

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 11 APRIL 2023**

Present: Cllr Martina Edmonds (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Mike Jennings
Cllr Steve Mammatt
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Mel Rollinson
Cllr Danielle Rawstron
Cllr Paul Vann
Cllr Julia Wingate

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
Rosa Hannaford, Kingsbridge Climate Action
Richard Harding, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette
Ten Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Town Clerk)

22/136 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Philip Cole, Barrie Fishman, Chris Povey and Adam Sherring, District Cllr Susan Jackson and Sgt Peter Shotton.

The Chairman read out a Notice of Recording

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

Nine members of public left the meeting

**22/137 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

137.1 Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council (DCC) had allocated funding for particular areas and it may be wise for the Town Council (KTC) to prepare a list of works/projects in readiness. He had received representations for the 30mph zone in Belle Hill to be extended from the junction with Fosse Road/Belle Vue Road to the north side of the entrance to the new Applegate housing development. However, he considered that the whole town should be 20mph. He supported a Kingsbridge Nature Festival and was content to pledge funding for the same.

137.2 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that South Hams District Council (SHDC) had called a special Executive meeting on 13 April to discuss the waste collection and recycling service, provision of new waste collection vehicles and works at Torr Quarry. The authority's ambition was to have all residents on the same waste scheme by autumn 2023. A survey by a structural engineer was the next stage in

the progression to re-open Church Steps Passageway. A planning appeal had been lodged for a 6 unit development at the Dennings site in Wallingford Road. Local residents had until 17 April to register to vote in the local elections to be held on 4 May, until 18 April to apply for a postal vote and until 25 April to gain a voter ID certificate.

22/138 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman agreed to take one item of Urgent Business at agenda item 22/149: Kingsbridge Nature Festival.

22/139 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Vann declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 22/149.

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

22/143 SPEED LIMIT – BELLE HILL

Members acknowledged the difficulty for vehicles trying to exit from the new Applegate housing development on to Belle Hill and noted speeding issues per se in the locale. The development had been approved in 2017 and DCC as the highways authority had not raised any objections on safety grounds or proposed safety mitigation matters elsewhere. KTC had submitted its interest in a town-wide 20mph speed limit in late 2022. Members further noted that Cornwall Council supported a blanket 20mph for all its towns and Frogmore's "20 is plenty" campaign. Cllr Brazil agreed to lobby for Belle Hill to be an agenda item for DCC's Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) on 30 June. It was then **RESOLVED** for KTC to explore Applegate residents' support for a lower speed limit in Belle Hill and to forward such evidence to Cllr Brazil.

Cllr Brazil left the meeting

22/140 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 14 March 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

22/141 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 21 March 2023 and 4 April 2023.

22/142 PROPERTY & RECREATION COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Property and Recreation Committee held on 28 March 2023.

In particular, Members supported KTC part-funding a trampoline in Duncombe Park at circa £4.7k, alongside an application for S.106 developer contributions, and such

funding would be in lieu of the £5k previously pledged to the Coronation weekend (see 146.1 below) to provide a legacy/recreational project which could be enjoyed for years to come.

2/144 KINGSBRIDGE ECONOMIC STRATEGY – FOOTFALL SOFTWARE

Members received SHDC's report on a proposed Economic Strategy for Kingsbridge and a request for KTC to fund £825 towards an annual subscription (one year pilot) for Place Informatics footfall software, alongside other South Hams and West Devon towns, to reach a project total at circa £11k. The footfall data was gleaned from smart phone use and could track where people were coming from, movements within the town, dwell time, visit frequency and the information was accurate e.g. no double counting. Members considered the software was an interesting tool but were not convinced that the findings could be turned into tangible action to drive greater footfall. It was **RESOLVED** that the footfall software should not be supported.

District Cllr O'Callaghan left the Chamber

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

22/149 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: KINGSBRIDGE NATURE FESTIVAL

Members noted a statement made during the Public Open Forum and received a paper on the Kingsbridge Nature Festival. Throughout the festival there would be specific calls for action to the community to get involved. The ambition was for a joyful and participatory celebration of local wildlife but also to act as a launchpad for new groups and initiatives to protect and enhance local nature leaving a legacy for future generations. It was **RESOLVED** to support the Kingsbridge Nature Festival 15 to 18 June 2023 and to part-fund the event at £1,300.

22/145 QUAY HOUSE LAWN – MEETING SPACE

Members received a proposal to make better use of Quay House the grassed area behind the Bandstand and for it to become a meeting space. Four to 5 benches could be installed and performances on the Bandstand could be viewed from both the Town Square and lawn. Re-use of the current canvas backdrops during the current Bandstand rebuild needed to be explored. Concerns were raised that it could accentuate noise, litter and anti-social behaviour issues. It was **RESOLVED** to produce an options paper to further explore use of Quay House as a recognised meeting space.

22/146 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

146.1 Coronation Weekend. Further to the previous meeting, the Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas group had reported that its funding bid to the National Lottery had been unsuccessful and therefore it was unable to raise the outstanding £11k required to manage events over the Coronation weekend. Regrettably the plans has been cancelled and therefore the group would not require KTC's pledge of £5k.

The commemorative Coronation mugs for the primary school had been received. The school roll at Easter was 390 and there were 432 mugs providing extra mugs for primary school aged children living in town who may be home-educated or did not attend at Kingsbridge.

As previously agreed by Members: the new multi-coloured bunting was aloft in the town centre, red/white/blue bunting would be installed around the Town Square, it would be illuminated in the evening (sponsored by Josh Tolley, Kingsbridge LLC), Kingsbridge In Bloom would install a Coronation display on the main Quay roundabout and KTC had promoted use of the parks for picnics/street parties (DCC free permissions).

Members remained keen to plant more bare-root trees over winter 2023/24 with the potential to name an area as King's Community Orchard or similar.

146.2 Bus Service 162. KTC had contacted the 7 in number parishes (alongside Kingsbridge) affected by the loss of the Loddiswell-Kingsbridge-Hope Cove bus service on Saturdays effective from 1 April. Feedback was awaited (parish councils were likely to be meeting in early April) whereupon it was anticipated for a meeting will be called alongside County Cllr Brazil.

146.3 Calendar for Council & Committee meetings 2023/24. A draft calendar of meetings had been forwarded to Members commencing with the Annual Council Meeting on Wednesday 11 May.

146.4 Local Council Elections – Thursday 4 May 2023. Nominations had closed on 4 April for the local council elections. Kingsbridge Westville and Kingsbridge North would be uncontested; on 4 May all candidates nominated for the Wards would be duly elected without a contest. There were 4 candidates for 5 positions in Kingsbridge North meaning there would be a vacancy on 4 May. However, Kingsbridge East would be contested via a poll for the Ward on 4 May; there were 6 candidates for 5 positions. The above meant that the new council sitting at the Annual Council Meeting on Wednesday 10 May would have the opportunity to co-opt a new Member for Kingsbridge North Ward without the requirement to advertise.

22/147 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

147.1 Sustainable South Hams 'Rivers Assembly' 18 March 2023. The assembly was highly informative.

147.2 SHDC/Kingsbridge In Bloom/Town Council Recreation Ground walkabout 30 March 2023. A preparatory walkabout had taken place to work up plans for Green Flag judging day on Monday 24 April.

147.3 Chamber of Commerce. A recent meeting discussed various business matters.

147.4 Library. A recent celebration was held to introduce the new teens and kids' spaces.

22/148 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 11 April 2023. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £33,405.06 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Cllrs Jennings and Price left the meeting

22/150 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

It was Resolved for the meeting to continue beyond the 2.5 hour time limit identified in Standing Orders 3x.

22/151 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED** that in the view of the nature of the business about to be transacted, at agenda item 22/152 below, it was advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded.

A member of public and press reporter left the meeting

22/152 KINGSBRIDGE COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS 2023

Members received nominations and it was **RESOLVED** to select 5 local people and one local community group as Kingsbridge Community Champions for 2023. It was further agreed for prizes and certificates to be presented by the current Town Mayor at a time/date to be arranged.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Annex A to KTC minutes dated 11 April 2023

Public Open Forum

1. Andrea Quintana requested Members to listen, with an open heart and mind, to a recording of a recent statement made at another town council meeting which covered topics including emission zones in small towns, 15 minute cities, C40 Cities and net zero matters with the following claims: no flying out of the UK by 2030, no ships out of the UK by 2030, no cars at all, all woodburners and gas appliances to be ripped out of homes by 2025, nil meat, imprisonment within the UK, and all of it had been planned since the 1970s.
2. Rosa Hannaford stated that Kingsbridge Climate Action proposed a Kingsbridge Nature Festival 15-18 June during Great Big Green Week to celebrate and inspire local community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. The Festival would include workshops, talks and exhibitions on a range of themes: water quality, soil health, biodiversity, gardening for wildlife, community and individual action for human and environmental health. The festival was estimated to cost circa £2,800 and KTC was requested to support it at £2,300.
3. Lee Bonham stated that he was pleased that KTC had received a response from SHDC that the developer at the K4/Lock's Hill site, off Derby Road, was effectively progressing works at their own risk. He then distributed photos of large concrete blocks which had been positioned on the site and reported that a section of retaining wall had collapsed recently. Local residents were concerned that the Scout Hut and High House Lane were in danger and requested KTC to ask for an update.