

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 6.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Present: Cllr Philip Cole (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Mike Jennings
Cllr Steve Mammatt
Cllr Danielle Rawstron
Cllr Paul Vann
Cllr Julia Wingate

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
Felicity Furlong, Bridge For Hope
Peter Sandover, South Devon AONB Partnership
Philp Ward, Salcombe & Kingsbridge RNLI
Four Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

23/59 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Chris Povey, Graham Price, Mel Rollinson and Lorna Yabsley, District Cllr Susan Jackson and Sgt Peter Shotton.

Public Open Forum

Presentations from agencies invited by the Town Council (KTC) and statements made by members of public are Annex A.

23/60 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

60.1 Sgt Peter Shotton had provided a written report in his absence for July and August. There had been 20 occurrences recorded in July and 24 occurrences in August. In addition, there had been a number of occurrences recorded in relation to licensing activities, firearms licensing and disclosure requests. The summaries of crime and incidents included: a missing child found safe and well, theft of a bank card and subsequent fraud of a low value, criminal damage at a petrol station, assault on a youth by a group of youths outside his home address which resulted in a minor injury, hate related verbal abuse during a road rage incident, thefts from shops and domestic related harassment offences. As anticipated, the population of Kingsbridge and Salcombe increased dramatically due to the holiday season which included Kingsbridge Fair Week. There had been several reports of anti-social behaviour in the Recreation Ground especially near the café which had only just re-opened. The Neighbourhood Police Team was working closely with KTC and the new tenant to address the issue and a number of youths had been identified and were on the ASB pathway.

60.2 County Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council's (DCC) Cabinet meeting would meet on the following day and budget monitoring would be a primary agenda item. DCC had been informed that Tally Ho Coaches wished to re-route the 164 Salcombe-Kingsbridge-Totnes bus service via South Hams Hospital to Palegate Cross to meet the A381 rather than via the current Stentiford Hill route. This would lose a bus stop at Northville Park however, passengers could walk to bus stops at the hospital on the Plymouth Road/A379 or near the Police Station in Fore Street. There would need to be a public consultation to consider the proposal and KTC's view would be welcomed. He had received concerns regarding KTC's new litter bins in the Town Square and alongside the head of estuary footways that they did not have enough capacity; Cllr Cole replied that the litter bins did have sufficient capacity. The A379 would be closed at East Charleton from 30 October to 24 November and a wall abutting the highway at Stoke Fleming would be rebuilt from January to March 2024. Outside of Cllr Brazil's area, the A381 in West Alvington would be closed from 20 November to 22 December. South Hams District Council (SHDC) had ambitions to develop the weekday markets in the Town Square with traders visiting from other locations. Revival of the former auction at the Market Hall had also been raised. Finally, he considered that the Bridge For Hope report, during the Public Open Forum, was a good news story for the South Hams.

60.3 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that she would discuss the taxi licensing matter, reported during the Public Open Forum, to SHDC officers and request a review of routines. The installation of solar panels at Quayside Leisure Centre was progressing. The disabled toilet at the Quay required repairs as the door was too heavy to open/close. Cllr Abbot and herself were content to meet with KTC to discuss public toilets in the Recreation Ground and visit the Cottage to consider SHDC's facilities on the ground floor. If a permanent toilet could not be progressed it had been mooted to hire a portaloos for the summer holiday period in 2024. The Tumbly Hill housing development off Quay Car Park would commence soon with an anticipated completion of June 2024. If the build ran over time the developer's compound in the car park would be removed for the duration of Fair Week. Twenty two parking spaces would be temporarily lost and compensation would be negotiated with the developer. A review of the Joint Local Plan in 2024 would consider whether affordable housing thresholds should be scrapped. Exploration of the damaged wall in Church Steps Passageway continued and the location where the wall was falling was not on the title deeds of any adjacent landowner. Finally, the court case between SHDC and the developer for the K4/Lock's Hill housing scheme would be heard on the following day at Bristol Crown Court.

Cllrs Brazil & O'Callaghan and 4 members of public left the meeting

23/61 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

23/62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23/63 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 11 July 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

23/64 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 18 July 2023, 8 August 2023 and 5 September 2023.

It was reported that a significant tree in town with a Tree Preservation Order had been felled and it may not have been authorised.

23/65 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 25 July 2023.

23/66 LOCAL WAITING RESTRICTIONS

Members received a request from the management company for Kings Court and The Moorings for 'No Waiting At Any Time' restrictions i.e. double yellow lines to be introduced on the west side of Embankment Road from The Moorings to the The Crabshell Inn. The rationale was that vehicles continually parked half on the pavement, and half in the highway, within the locale leading to wheelchair/mobility users being unable to pass and motorists were forced to overtake said vehicles on a busy blind corner between the 2 developments. It was acknowledged that 'no waiting 8.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.' i.e. a single yellow line had recently been introduced between the Rivermaid Boatyard development and The Crabshell Inn however, it was suggested that such action did not control the high quantity of parking on the pavement during peak times of the pub. DCC's local highways officer had been contacted and could not support the proposal because said parking was considered to be transient, possibly connected to local businesses and acted sporadically as a traffic calming measure. After a full discussion it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Support the proposal for 'no waiting at any time' between The Moorings and The Crabshell Inn on the west side of Embankment Road and to request DCC's South Hams Highways & Traffic Orders Committee to consider the same when the annual waiting restrictions programme was reviewed.
- To bring up the matter at the next KTC/Police Liaison Committee due to potential obstruction of the highway.
- To request DCC enforcement officers to survey Embankment Road on a regular basis.
- To ascertain whether the introduction of a shepherd's hut at the Crabshell Inn, which had displaced on-site parking, was a temporary or permanent fixture.
- To appeal to Embankment Road businesses to park responsibly and in particular not to obstruct pavements.

23/67 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

67.1 Several meetings were scheduled:

- **Kingsbridge Economic Plan.** Cllrs Rawstron and Wingate meeting with SHDC Place & Enterprise officers on 14 September at Quay House.
- **Mayors & Clerks.** Cllr Cole and Town Clerk meeting with SHDC senior management team and other town councils on 15 September at Follaton House.
- **Ropewalk housing – expressions of interest.** Cllrs Balkwill, Cole and Edmonds meeting with SHDC Members and Assets officers on 20 September at Follaton House.
- **Southern Cluster Group & SHDC Leader.** Liaison meeting/conversation on 9 October at Malborough Village Hall. KTC had sent invitations to 21 other parish councils.
- **SHDC/KTC projects.** Liaison meeting with SHDC’s District Cllr Birch, Chief Executive & Director of Place on Thursday 12 October at Quay House. All Members were invited to attend.
- **IUDM Flood Analysis.** Members of the Environment, Transport & Resilience Committee would meet DCC, Environment Agency, South West Water on 18 October in Quay House to discuss the findings of the Kingsbridge Catchment Study.

67.2 Miscellaneous:

- **Christmas Tree.** On completion of the meeting Members were requested to review the proposed new tree lights set-up in the Clerk’s Office.
- **Public Art Meeting.** A date/time for the next meeting with Harbour House would be arranged shortly.
- **Bunting.** Members agreed for the bunting to be taken down across the Town Centre/Town Square at the end of September.
- **Remembrance Sunday.** Members were requested to assist the management of road closures on Sunday 12 November circa 10.00 a.m. to 11.45 a.m.

67.3 Lloyds Bank closure. The bank had not supported KTC’s request for a weekly mobile service however, a community banker would visit the Library on Wednesdays from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. initially for 18 weeks. There was potential for the visit to dovetail with a Neighbourhood Police surgery.

67.4 Smart gullies trial. Bridge Street had been chosen as one of 3 locations in Devon for an 18 month trial smart technology and data analytics, including the collection of sensor readings. The objectives were to optimise gully cleaning schedules, mitigate flood risks and minimise the environmental impact at the specified locations.

**23/68 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND
 AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES**

68.1 KTC/Wicksteed Duncombe Park meeting 12 July 2023. The trampoline was scheduled to be installed in October.

68.2 SHDC/KTC Recreation Ground Green Flag award 19 July 2023. A photoshoot had taken place and a social media release issued to celebrate the award.

68.3 SHDC/KTC skatepark meeting 19 July 2023. An on-site meeting had discussed trees and landscaping matters. The skatepark build was due to commence shortly.

68.4 KTC sponsored Fair Week events Glove Hanging/Floral Dance 19 July & Town Criers' competition 22 July 2023. The events would be reviewed at the next Property & Recreation Committee with potential tweaks for 2024.

68.5 KTC/Dartmouth TC grounds maintenance meeting 21 July 2023. Working practices were shared at a worthwhile session.

68.6 SHDC/KTC cycling & walking project meeting 24 July 2023. The project would principally explore walking within Kingsbridge.

68.7 Kingsbridge Transport Steering Group 26 July 2023. DCC would consider a potential dial-a-ride service using a local taxi company to overcome the loss of the Tally Ho 160 Kingsbridge Town Service on Saturdays. KTC would liaise with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the deletion of the Tally Ho 162 Hope Cove – Kingsbridge – Loddiswell Service on Saturdays.

68.8 SHDC Town & Parish Forum 26 July 2023. The remote meeting had discussed SHDC's ambitions and working together with local councils to realise projects.

68.9 Police & Crime Commissioner/KTC station front desk re-opening meeting 1 August 2023. A photoshoot had taken place and a social media release issued to acknowledge the re-opening of Kingsbridge Police Station which was anticipated in late 2023.

68.10 Movies on the Square 4 & 11 August 2023. Local residents had enjoyed The Italian Job and Night At The Museum. The project would be reviewed at the next Property & Recreation Committee.

68.11 Love Your Park 6 August 2023. Local residents had enjoyed numerous activities on a sunny day.

68.12 Open meeting with SWW & Anthony Mangnall MP 15 August 2023. The MP had hosted one of 4 such sessions in the South Hams.

68.13 Police Key Individual Network meeting 17 August 2023. Worthwhile updates were received from the Police.

68.14 Kingsbridge Feoffees' Derby Road housing development opening 23 August 2023. KTC had joined several organisations to celebrate the event.

68.15 Royal British Legion/KTC Remembrance Sunday meeting 11 September 2023. KTC had agreed to take on the overall management of the event for 2023 and thereafter.

It was Resolved to suspend Standing Orders 3.x to allow the meeting to continue over 2.5 hours duration

23/69 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 12 September 2023. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £32,188.26 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

23/70 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:

None.

23/71 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

The meeting closed at 8.47 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Natasha Blake, manager of 24/7 Taxis, stated that her company was struggling with licensing matters. The salient points were:

- SHDC Licensing department took too long to process new and renewal applications for taxi drivers.
- For example, an application submitted in February had taken until August to be finalised.
- The application process should be simplified particularly for renewal applications.
- KTC Members acknowledged Natasha's frustrations and supported her lobbying for a more efficient and timely process to register taxi drivers.
- Cllrs Brazil and O'Callaghan requested Natasha to forward specific details and reported that they would look into the matter.

2. Peter Sandover, Chairman of the South Devon AONB Partnership, briefed Members on the Partnership's business and priorities. The salient points were:

- The Partnership was made up of the Secretariat, DCC, SHDC, Torbay & Plymouth Councils, Natural England, National Trust, Environment Agency, Plymouth University, South West Coastal Path Association, Forestry Commission and representation from many community groups including parish councils within the AONB.
- Partnership meetings could be watched on You Tube.
- Peter's ambitions were to improve engagement with communities, make the area more inclusive and accessible, and maintain design quality in everything within the AONB without detriment to its special landscape – so a challenge!
- There were several key projects including: National Lottery funded "Life on the Edge", a Nature Recovery Plan for the AONB, preparing a Climate Action Plan for the AONB and a Management Plan review in 2024.
- Its role in planning was as a consultee to SHDC (as the local planning authority) and to maintain a Planning Protocol however, workforce resources were a current issue. Cllr Edmunds invited Peter to a future Planning Committee meeting to discuss the same.
- The Lanscapes Review (Glover Review 2019) had re-named AONBs as National Landscapes.

3. Philip Ward, Chairman of Fundraising at Salcombe & Kingsbridge RNLI, briefed Members on the RNLI's new focus around the estuary, its community events and fundraising. The salient points were:

- There would be one or 2 flagship high profile events to promote the RNLI's 200th anniversary in 2024.
- There were 3 themes: to Commemorate the sacrifice and commitment of the lifesavers, to Celebrate what the RNLI does today and to Inspire people to give their time and support to secure the RNLI in Salcombe.
- The focus for events was on engagement with key audiences particularly new, younger more diverse audiences, to connect with local events, to demonstrate that whatever the RNLI does is actioned in a sustainable way,

to ensure that there was enough direct income generation to fund the 200th anniversary campaign and to engage with supporters for a long term future.

- The RNLI had several events planned including a sponsored walk, a 200th Celebration Lunch at The Thurlestone Hotel, marine jumble at April's Farmers Market, flotilla including former lifeboats and a large exhibition at Kingsbridge Show.
- The primary dates were 4 March 2024 official anniversary including a service of commemoration in London which could hopefully be broadcast in Salcombe and 1 August 2024 One Moment for One Crew i.e. 18:24 to 20:24.

4. Rob Hoskett stated that he was representing the homeowners at The Moorings in their representations to introduce parking restrictions along Embankment Road (agenda item 23/66). At present, several vehicles parked outside The Moorings and Kings Court; half on the pavement and half on the highway. This led to wheelchair/mobility scooter users being unable to pass and continue their route to the town centre. Moreover, said parking restricted the visibility splay when exiting The Moorings by car. All motorists were being forced into the centre of the highway on a busy 30 mph blind corner. He hoped that Members would be able to support the residents' campaign. Cllr Cole reported that KTC had lobbied DCC for Kingsbridge to have a blanket 20 mph speed limit within the parish boundary.

5. Wissit (Felicity Furlong), Bridge For Hope, stated that the group was grateful for KTC's £200 donation towards van hire costs to collect their refugee family from the airport and bring them to Kingsbridge. The Home Office Community Sponsorship scheme was effectively complete as the resettled family had been in town for a whole year. The family had a home, friendships and were safe. The son was at a local school, enjoyed his studies and loved football and swimming. The parents wished to learn and work. English lessons were ongoing in Newton Abbot and the father worked part-time at a local retail centre and was paying into a pension. He was a great cook and enjoyed cricket. The mother spent more time at home, supported her son's activities and relished their new life in Kingsbridge. The parents did however, need more friends within their own age group. Members were delighted to receive Wissit's report and would liaise with her direct regarding matters.

Cllr Cole thanked all speakers for their informative presentations, statements and questions.