

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,  
AT 6.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2023**

**Present:** Cllr Philip Cole (Chairman)  
Cllr Anne Balkwill  
Cllr Martina Edmonds  
Cllr Barrie Fishman  
Cllr Mike Jennings  
Cllr Steve Mammatt  
Cllr Chris Povey  
Cllr Graham Price  
Cllr Julia Wingate  
Cllr Lorna Yabsley

**In Attendance:** County Cllr Julian Brazil  
District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan  
Three Members of Public  
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

*At the outset of the meeting, the Chairman announced his congratulations to Kingsbridge In Bloom for winning the Champion of Champions Cup in the small town category at the recent South West In Bloom awards.*

**23/72 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Danielle Rawstron, Mel Rollinson, Paul Vann and District Cllr Susan Jackson.

**Public Open Forum**

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

**23/73 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

**73.1** A Police report for September 2023 would be requested.

**73.2** District Cllr O'Callaghan thanked Kingsbridge In Bloom for their immense efforts in the town and Cllr Price, in return, thanked South Hams District Council (SHDC) and Devon County Council (DCC) for their support. SHDC officers would attend the Town Square market on 12 October to promote the public consultation for the authority's new Corporate Strategy. Expressions of interest for affordable led housing schemes in Ropewalk were being progressed. A public consultation for Public Space Protection Orders regarding dog control was underway ending on 14 November. The vast majority of dog owners were responsible however, SHDC Enforcement Officers could issue fixed penalty fines for dog fouling or dogs off leads in a restricted area. It was anticipated that a revised waste and recycling system would be in place by the end of the year to place all households on the same scheme. At present, 14,000 households were on a co-mingle service and 8,000

used blue and clear bags for recycling. Finally, ground surveys for Church Steps Passageway had been estimated at circa £10k; SHDC owned part of the wall which needed repairs however, another section appeared to be in nobody's ownership.

**73.3** County Cllr Brazil thanked Cllr Fishman for his efforts to sustain local bus services 160 and 162, the Town Clerk for organising a Southern Parish Cluster meeting to discuss the new Corporate Strategy and Cllr Price for the continued success of Kingsbridge In Bloom. SHDC would be unable to afford the time and resources that KIB committed to the Kingsbridge community and the social capital gained by the volunteers and supporters paid dividends. It was anticipated for a planning application for sea defences to be worked up to protect the Slapton Line (shingle ridge and A379 road) alongside the local MPs' support for government funding. The A379 at East Charleton would be closed from 13 November to 4 December between 9.00 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. He would attend the IUDM flood meeting on 18 October; Kingsbridge had been very lucky to escape the recent county-wide flooding on Sunday 17 September. DCC's Cabinet meeting on 11 October would consider the disposal of specific properties in the county and a debate could be held to discuss the future of the Horizons/Tresillian building at 110-112 Fore Street. The properties had been used as a youth centre, adult education and pre-school over the years and the Town Council (KTC) could take it over but he appreciated Members would not wish to take on liabilities. The future of Tumbly Hill day centre could also be discussed and a tour arranged. The Cabinet would also consider the production of a Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy with the aim to glean a biodiversity net gain. Finally, a confidential paper would be considered regarding Children's Centres however, this would not directly impact upon Kingsbridge.

*Cllr Brazil and a member of public left the Chamber*

**23/74 URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**23/75 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**23/76 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 23 September 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**23/77 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 19 September 2023 and 3 October 2023.

## **23/78            PROPERTY & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property and Recreation Committee held on 5 October 2023.

Members noted that current costs for the Escofet Montseny/Urbe range of street furniture had been sought and 2 rectangular planters in Fore Street car park had been donated to Kingsbridge In Bloom by local residents.

A previous energy audit which had included the exploration of secondary glazing for Quay House could be reviewed.

*A member of public entered the Council Chamber*

## **23/79            SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE STRATEGY**

SHDC had commenced a public consultation on its draft Corporate Strategy which had been extended to 30 November for feedback. It was **RESOLVED** for Members to forward their individual comments to the Town Clerk for collation and feedback.

## **23/80            MEETINGS' ADMINISTRATION**

After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to commence all future committee and council meetings at 6.30 p.m.

Cllr Mammatt would join the Property and Recreation Committee.

## **23/81            164 BUS SERVICE**

It had been proposed to re-route the Salcombe-Kingsbridge-Totnes 164 bus service via South Hams Hospital and Palegate Cross to meet the A381 rather than using the current route via Stentiford Hill. It was **RESOLVED** that there were no objections in principle to the alteration dependent on the following for health and safety reasons:

- a pedestrian crossing be installed opposite South Hams Hospital, and
- the footpath from Old Plymouth Road to the southbound stop should be regularly cut and a street lamp installed at the location.

Alternatively, DCC could install a southbound bus stop at the junction of Old Plymouth Road and Plymouth Road. This would provide access to the stop along a paved highway with street lighting. If passengers chose not to cross Plymouth Road at said location to access the northbound stop outside South Hams Hospital it was considered not too far to walk to the previous stop at 132 Fore Street opposite the Police Station.

*A member of public left the meeting*

**82.1 Forthcoming meetings.**

- Wednesday 11 October at 4.30 p.m. – Kingsbridge Sports Forum in Quay House (local sports clubs & SHDC Recreation Specialist).
- Thursday 12 October at 1.30 p.m. – SHDC Engagement With KTC at Quay House (District Cllr John Birch, Chief Executive & Director of Place).
- Monday 16 October at 11.00 a.m. – Recreation Ground pond feasibility study meeting on site (KTC, SHDC & Landmarc).
- Wednesday 18 October at 2.00 p.m. – IUDM analysis (flood) meeting at Quay House (DCC, EA, SWW, SHDC & KTC).
- Wednesday 18 October – internal audit at Quay House (KTC & IAC Audit & Consultancy).
- Friday 20 October at 10.30 a.m. – Kingsbridge Conservation Area at Quay House and walkabout (SHDC, South Hams Society & KTC).
- Thursday 9 November at 1.30 p.m. – Public Art meeting at Quay House (KTC, Harbour House & local artists).

**82.2 KTC ambitions/projects for the above SHDC Engagement With KTC meeting on 12 October.** KTC's aims and objectives were documented in 3 reports which were all available on KTC's website:

- Kingsbridge, West Alvington & Churchstow (KWAC) Neighbourhood Plan,
- Kingsbridge Open Space, Sport & Recreation (OSSR) Plan, and
- KTC's Climate And Nature Emergency (CANE) Action Plan.

A cut-up of key portions from the above had been distributed and it was agreed to feedback to the Town Clerk with Members' top priorities in order to collate a listing ahead of said meeting.

It was noted that a £458k total investment for OSSR projects will have been made during the 4 year period January 2020-December 2023 with a KTC contribution at £183k.

**82.3 Thank you letter from Anthony Mangnall MP.** Members and Staff had received thank you letters from the local MP which acknowledged the extraordinary service provided by Town Councils in South Devon.

**82.4 Joan Pearce.** Joan had sadly passed away recently. She had been an absolute stalwart of the Council Offices from the days of the Kingsbridge Urban District Council until 2007 and local Cubs Leader for numerous years. Joan was a mine of local knowledge, tremendously community spirited and very well respected for her boundless energy, enthusiasm and willingness to help others. The funeral service would take place at 12 noon on Saturday 21 October at the Methodist Church, Fore Street.

**23/83                    REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND  
                                  AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES**

**83.1    SHDC/KTC Kingsbridge Economic Plan meeting 14 September 2023.**

Cllrs Rawstron & Wingate and the Town Clerk had met SHDC officers. Some pilot work was being undertaken in Ivybridge and it was anticipated a similar scheme would commence in Kingsbridge in autumn 2024.

**83.2    Town Councils' liaison meeting 15 September 2023.** Cllr Cole and the Town Clerk had met the other 4 councils to share current hot topics.

**83.3    SHDC/Mayors & Clerks meeting 15 September 2023.** Cllr Cole and the Town Clerk had met SHDC's senior management team alongside other local councils and had discussed, amongst others, the new Corporate Strategy and waste service rollout.

**83.4    SHDC/KTC Recreation Ground public toilets meeting 19 September 2023.** Cllr Cole and the Town Clerk had met with District Cllrs Abbott and O'Callaghan to discuss public toilet provision which was an earmarked need for the park in the Kingsbridge OSSR Plan.

**83.5    SHDC/KTC Ropewalk housing development meeting 20 September 2023.** Cllrs Balkwill, Cole and Edmunds had met a housing provider alongside SHDC Members and Housing officers.

**83.6    Twinning Society visit to Weilerbach 21-27 September 2023.** Cllr Cole had attended the visit to Germany alongside Society Members.

**83.7    DCC/contractor/KTC smart drainage meeting 26 September 2023.** The Town Clerk had met DCC officers and contractors in Bridge Street to discuss the trial of technology to enhance the management and maintenance of gullies through the collection of data over an 18 month period.

**83.8    Licensing of the Priest-in-Charge of the Benfice of Kingsbridge, Dodbrooke & West Alvington 26 September 2023.** Cllr Jennings had attended the service and welcomed Reverend Jax Tilbury to Kingsbridge.

*District Cllr O'Callaghan left the meeting*

**83.9    KTC/Police liaison committee 2 October 2023.** Cllrs Cole, Fishman and Rollinson had met Sgt Peter Shotton to discuss topical policing matters.

**83.10   KTC/South Hams Newspapers liaison meeting 4 October 2023.** Cllr Cole and the Town Clerk had met with Richard Torné to discuss KTC's role in the community.

**83.11   Southern Cluster parishes/Cllr Brazil SHDC corporate strategy meeting 9 October 2023.** Representatives from 13 parish councils had met with Cllr Brazil to discuss SHDC's new Corporate Strategy.

**23/84 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 10 October 2023. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £22,376.70 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**23/85 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:**

None.

**23/86 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN**

None.

*The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.*

..... Presiding Chairman .....Date

Annex:

- A. Public Open Forum.

## **Public Open Forum**

- 1.** Julie Taylor stated that she noted agenda item 23/80 to consider the commencement time of council and committee meetings and suggested the opportunity for members of public to attend the same should be taken into account.
- 2.** Adrian Martin stated that he had a keen interest in healthy food, nutrition, teamwork and community growth. He had been a chef at a Michelin Star restaurant and head chef for Formula One racing teams. Natural, chemical-free food had led him to start The Green Grass Juice Company delivering a wheatgrass grown drink door-to-door and anticipated that a percentage of profits would be available for Kingsbridge community projects.

The Chairman thanked Julie and Adrian for their statements.