13 New vehicle activated sign. Upon testing the new speed alert sign was faulty and had been returned to the supplier.

93.14 New street furniture. Seating and planters had been received with the wrong colour finish and return to the supplier had been arranged.

93.15 Skatepark update. A meeting with SHDC had been required to explore the use of further car parking spaces near the Slipway to provide an enhanced facility.

93.16 Estuary festoon lighting. A faulty photocell had been replaced with a timer switch and the lights were now working correctly.

**21/94 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND
AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES**

94.1 Fair Week AGM. Cllr Jennings had attended, alongside Cllr Balkwill, and a re-invented Fair Week would be progressed for July 2022.

94.2 Food & Music Festival. Cllr Mammatt reported that the festival would be re-introduced for 2022.

94.3 Kingsbridge In Bloom. Cllr Price reported that the group had held its first face-to-face meeting recently since March 2020. Cllr Rawstron would be the interface with town businesses. A large supply of winter bedding would be delivered shortly. The main display for 2022 would commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

94.4 High Street Campaign. Cllrs Rawstron and Wingate were liaising with SHDC's Public Relations team; an empty shop windows scheme would not work well in town given there were only one or 2 possible locations. However, other initiatives were underway for SHDC's confirmed high streets' funding to end March 2022. The current autumn/winter themed banners in Fore Street would need to be taken down for the period of the Christmas Lights but may be able to be deployed elsewhere e.g. off Ilbert Road roundabout.

94.5 Bus station art project. Cllr Fishman reported that the artist would now install a vinyl overlay to the shelter in the south west corner of the bus station; this would be a floral display reflecting Kingsbridge In Bloom. The project for the main bus shelter had been forwarded to spring 2022 given the artist's other commitments.

21/95 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 9 November 2021. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £35,704.08 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

21/96 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD

None.

21/97 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

..... Presiding Chairman Date

Annex: Public Open Forum

Public Open Forum

Mr Lawrence Townsend stated that he volunteered for the Cornelius Fund and Kingsbridge Area Food Bank. The former provided interest-free loans for people with housing needs but had not provided funding for the last 15 months due to a shortage of available housing stock; the latter provided food packages, and related services, and had expanded from assisting 40 families pre-Covid to 180 families today. He suggested that a multi-purpose community building, to include the Food Bank, should be explored for the currently redundant brownfield site in Ropewalk.

Cllr Jennings thanked Lawrence for his statement which would be considered.