

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

Present: Cllr Philip Cole (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Mike Jennings
Cllr Steve Mammatt
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Mel Rollinson
Cllr Paul Vann
Cllr Julia Wingate
Cllr Lorna Yabsley

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
Steve Mullineaux, SHDC Director of Service Delivery
Two Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

23/43 COUNCILLOR VACANCY – CO-OPTION

It was confirmed that a Declaration of Acceptance of Office had been received from Cllr Yabsley who had been co-opted as a Town Councillor at the previous meeting.

23/44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Chris Povey and Danielle Rawstron, District Cllr Susan Jackson and Sgt Peter Shotton.

Public Open Forum

A member of public made the statement at Annex A.

One member of public left the meeting

**23/45 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

45.1 Sgt Peter Shotton had provided a written report in his absence. There had been 22 occurrences recorded during June which included: a drink/drug drive arrest (adult male charged to court), 2 thefts from shops, a dwelling burglary and a verbal/physical abuse at a supermarket.

Administrative work was ongoing to obtain and agree quotations for construction works at the Police Station to enable the re-opening of the front office by the end of the year. The recruitment process for staffing had commenced.

45.2 District Cllr O'Callaghan noted the request for public toilets in the Recreation Ground during the Public Open Forum and supported such grassroots campaigns. Potholes in Saffron Park had been brought up at Devon County Council (DCC) and it was noted to be beyond the scope of Kingsbridge Town Council's (KTC) pothole filling service i.e. the highway probably required re-surfacing per se. South Hams District Council (SHDC) had approved a Certificate of Lawfulness for the skatepark and a site visit would take place to discuss trees and landscaping matters on 19 July. SHDC's Executive had agreed a new Advisory Panel to be established for Climate Change and Biodiversity. Moreover, £40,000 had been granted to Sustainable South Hams to support the climate change and biodiversity emergency. She was the Housing lead Member on the Executive, the provision of affordable housing was the top priority and the 2 in number Ropewalk sites managed by SHDC were party to this. Further progress was being made at Church Steps Passageway; land ownership had been established and letters sent to outline the situation with an invitation to a site meeting. She was pleased that the Recreation Ground café would be re-opening. Finally, she thanked KTC for making her aware of access problems at the Quay disabled toilet and she would request action to rectify issue.

45.3 County Cllr Brazil was aware of representations regarding the condition of the highway at Saffron Park, which had numerous potholes, and KTC would lobby Devon County Council (DCC) for resurfacing action. DCC's Cabinet would be held on the following day. A recent South Hams HATOC meeting had agreed the introduction of No Waiting At Any Time (double yellow lines) for a small area of Saffron Park to prevent obstructions from parked vehicles. Finally, he acknowledged KTC's frustrations that a meeting had not been arranged to date to consider the final Kingsbridge IUDM survey (flood report) and he would explore the matter.

23/46 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman agreed to take one item of urgent business at agenda item 23/57: Fair Week 2023 – temporary stage.

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

23/51 TREE INSPECTIONS AND MAINTENANCE

SHDC's Director of Service Delivery reported on inspection and maintenance routines on the authority's land assets:

- The last tree surveys actioned in 2021 were sound.
- Greater resources were being directed towards tree inspections.
- Two new officers had been agreed and recruitment had commenced which would effectively lead to one team becoming 2 in number.
- There was potential to outsource further tree works.
- A new programme of tree inspections would commence shortly and the findings would be considered.
- He noted KTC Tree Warden's assessment that many trees had suffered in the drought of 2022.

Feedback was also provided on Members' questions regarding general SHDC service delivery matters:

- A new Head of Community Services & Operations had been appointed and previous waste service issues had been sorted.
- Missed bin collections were well within performance targets.
- A full rollout of the new recycling service would commence in October which would mean a likely change of collection days for Kingsbridge and there could be up to 8 weeks' disruption.
- District Cllr Brazil was the lead Member for the waste service which accounted for circa 50% of SHDC's overall budget.
- He acknowledged that Air BnB/holiday accommodation waste placed in Fore Street on ad hoc days was unsightly.
- Air BnBs were eligible for a business rate exemption however, it was intended to send letters to properties requesting information on who was collecting their business waste, alongside invoices as evidence, and if there was nil feedback then it would be assumed that it was SHDC and bills would be sent out.
- SHDC would be seeking information on AirBnB addresses and various sources would be used to explore such data.
- Ultimately, SHDC's ambition was to provide a fair and consistent waste and recycling service to all residents.
- European type models, e.g. central waste collection points, were being explored and SHDC had informed Defra that it was willing to be a pilot for radical schemes.
- The Environment Act 2021 made it mandatory for a weekly food waste collection service.
- SHDC took waste collection very seriously and was trying hard to increase recycling rates.

23/47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23/48 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 13 June 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

23/49 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 20 June 2023 and 4 July 2023.

It was agreed that KTC should request SHDC for further information on the Skatepark site visit which would explore trees and landscaping matters.

23/50 PROPERTY & RECREATION COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property and Recreation Committee held on 27 June 2023.

23/52 CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE – PROGRESS REPORT

Members received a summary of the Climate Change Committee's progress report to Parliament dated 28 June 2023 and were dismayed at the lack of tangible action taken to date. It was **RESOLVED** to write to the Prime Minister (copy to Anthony Mangnall MP) to seek assurances that priority recommendations in the Climate Change Progress Report be acted upon without delay.

23/53 FOOTPATH NO.1 (KINGSBRIDGE) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2023

Members received SHDC's notification order to divert Public Footpath No.1 away from its current route which skirted around the western perimeter boundary of the skatepark in Quay Car Park. Members noted their own, and CCTV evidence, that the vast majority of people seeking to walk to/from the southern area of the car park/Slipway followed the footway adjacent to the estuary on the eastern perimeter boundary of Quay Car park as this was the most scenic route. However, the proposed re-routing would include current wide steps with a handrail leading to/from the leisure centre rather than the current narrow and steep steps without a handrail near the Slipway. Moreover, it would enable the extension of the skatepark which was supported by KTC. It was **RESOLVED** to support SHDC's (Public Footpath No.1, Kingsbridge) Public Path Diversion Order 2023.

23/54 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

54.1 KTC sponsored summer events. Members and Staff participation was confirmed for the Glove Hanging Ceremony/Floral Dance 19 July, Town Criers' competition 22 July, Movies on the Square 4/11/18 August and Love Your Park on 6 August.

54.2 SHDC setting priorities for the new council. KTC and fellow local councils had been invited to a Town and Parish Forum at 6.00 p.m. on 26 July via a remote Teams meeting.

54.3 Town Clerk resource. Following annual leave 26-28 July the Town Clerk commenced Jury Service on 31 July for an anticipated 2 week period returning to work on 14 August. The plan was to action early morning and late evening email traffic throughout the above 2 week period and to attend all Movies on the Square and Love Your Park events. Any required action on KTC's accounts/payments to contractors would be actioned on said Friday evenings. Reception staff were not taking annual leave during this period and there were no meetings scheduled.

23/55 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

55.1 SHDC/Mayors & Clerks meeting 14 June 2023. A worthwhile meeting chiefly discussed SHDC's re-setting of corporate priorities.

55.2 Kingsbridge Area Transport Steering Group meeting 15 June 2023.

Alternative options to traditional bus services were being explored e.g. dial-a-ride and the next meeting would be held on 26 July. Support from nearby parish councils would be required to deliver any new service.

55.3 Opening of new St Luke's Hospice shop 29 June 2023. The Chairman had opened the new charity shop.

55.4 SHDC/KTC/housing associations Ropewalk evaluation meeting 7 July 2023. A worthwhile meeting had been held and a site visit to a recently built housing development would be arranged for Members.

55.5 SHDC/local councils Cycling & Walking Project meeting 11 July 2023.

The project sought to provide infrastructure improvements to encourage greater walking and cycling for short journeys in and around settlements. Statistics evidenced that 25% of car journeys were for trips of less than one mile. In particular, technical data suggested that speed limits had to be 20mph to support more cycling and SHDC wished to champion e.bikes due to the topography of the area.

55.6 Kingsbridge In Bloom (KIB) judging day 11 July 2023. The town had looked stunning that day and Members congratulated the immense work of the KIB team. Both Royal Horticultural Society judges had not visited Kingsbridge previously, the inspection had lasted 5 hours and particular attention had been made to the It's Your Neighbourhood entries.

23/56 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 11 July 2023. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £15,998.12 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**23/57 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:
FAIR WEEK 2023 – TEMPORARY STAGE**

The Fair Week Committee had arranged for the hire of a temporary stage in lieu of the Bandstand which would cost £2,500 plus insurance expenses. It was **RESOLVED** to provide a grant at £1,500 to Kingsbridge Fair Week as part-payment for the stage for the 2013 event.

23/58 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

The meeting closed at 8.12 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

Joan Wing stated that the Recreation Ground needed public toilets as people regularly 'went behind bushes' and it was unhygienic. She intended to start a petition and bring the matter to a greater audience.

Members noted that the park's café was anticipated to re-open shortly with a new tenant which would mean the adjacent toilet, with independent access, would be open during its business hours. However, the toilet was the responsibility of the café manager who paid for its water bill/sundries and therefore was targeted for customers only. The café itself had been converted from former toilets which were regularly vandalised historically. There were also toilet facilities in the Cottage but these were for the exclusive use of SHDC staff and the Bowling Club. It was reported that there also used to be a public toilet at Duncombe Park.

The Chairman thanked Joan for her statement and replied that it was a perfectly reasonable request and KTC would lobby SHDC to provide public toilets in the Recreation Ground.