

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 12 APRIL 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
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

21/156 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Cllr Julian Brazil.

Public Open Forum

There were no members of public present.

**21/157 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

157.1 Sgt Ryan Canning, Ivybridge Police Station, had provided a written report ahead of the meeting which had been forwarded to Members. He had reviewed incident logs and crime reports for March 2022. Further to local enquiries and tasks which officers had self-generated there had been 71 calls for service during the month. The majority were related to private matters however, there were several reports of anti-social behaviour mainly involving youths. Five reports of missing persons and a few road traffic collisions. Overall there were no matters of significance for the Town Council (KTC) to be aware of. There had been 41 crime reports including 2 sexual offences which involved the sharing of images between young persons under 18. Also, there had been 2 assaults on officers at different incidents.

Members appreciated the Police report provided and Cllr Fishman, KTC's Police Advocate, had spoken to the new Sector Inspector Ben Shardlow that morning and arranged a meeting with him in Quay House on Thursday 14 April.

157.2 County Cllr Brazil had also provided a written report. Further to discussion at the previous meeting, he had met a private contractor at Waverley Road regarding the highway verge which was in a poor condition and a report was awaited. He had held an excellent and informative meeting at Age Concern. The concept of developing a 'care hub' was something which could be replicated across the county. He offered a big thank you to the volunteers there and indeed, all those including the Food Bank who did so much for the most vulnerable.

157.3 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that South Hams District Council's (SHDC) garden waste collection would resume in Kingsbridge shortly and SHDC Members would receive a briefing on Thursday 14 April. SHDC had made a £10,000 grant to the Disaster Emergencies Committee to support the Ukraine humanitarian crisis. A mother and daughter had just arrived and cash funds had been supplied for essential supplies. In total 48 refugees had arrived in the South Hams from Ukraine with another 36 persons anticipated i.e. 84 people in total who would be sponsored by 40 local homes. All properties would be assessed and the email address for people wishing to offer support/accommodation was supportforukraine@swdevon.gov.uk. It was acknowledged that communication/language may be a problem and the route for potential sponsors via the Home Office was considered to be tortuous. Finally, no recent news had been received about wall repairs and the re-opening of Church Steps Passageway; Members agreed that KTC should hasten a response from SHDC's lead officer.

157.4 District Cllr Jackson reported that SHDC had issued a press release regarding the installation of PV panels on the roofs of the district leisure centres including Quayside. A meeting between SHDC and Fusion was anticipated during the following week. She had queried the cleanliness of litter bins around town. The introduction of electric vehicle charging points in off-street car parks was progressing. Members noted that Co Cars, an electric vehicle hire/car share company, could be invited to speak at a council/committee meeting. Charging points were likely to be installed at the Tesco retail store in 2022. Finally, she had provided some of her locality budget to Age Concern to introduce a mural on their external wall with the assistance of a local artist.

21/158 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

21/159 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

21/160 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

21/161 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 15 March 2022 and 5 April 2022.

It was noted that KTC's previous proposal to SHDC to rearrange the recycling banks in the Cattle Market Car Park should be re-ignited and for Cllr Wingate and the Town Clerk to liaise with the relevant SHDC officer.

21/162 MEETINGS CALENDAR 2022/23

Members received a draft timetable of dates for council and committee meetings and it was then **RESOLVED** to adopt a meetings calendar for mayoral year May 2022 to May 2023.

21/163 SKATEPARK

Members received a report to enhance the current skatepark near the Slipway in Quay Car Park. The salient points were:

- The size of the footprint to be increased from circa 280m² to circa 560m².
- Costs would be in the region of £200k to £250k.
- Historical S.106 contributions for Kingsbridge at £30k could possibly be available towards the project.
- A New Skatepark for Kingsbridge Committee had appointed a chairman, secretary and treasurer. A bank account had been opened and a recent meeting had gone well.
- There were over 45 potential funding grants to be investigated and advice had been sought from Skateboard GB.
- The next stage was a tender process to appoint a skatepark construction company to work alongside. Local skateboarders would be involved in the design process.
- There was much local support for the project.
- Some recent damage to new benches outside the Peacocks store had been caused by skateboarding however, Members agreed for no action to be taken.

It was **RESOLVED** to progress a new and enhanced skatepark for Kingsbridge.

21/164 SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY GROUPS

Members received a report that a £1k budget was available for community grants in the current financial year 2022/23. Without any promotion to date, 2 requests had been received from local charitable and recreational groups. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to commence a grant scheme for community groups, which benefitted the people of Kingsbridge, to apply for small cash grants.

21/165 STREET FURNITURE

Members received a report on KTC's street furniture project. Fore Street litter bins, waymarking signs (including the Town Square), seating, planters and trees remained on budget. It was anticipated to complete the project shortly. However, the

projected costs to replace current litter bins and seating in the Town Square, and footways along Embankment Road and Quay Car Park, with KTC's chosen house style street furniture (to dovetail with Fore Street) had increased from circa £55k to circa £68k. This was due to a 33% increase in the purchase costs for both litter bins and seating. It was **RESOLVED** to progress the Town Square/head of estuary litter bins and seating project and to use circa £13k extra of Capital Receipts to fund the same.

21/166 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

166.1 Devon County Council (DCC) Highways Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund. DCC had provided a £300 grant towards the overall £360 cost of clearing the grass and organic waste from the pebbled area in West Alvington Hill where a local person had fallen in late 2021.

166.2 Closure of Fore Street Car Park. Should a current planning application be approved for 86 Fore Street (4344/21/FUL) the Fore Street Car Park entrance from Fore Street itself would be temporarily closed for a 6 week period during the development works.

It was noted that the proposed development would also require a one way system for vehicles during the build and Members agreed that entry from Fore Street, rather than exit on to Fore Street, should be supported. The Town Clerk to feedback to the applicant and SHDC.

166.3 Annual Town Meeting. The meeting had been held for several years as an interactive session in the Town Square on a Saturday morning to combine with a Farmers' Market. Members agreed to 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on Saturday 7 May.

166.4 Tree Planting – Photoshoot in Duncombe Park. SHDC would plant the first batch of trees via the Urban Tree Challenge Fund project in Duncombe Park. A photoshoot, to accompany a press/social media release, would take place at 12.00 noon on Thursday 14 April and SHDC had invited KTC Members to take part.

166.5 Bunting – Fore Street. The annual installation of bunting in Fore Street for Easter had been delayed as the contractor was unwell.

166.6 Quay House – room rental. The current tenant in Room 8 would vacate the room for 1 June. The room required some ceiling repairs and total redecoration, similar to the second floor Loft, before renting out again but would then be able to command a higher rental fee on completion. Kingsbridge & Saltstone Caring had written a kind thank you letter for providing Room 9 rental free of charge to the charity.

166.7 Community events for 2022. Updates were provided on events for the Queen's Jubilee, Love Your Park and Movies on the Square. A Bandstand music

event in August had not attracted local bands and therefore Members agreed to explore a “Stars in Their Eyes” style event instead.

District Cllrs Jackson & O’Callaghan left the meeting

21/167 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

167.1 SHDC/KTC tree planting site visits 14 March 2022. SHDC officers and the Town Clerk had conducted walkabouts to identify specific locations for tree planting linked to the Urban Tree Challenge Fund project.

167.2 KTC/Wild About Kingsbridge/DCC site visits Devon Square 21 March and 7 April 2022. Cllr Cole, Cllr Price and the Town Clerk had met representatives from a local environmental group and the local highways officer to discuss potential rewinding of a current DCC managed land area behind Devon Square. DCC was content to devolve its management to KTC which was supported by Members.

167.3 Local artists/KTC walkabout Quay public toilet block mural project 7 April 2022. KTC’s Administrator had met artists to discuss a mural; information had been shared and artists’ feedback was awaited.

167.4 SHDC/KTC greenspace meeting 12 April 2022. Cllr Price and the Town Clerk had met SHDC officers to discuss tree surgery, grass verge cutting and SHDC/KTC/Kingsbridge In Bloom liaison.

Members noted that some potential tree surgery was required in the vicinity of the leisure centre. The Town Clerk to report to SHDC.

167.5 Food & Music Festival – cancellation. Cllr Mammatt reported that the festival had been cancelled for 2022 for several reasons but it was hoped to stage the event in 2023.

167.6 Bus Services. Cllr Fishman reported that he had been liaising with DCC Public Transport team and County Cllr Brazil. There remained concerns that some current local bus services may be halted.

21/168 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 12 April 2022. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £72,077.12 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

21/169 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

21/170 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Wingate asked if the Chairman was aware that SHDC had agreed a £5k grant to the Chamber of Commerce to enhance pedestrian access route between Tesco and Fore Street Car Park. A working party would be formed to further explore the concept.

Members asked when traffic cones would be removed from the recently replaced pelican crossing in Ilbert Road and when a street lamp would be reintroduced in lower Fore Street. The Town Clerk would investigate with DCC.

21/171 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Not required as there were no members of public or the press present.

21/172 KINGSBRIDGE COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Members received nominations and it was **RESOLVED** to select 3 local people and 1 local business as Kingsbridge Community Champions for 2022. It was further agreed for prizes and certificates to be presented by Cllr Jennings at a photoshoot to be held on the Bandstand at 1.00 p.m. on Saturday 7 May on completion of the annual town meeting (agenda item 166.3).

**21/173 ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR/VICE CHAIRMAN FOR
MAYORAL YEAR 2022/23**

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Martina Edmonds as Deputy Town Mayor/Vice Chairman for mayoral year 2022/23 and for her to take office at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 10 May 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.06 p.m.

..... Presiding Chairman Date