

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT & RESILIENCE COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 23 MAY 2023**

Present: Cllr Barrie Fishman (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Philip Cole
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Mel Rollinson
Cllr Paul Vann

In Attendance: Johnathan Hubbard, Pell Frischmann
One Member of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

23/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Fishman was elected as Chairman of the Environment and Resilience Committee for mayoral year 2023/24.

23/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Martina Edmonds and Danielle Rawstron.

Public Open Forum

There were no statements.

22/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

22/04 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2022 which were approved as a correct record.

23/05 KINGSBRIDGE IUDM & FLOOD ANALYSIS

Johnathan Hubbard, Pell Frishmann, provided a briefing on the Kingsbridge Integrated Urban Drainage Management (IUDM) and Flood Analysis report dated February 2023 and answered Members' questions. The salient points were:

- The revised Phase 3 analysis was the final report and it was unlikely for there to be a Phase 4.
- Three watercourses had been studied i.e. Westville, Western Backway and Duncombe Brook. The Dodbrooke and Tacketwood streams had not been assessed within the analysis as they had been previously studied.
- The Kingsbridge catchment had been studied for some years and the historical references to other local rivers were relevant.

- Retention areas to capture upper catchment rainfall runoff and natural attenuation to reduce flow velocity would be beneficial however, this would still discharge flow into the estuary and therefore tide levels would have an impact.
- Tidal flooding alone only affected the lower parts of the town with Bridge Street and Mill Street particularly prone to flooding which combined with sewer discharge. A combined sewer overflow (CSO) was a single pipe which combined both waste water (toilets, sinks etc.) from households and businesses with surface water from roofs and gutters.
- New housing developments could actually help to alleviate flooding as they had to install sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in order to mitigate for a 1 in 100 year stormwater event.
- The issue with new developments was that the SuDS had to be maintained and such action was often transferred to estate management companies after the housing had been built. However, overseeing such maintenance was effectively the responsibility of Devon County Council (DCC) as the lead local flood authority.
- South West Water (SWW) was aware that much investment was required for its sewer network and related services.
- It was inevitable for flooding to increase in Kingsbridge due to climate change matters.
- Temporary flood defences for external doors were efficient during a flood event.
- Flooding was complex due to the involvement of different agencies i.e. DCC, SWW and the Environment Agency (EA) alongside riparian ownership of watercourses.
- Specific issues included:
 1. A blockage in Duncombe Park (Impact Area 1 – Duncombe Street) which was likely to be a collapsed culvert.
 2. There was potential for attenuation schemes around Wallingford Road to reduce flow velocity (Impact Area 2 – Windsor Court & Church Street).
 3. The Western Backway watercourse route adjacent to the Tesco retail store (Impact Area 4 – Tesco area) was convoluted and unlikely to cope with a 1 in 100 year flood event moreover, the designated attenuation area to the north did not function as intended.
 4. Bridge Street and Mill Street were susceptible to fluvial, tidal and foul sources and probably required a pumping scheme to alleviate flooding (Impact Area 6 – Town Centre).

The Chairman thanked Johnathan for his attendance.

The above report would be reviewed by DCC, EA, SWW, Town Council (KTC) and South Hams District Council at a future meeting to be called by DCC.

23/06 INCLUSION OF TRANSPORT MATTERS WITHIN COMMITTEE BUSINESS

It was **RECOMMENDED** to include local transport matters into the committee's business, to amend the current Terms of Reference to include the same, and a change of name to the Environment, Transport & Resilience Committee.

23/07 TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was **RECOMMENDED** to make some minor amendments and agree revised Terms of Reference for the Environment, Transport & Resilience Committee at Annex A.

23/08 ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

08.1 Members received the current Climate and Nature Emergency (CANE) Action Plan for 2022/23 alongside an update/looking ahead briefing which had been considered at the full council meeting held on 14 March. Members noted that climate change and nature matters had really 'taken-off' in town via Kingsbridge Climate Action and Wild About Kingsbridge and several projects had either been completed or were ongoing. Liaison with outlying villages took place via the Kingsbridge Area Sustainability Group with an event focussed on home energy was being worked up.

08.2 KTC's Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan was in the throes of being revised and a new plan for 2023-25 would be received by the next full council meeting on 13 June. This would focus on key topics with a report on actions completed to date.

08.3 Kingsbridge Nature Festival would take place Thursday 15 to Sunday 18 June across various indoor and outdoor venues. The festival would include nature walks, film screenings, feasts, talks, workshops, craft activities, wildlife surveys, outdoor wellbeing, nature connection, learning events and more all taking place in the town and wider local environment. KTC had supported part-funding of the event at £1,300 at the full council meeting held on 11 April.

08.4 Members noted a current public consultation, 9 May to 30 June 2023, for the draft Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Adaptation Strategy at: <https://www.climate-resilient-dcios.org.uk> and it was **RECOMMENDED** for Cllr Vann and the Town Clerk to consider the same and to be delegated a response on behalf of KTC if required.

23/09 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

09.1 Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan (last reviewed December 2021) at: <https://kingsbridge.gov.uk/emergency-plan/> was used as an exemplar by the Devon Community Resilience Forum and therefore needed to be updated. It was **RECOMMENDED** for the Town Clerk to review the Plan and forward an update to Committee Members.

09.2 There had been a flood event on Saturday 4 June 2022 which had initiated a DCC flood investigation report under Section 19 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010. There had been minor tidal flood events of the lower town centre from June 2022 to date.

There had been no significant winter resilience matters in 2022/23.

Members noted that in winter significant surface water in Bowcombe Road froze over making driving hazardous and also eroded the wall next to the creek indeed, water was still running in dry weather. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request DCC to investigate the matter and to liaise with a local resident.

09.3 KTC had funded highways drains' clearance in early 2023 and over 50 in number gullies had been cleaned by Exjet.

09.4 Pothole filling on residential roads was ongoing.

09.5 Further to recent reports at full council meetings, a Working Group with representation from neighbouring parish councils would explore the dilution of local bus services. An inaugural meeting was anticipated to be scheduled shortly.

22/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 31 October 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.58 p.m.

Annex:

A. Terms of Reference for the Environment, Transport & Resilience Committee.

Environment, Transport and Resilience Committee – Terms of Reference

1. Function

To undertake, within the overall policies and practices of the Council, all community resilience related matters within Kingsbridge excluding those matters specifically dealt with by another Committee.

2. Notice of Summons

The Clerk is to give 3 clear days' notice of an Environment, Transport & Resilience Committee and the notice must specify the business to be transacted.

3. Chairman of the Environment, Transport & Resilience Committee

(a) The first item of business in a new mayoral year shall be to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 4.vii.

(b) The Chairman of the Committee may exercise all the powers and duties in relation to the conduct of the meeting detailed in Standing Orders.

4. Quorum of the Environment, Transport & Resilience Committee

The quorum shall be no less than 3 Members in accordance with Standing Order 3.v.

5. Rules of Debate

The rules of debate used at Council Meetings will be used at all Environment & Resilience Committee meetings.

6. Delegated Power

In order to expedite actions the Committee has delegated powers to process, on behalf of Kingsbridge Town Council, non-contentious matters which do not have financial implications. It is not authorised to make decisions on behalf of Kingsbridge Town Council on other matters and is to make recommendations only to be considered, and endorsed, at full Council meetings.

7. Specific Delegations

(a) To assist the Kingsbridge community in tackling climate change.

(b) To review Council's adopted Climate And Nature Emergency (CANE) Plan on an annual basis.

- (c) To liaise with local climate change community groups to identify and alleviate such issues in Kingsbridge.
- (d) To act as the forum to co-ordinate the efforts of all parties involved in the development of community resilience matters in Kingsbridge.
- (e) To review the Council's adopted Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan on an annual basis.
- (f) To liaise with Devon County Council, Environment Agency, South Hams District Council, South West Water, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, and Devon & Cornwall Police to identify and minimise the flood risk to Kingsbridge and sewerage discharge to the Kingsbridge-Salcombe estuary.
- (g) To manage a programme of flood resilience actions including production of an accessible high tides' timetable (tides over 5m), provision of sandbags to Kingsbridge commercial and residential properties, monitoring of trash screens, highways surface water gully clearance, maintenance of flood alert signs in Ilbert Road and The Promenade, and provision of a community resilience store in Quay House grounds.
- (h) To encourage local volunteers to become Kingsbridge Flood Wardens and to manage their duties to check local neighbourhood trash screens, culverts, drains, watercourse levels, provision of sandbags and to alert neighbours at risk of flooding.
- (i) To produce an effective communications system to cascade flood warnings from the Met Office and other sources to the local community.
- (j) To collate data of flooding incidents in Kingsbridge and ensure reporting to Devon County Council and Environment Agency.
- (k) To encourage Kingsbridge to be a sustainable transport hub covering cars, buses, bicycles, pedestrians and recreational walkers for residents and visitors.
- (l) To promote non-fossil fuel modes of transport including bicycles and electric cars.
- (m) To encourage aspirational projects with respect to multi-use tracks, footpath networks, buses, electric car hire, non-fossil fuel vehicle hub, traffic calming, road safety, virtual footpaths and speed limits working with other agencies.
- (n) To encourage local volunteers to become Kingsbridge Winter Weather Wardens and to manage their duties under the auspices of Devon County Council's Snow Warden scheme i.e. provision of grit to spread on roads within their neighbourhood.

- (o) To maintain a stock of cold-lay tarmac and adhesive to manage filling of potholes in town under the auspices of Devon County Council's Community Self-Help Scheme.
- (p) To maintain 2 in number Vehicle Activated Signs to alert motorists to speeding and to manage their deployment at designated sites around town under the auspices of Devon County Council's Community Self-Help Scheme.
- (q) To provide regular situation reports for full council, notice boards, and social media releases to promote the progression of community resilience actions.