

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2022**

Present: Cllr Mike Jennings (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Philip Cole
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Steve Mammatt
Cllr Chris Povey
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Danielle Rawstron
Cllr Mel Rollinson
Cllr Adam Sherring
Cllr Paul Vann
Cllr Julia Wingate

In Attendance: District Cllr Susan Jackson
District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
Nine Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

21/126 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Cllr Julian Brazil and Sgt James Timmis.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

Eight members of public left the Chamber

**21/127 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

127.1 Sgt Timmis had provided a written report in his absence. Crimes had been reviewed for the month of January 2022. The most significant incident was a road traffic collision on 18 January at the pedestrian crossing in Ilbert Road; officers arrested the driver at the scene on suspicion of driving as unfit through alcohol/drugs. A further drink driving offence had occurred at Washabrook Lane which was being investigated. Both incidents were ongoing pending laboratory results. The Neighbourhood Team continued to engage with vulnerable persons working closely with the Food Bank, local authorities and partners and particularly those struggling financially, with housing or mental health difficulties. Overall crime was low with 26 recorded crimes for the Kingsbridge area. There was similarly low levels of crime in neighbouring towns and parishes. Indeed, a number of those were multiple recorded crimes from single incidents and some related to historic crimes. Finally, he reminded the Kingsbridge community to utilise the numerous ways to

contact the Police or report incidents, crime or other community intelligence. The contact sheet could be found on the Devon and Cornwall Police website.

Members raised some topical policing matters which would be forwarded to Sgt Timmis for his feedback.

127.2 County Cllr Brazil had provided a written report in his absence. The road closures on the A379 at Chillington and in Church Street were going forward as planned. Devon County Council's (DCC) budget meeting would be held on 17 February; it was anticipated that the authority's precept would be increased by 3% including 1% for social care. He had put forward a motion for the full council to consider: following the government's decision to allow the use of neonicotinoids, will the Council refuse their use on the County farms estate?

127.3 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that South Hams District Council's (SHDC) full council meeting would take place on 10 February which would agree the budget for next financial year 2022/23. The proposal was to increase the authority's share of Band D council tax by £5 however, an alternative Liberal Democrat proposal was to freeze council tax for 12 months due to the anticipated increase in the cost of living and recent unsatisfactory waste collection service. A new community composting initiative was proposed at £200k. It was anticipated for the green waste collection service, currently suspended, to re-commence in March. A council tax rebate for specific Band rates was being worked-up and government funding had been provided to cover the outlay. A potential new lease holder for Café Decks in the Recreation Ground was progressing and it was hoped that this would come to fruition to allow the café to re-open in 2022. An update on the Recreation Ground's Pavilion in the Park concept, managed by Kingsbridge Community Tennis, would be reported to the next Town Council (KTC) Property and Recreation Committee. The next legal hearing between the developer and SHDC regarding the K4/Lock's Hill site was scheduled for 3 March.

127.4 District Cllr Jackson reported that Fusion and SHDC had liaised and it was proposed to fit PV panels to all local leisure centre roofs, including Quayside Leisure Centre, at a cost of circa £500k. Dodbrooke Hall would host "Talking Forests" on 21 and 22 February; a puppet show workshop for young people.

21/128 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman agreed to take one item of Urgent Business at agenda item 21/138: Climate and Nature Emergency – Household Survey.

The following agenda item was taken early out-of-turn:

21/138 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY – HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Preliminary findings from the climate change household survey had been forwarded to Members and a more detailed report would be produced for the next council meeting on 8 March. It was likely that KTC's current climate change Action Plan would be reviewed.

21/129 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

21/130 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 11 January 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

21/131 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 18 January 2022 and 1 February 2022.

21/132 PROPERTY & RECREATION COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property and Recreation Committee held on 25 January 2022.

21/133 STAFF RECRUITMENT

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Cole, Cllr Wingate and the Town Clerk, to manage the recruitment process for a new Administrator and to delegate the appointment to the same. The forthcoming vacancy had been advertised on 3 February with a deadline of midday on 15 February for applications.

21/134 AMBITIONS & PROJECTS

Members received the findings of the breakfast meeting held on 11 January, alongside updates, and it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Support a marketing plan for Kingsbridge with a budget at £1,650 in financial year 2022/23 for: cross-street banners, hedgerow posters, printed media, social media adverts and marketing expertise.
- Note that the remaining Re-opening High Street Fund monies at circa £2,000 held by SHDC, had been committed to the end of the current financial year 2021/22 for: advertisements in South Hams Lifestyle, Mendip Living, Taunton Life and Cotswold Life plus the production of a town video.
- Note that KTC's core business and initiatives were being regularly promoted on the Instagram page.
- Support community events with a budget at £5,000 in financial year 2022/23 to include: a Bandstand open-mic event, a busking day during the Queen's Jubilee bank holiday weekend on Saturday 4 June, a movie on completion of Love Your Park on Sunday 21 August, and potential interactive/audience participation events on the Bandstand to be worked-up. Said budget to support participation in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June. Potential events to be worked-up included: on Thursday 2nd a laser show in lieu of a beacon, Friday 3rd a service of thanksgiving at the Bandstand, Saturday 4th above busking event and Sunday 5th bring-your-own family picnics in the parks, Quay House grounds and/or Town Square. It was noted that Age Concern, Kingsbridge Community

Garden and Kingsbridge In Bloom were also proposing Jubilee events alongside the likelihood of several community organised street parties.

- Support art projects with a budget at £4,104 in financial year 2022/23 to include: a potential mural at the Quay toilet block, bus station art work and sculpture.
- Support a sponsorship scheme for new benches in the town square/along footways at the head of the estuary which had been discussed and adopted at 21/132 following further discussion at the recent Property & Recreation Committee.

District Cllrs Jackson & O'Callaghan left the meeting

21/135 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

135.1 Recreation Ground play areas – enhancements project. Two springers, stepping pods and a balance beam had been installed in the children's play area/teenzone alongside resurfacing works. The next stage was to resurface the boules/petanque court and for a thorough cleaning of all play equipment. Painting of the play area walls and seating maintenance to follow as soon as possible but this was weather dependent.

135.2 Bandstand Energy Event – 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Thursday 24 February. South Hams Citizens Advice energy advisors would give advice on what people can do about rising energy prices. Kingsbridge Climate Action and Kingsbridge Area Food Bank would also be in attendance. The event to be well promoted via social media and posters. It was suggested that a further event could be held on a Saturday.

135.3 Drains clearance. Gullies in Lower Union Road, Mill Street, Prince of Wales Road, Ilbert Road/Fore Street, Bridge Street, The Promenade, Quay Lane, Embankment Road (adjacent to the Recreation Ground), Old Plymouth Road, Archery Close, Ashleigh Road/Balkwill Road, Waverley Road/Kingsley Road and Ropewalk (51 in total) would be cleaned out by Exjet on 10 and 11 February.

135.4 Street Furniture. An updated survey of head of estuary seating would be actioned shortly to determine disposal and transfer of sound benches to new locations in readiness for KTC supply of new seating. It had been suggested for Britton's Field seating to be transferred to KTC. New Fore Street seating was being repainted by the supplier in readiness for its return.

135.5 Kingsbridge In Bloom – Section 137 grant. The current financial year's budget 2021/22 provided a budget at £7k for Kingsbridge In Bloom to support their floral projects which had achieved regional and national successes. A financial summary had been provided by the KIB Treasurer and said payment would be made shortly.

Public Open Forum

Andrea Glashier asked questions about the following:

- The evidence the Town Council (KTC) had used to base their decisions on Covid-19 matters including lockdowns and vaccinations?
- Whether KTC was aware of the side effects of Covid-19 matters including the impacts of face coverings, hand sanitisers and vaccinations?
- Given anticipated KTC services had been stopped during Covid-19 how the under spend of funding had been utilised?

The Town Clerk replied that:

- KTC had followed government guidance from the commencement of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 to the present day and it was highly unlikely for this to change. This was in line with the position taken by every other town and parish council across the South Hams and West Devon.
- KTC's projected under spend in financial year 2020/21 had enabled the following grants to be made which had not been included in the budget estimates: Kingsbridge Gym Club £7,000, South Hams Area Wellbeing £1,000, Kingsbridge Area Food Bank £1,500 and Kingsbridge Fair Week £1,700. At 31 March 2021 a reconciled balance reported a budget over spend at £2,746.44 i.e. circa 0.62% over spend on a turnover of £441,746.34. The projection for the current financial year 2021/22 ending 31 March 2022 also earmarked a minor over spend however, the final balance could not be reported until the annual closure of the accounts.

A lively exchange of opinions followed between Members and Andrea, and colleagues, and Cllr Jennings thanked them for their attendance.