

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 8 MARCH 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 Danielle Rawstron
Cllr Mel Rollinson
Cllr Adam Sherring
Cllr Paul Vann

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

21/140 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Graham Price and Julia Wingate.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

Members of public left the Chamber

**21/141 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

141.1 County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council's (DCC) budget had been agreed realising a 2% council tax increase for general expenditure and 1% increase for social care. This equated to a circa £65 increase for DCC's share of council tax from a Band D property. Expenditure on children's education needs would require additional spend from Reserves. He would be interested to hear more about community litter picks but questioned whether there was a litter problem in town. However, he was aware of reports of litter blowing from refuse lorries and this should always be reported and recognised that the condition of some litter bins was unsatisfactory. He had no specific details for the proposed fix of the highway verge at Waverley Road but it would cost circa £11k, he could offer £1k from his locality fund, and queried whether the Town Council (KTC) may also be willing to part-fund. Finally, the Cabinet Member for public transport was concerned about funding for rural bus services; ultimately these were commercial services which could be pulled if they were not viable.

141.2 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that South Hams District Council's (SHDC) portion of council tax had been increased by £5 for a Band D property. To counter the ongoing increase in the cost of living a £150 council tax rebate for Bands A-D had been supported by central government. A new scheme would be launched on 1 April to make £5k grants available for people renting a social housing property to help them purchase a shared ownership home. Garden waste collection would re-commence in late March. A £200k budget had been provided for community composting to include 6 projects per annum; finding a suitable location in Kingsbridge was the key issue. At a court hearing on 3 March legal proceedings between SHDC and Blakesley Estates were carried forward to enable full documentation to be made available to all parties. A planning application for a housing development at the foot of Tumbly Hill would be subject to a site visit and consideration by the Development Management Committee. A planning Appeal for a housing development at Dennings, Wallingford Road, had been dismissed.

141.3 District Cllr Jackson reported that SHDC managed a low cost loan scheme to assist homeowners with repairs to their properties which was aimed at low income households. KTC would publicise the scheme via social media. SHDC Members would have a Quayside Leisure Centre walkabout on 14 March alongside Fusion.

County Cllr Brazil left the meeting

21/142 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman agreed to take 2 items of Urgent Business at agenda item 21/152: Public Footpath No.6 – temporary closure and K5 housing development - street naming (under confidential matters).

21/143 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

21/144 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 8 February 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

21/145 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 15 February 2022 and 1 March 2022.

It was further **RESOLVED**, following a site visit, to Recommend Approval for the following planning application and to forward the consultation findings to SHDC Development Management:

Reference:	0040/22/HHO
Case Officer:	Bryony Hanlon
Applicant:	Mr & Mrs Phillips
Site:	3 Badgers Green, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1UE

Proposal: Householder application for extension to west side (rear) for home office/study, extension to east side (rear behind garage) for new kitchen and enclosure of front porch

21/146 CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY – HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Members received, and closely considered, the findings from the recent Climate and Nature Emergency household survey which had achieved a 10% response rate. It was then **RESOLVED** to adopt several follow-up actions including issuing a press release to summarise the outcomes.

District Cllrs Jackson & O'Callaghan left the meeting

21/147 WAVERLEY ROAD – ROADSIDE VERGE

Members received a request for KTC to consider making a financial contribution towards the maintenance of the roadside verge in Waverley Road. Members supported maintenance being carried out however, it was considered that DCC had known about the unsatisfactory condition of the verge for several years and therefore the costs should be borne by the authority. It was **RESOLVED** for no financial contribution to be made to DCC for roadside verge repairs.

21/148 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Members had discussed community events for financial year 2022/23 and received further options vis a vis agreed budgets. It was then **RESOLVED** to manage:

- A “Love Your Park” event in the Recreation Ground on Sunday 21 August.
- Three in number “Movies on the Square”; 2 to be held on Friday evenings in August and a Christmas movie on a Sunday late afternoon in December.
- Union flag bunting around the perimeter of the Town Square, lights display in all Town Square trees and a town centre busking event on Saturday 4 June during the Queen’s Jubilee bank holiday weekend.
- A Bandstand music event during the August bank holiday weekend.

The above to total circa £10.3k with an agreed Love Your Park, Movies on the Square and Community Events joint budget at £8.4k realising an over spend at circa £1.9k.

There was potential to add a further summer Friday evening movie if external funding could be achieved i.e. 4 movies in total.

21/149 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

149.1 New Administrator. Charlotte Brock would commence work with KTC on Monday 21 March with Laura Cregan leaving on Thursday 24 March.

149.2 Graffiti. New graffiti had been painted on the side elevation of the Co-op building in the early hours of Sunday 6 March. The graffiti would be painted over shortly.

149.3 Estuary Lighting. The festoon lights had been battered during the recent storms and had not been working for the last 2 weeks. A temporary fix to resecure lights within touching distance had been completed within 48 hours. A permanent fix had been scheduled: new catenary wire fixtures, re-attachment of catenary wires, new/stronger tie-wraps and repairs to the power supply. The estuary lighting maintenance budget had already been over spent for the current financial year.

149.4 Planning Application 2876/21/FUL for Tumbly Hill housing. SHDC had reported the above proposals would be considered by the Development Management Committee at its meeting on 16 March with a prior site inspection to take place at 12.00 noon on Monday 14 March. Cllrs Cole, Edmonds and Rawstron agreed to attend. KTC's consultation feedback in September 2021 was to Recommend Refusal due to insufficient parking spaces and concerns with the Construction Management Plan.

149.5 Representation. Members had received several questions from Mrs Angela Naylor regarding a grant to the Gym Club for £7k paid in December 2020. The gist of the enquiry was that it was an inappropriate spend of public monies which could have been received by a more deserving cause i.e. Kingsbridge Area Food Bank which had only received a grant for £1,500. The Town Clerk had contacted both the Gym Club and Food Bank and a draft response was supported by Members which included: KTC's assertion that the grant was very worthwhile to help kickstart a local club in its new premises and a visit could be arranged for Mrs Naylor to view the facilities.

21/150 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

150.1 KTC/KIB/SHDC green space meeting 17 February 2022. Cllr Price and the Town Clerk had held a productive meeting with SHDC officers which discussed the compost facility in the Recreation Ground, tree lopping in Quay Car Park/Town Square, the condition of the very large Eucalyptus tree at the head of the estuary, and hedge trimming near the Memorial Shelter.

150.2 SHDC Mayors & Clerks meeting 18 February 2022. Cllr Jennings had attended a worthwhile remote meeting with SHDC's senior management team and other local councils.

150.3 KTC/Citizens Advice/Kingsbridge Climate Action Energy Event 3 March 2022. The re-scheduled event had been held in Quay House rather than the Bandstand due to weather conditions.

150.4 Internal audit 3 March 2022. Nil matters had been raised for attention and the closure of annual accounts would be actioned remotely.

150.5 Kingsbridge Stands With Ukraine vigil 4 March 2022. Cllr Jennings and Reverend Jackie Taylor had made heartfelt addresses to a gathering of over 150

local residents in the Town Square with a backdrop of the national flag of Ukraine hoisted on the main flag pole.

21/151 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 8 March 2022. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £30,488.31 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

21/152.1 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO.6 – TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Members were mindful of comments made during the Public Open Forum and received DCC's Temporary Traffic Order to close the section of Footpath No.6 which traversed Lock's Hill (between Derby Road and High House Lane) for the 6 month period 14 March to 13 September 2022. This would follow-on from a current closure due to its very slippery surface following recent wet weather. DCC had made a site visit and determined that costs to make the footpath safe to use would be prohibitive given it was anticipated the developer would apply for a diversion to move it to a different alignment. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to request DCC to review the ongoing closure of Kingsbridge Footpath No.6 on a monthly basis because better weather would be likely to dry the ground, enabling current safety concerns to be dismissed, with the potential to re-open it for summer. KTC would be content to join-up with said proposed inspections of the footpath.

21/153 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

21/154 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Not required as the members of public had left the Chamber.

21/152.2 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: K5 DEVELOPMENT – STREET NAMING

SHDC had forwarded proposed names for the 3 streets in the approved K5 housing development off West Alvington Hill which had been considered at a recent Planning Committee. In turn, Members had suggested the use of local surnames however, SHDC had responded that surnames could only be used if they were common local surnames which had a historical connection to the town. It was **RESOLVED** to request an extension for KTC's feedback to SHDC for recommended new street names and for Members to reconsider them at the next council meeting.

21/155 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR/CHAIRMAN FOR MAYORAL YEAR 2022/23

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Philip Cole as Town Mayor/Chairman for mayoral year 2022/23 and for him to take office at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 10 May 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex: A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. **Clive Rollinson** was concerned about litter and asked if:

- the Town Council (KTC) had a policy on littering;
- Members felt that littering was getting better or worse;
- KTC accepted it had a leadership role to play in preventing litter; and
- Whether there were any other bodies which could be contacted about litter?

Cllr Jennings replied that KTC did not have a policy on littering and South Hams District Council (SHDC) was responsible for street cleaning which was contracted out to FCC. There was a single FCC operative in town but he understood that the company was trying to recruit. A local group of volunteers regularly undertook Sunday morning litter picks in town and Gary Jolliffe from Till The Coast Is Clear actioned the same.

2. **Lee Bonham** was concerned that Devon County Council (DCC) had approved the closure of Public Footpath No.6 for 6 months until mid-September. He recognised that safety of users was a priority however, he did not support closure during summer drier weather. Moreover, the developer should be requested to make the path safe because fencing had caused overuse in a narrow channel which had eroded the grass leaving slippery mud. The alternative route earmarked by DCC was unsafe which forced pedestrians to use the narrow highway via High House Lane to meet-up with the next section of Footpath No.6.

County Cllr Brazil was requested to comment and stated that a potential outcome to overcome the issue could see the actual banning of vehicles on the road to the Rugby Club. Closure of a public footpath per se could only be sanctioned by the Secretary of State. Current legal proceedings regarding the K4/Lock's Hill housing development prevented SHDC Ward Members and himself making any further comments. Ultimately there were several scenarios concerning the development vis a vis use of the footpath. However, while he recognised local frustrations there was no current DCC appetite to step-in.

Cllr Jennings stated the matter would be discussed as Urgent Business.

3. **Dan Stathers** was concerned where sewerage from the proposed K4/Lock's Hill housing development would be directed and he assumed that it would need to be taken through the Recreation Ground at some stage.

4. **Andrea Glashier** stated that, further to her questions at the last council meeting, she had submitted more questions regarding Covid-19 matters and had additional evidence for Members.

Members queried what Andrea actually sought from KTC? and replied that the authority had taken advice from central government and had trusted the guidance

provided regarding face coverings and vaccinations. Cllr Jennings handed Andrea a paper copy of KTC's answers to her new questions and that she needed to ask central government such questions if she remained unhappy rather than KTC.

Cllr Jennings thanked all members of public for their statements and contributions to the meeting.