

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 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 Danielle Rawstron
Cllr Mel Rollinson
Cllr Paul Vann
Cllr Julia Wingate

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
One Member of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

23/87 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Lorna Yabsley and District Cllr Susan Jackson.

Public Open Forum

Mrs Julie Taylor stated that the entrance to Rack Park amenity space from the industrial estate/Derby Road side was very muddy.

The Chairman thanked Julie her statement and the Town Council (KTC) would lobby South Hams District Council (SHDC) for action.

23/88 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

88.1 Sgt Shotton had provided a written Police Report for October 2023 in his absence. There had been 21 occurrences created from direct calls/website reports by the public and officer attendance at incidents. In addition, there had been several occurrences relating to licensing visits, disclosure requests and firearms' licensing activity. The summary of crime and incidents included: a road traffic collision (damage only), an assault involving a broken bottle following an alcohol fuelled argument, a stalking incident, anti-social behaviour between neighbours, harassment via persistent verbal abuse outdoors, 4 in number thefts from lockers at Quayside Leisure Centre (juvenile suspects identified and dealt with via out of court disposals), a suicide attempt (located and safeguarded), and the interception of a quantity of cannabis by the Border Agency sent by post from the USA to a Kingsbridge address was under investigation.

88.2 District Cllr O'Callaghan commented on KTC's draft feedback to SHDC's consultation on its Corporate Strategy (agenda item 23/95). In particular, the suggested Councillor Environmental Fund would be additional to the existing Councillor locality budgets, SHDC was lobbying central government to introduce the doubling of second home council tax and innovative housing ideas such as 'liveboards' on the estuary had been received. From the following week the new recycling boxes and containers system would be introduced across the whole district and households would no longer be able to use blue/clear sacks. Letters had been sent to all residents and Recycling Roadshows were being held in the main towns. Further to her report at the previous meeting, works to stabilise the wall and re-open Church Steps Passageway had begun and were progressing well. KTC may be requested to part-fund new railings in the locale. A review of single person households' discounted council tax would be undertaken shortly, this was a countywide initiative funded by Devon County Council (DCC) and would have no impact on the majority of people. Finally, SHDC had been supplied with thermal imaging cameras to investigate the energy efficiency of homes and where heat may be escaping. They could be borrowed by local councils for a period of 2 weeks via application on SHDC's website.

88.3 County Cllr Brazil reported that further to the previous meeting he had forwarded KTC's feedback on the proposed re-routing of the 164 Bus Service to DCC officers. An A379 road closure in East Charleton until 8 December had commenced the previous day. There had been some teething issues which were anticipated to be overcome shortly however, Members noted that the closure would dovetail with a forthcoming road closure for the A381 in West Alvington 20 November to 22 December. He had forwarded recent photos of flooding at the King of Prussia to DCC's Flood Risk Management team and Members noted that Post Office vans based at the Sorting Office in Bridge Street created a wash by driving through the flood water. Both Bridge Street and Mill Street had been temporarily closed during flooding on Saturday 28 October and all Members thanked Cllrs Cole, Rollinson and Vann for their efforts over that weekend.

Members noted that SHDC had not cut the grass around the War Memorial for Remembrance Sunday and the Town Square had not been swept, vegetation required cutting alongside SHDC's proposed greenfield development site in Ropewalk and vegetation also required cutting in parts of Fore Street car park. Members further suggested enhanced street lighting in Ropewalk however, it was noted that DCC was unlikely to approve the request.

Cllr Brazil left the meeting

23/89 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

23/90 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23/91 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 10 October 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

23/92 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 17 October 2023.

23/93 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 24 October 2023.

23/94 ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT & RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Environment, Transport and Resilience (ETR) Committee held on 31 October 2023.

23/95 SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE STRATEGY

Further to the previous meeting, Members had provided their personal feedback on the Strategy which had been collated into one report with comments made on the various themes and initial actions. It was **RESOLVED** for KTC to provide feedback on SHDC's Corporate Strategy.

23/96 POTENTIAL KINGSBRIDGE ELECTRIC CAR (EV) HIRE PROJECT

Members considered a briefing for an EV hire facility in town which aimed at:

- providing Kingsbridge households with a Climate Change addressing alternative to owning/leasing a car or second car,
- providing easy access to EV driving for Kingsbridge households without a car or without facilities to own/lease a car,
- providing Kingsbridge households with an easy opportunity to experience driving an electric car to encourage future car purchases to be an EV, and
- facilitating the provision of electric taxis in Kingsbridge through future well sited taxi-only EV charging facilities.

There were many logistical matters to be overcome and a successful funding bid at £35k plus would be required. It was **RESOLVED** to progress a Kingsbridge EV hire project.

23/97 TIDAL SURGES AND STORM CIARAN

Members provided feedback on the flooding incidents which occurred over the weekend Friday 27 to Sunday 29 October and Storm Ciaran Wednesday 1 to Thursday 2 November 2023. The flooding had tested KTC's Flood Plan and a few minor issues had been sorted. However, one of the 2 flashing flood warning signs

had an electrical fault which required repair. Orchard Industrial Estate, off Lower Union Road, continued to flood due to the faulty operation of an overflow culvert and foul water was entering businesses in the locale. Further to the recent ETR Committee (agenda item 23/94) a first draft Extreme Weather Leaflet for the community would be circulated to all Members for comments.

District Cllr O'Callaghan left the meeting

23/98 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

98.1 Liaison was ongoing on a weekly basis with the main contractor for the Bandstand rebuild. Members were disappointed that little progress had been achieved in the previous few weeks, notwithstanding recent adverse weather, and the situation was extremely frustrating. Carpentry, guttering installation, electrical 'second fit' and redecoration works were all outstanding. A completion date could not be provided at the present time.

98.2 Weather had affected the new skatepark build but it was still anticipated to be completed by year end. The adjacent bank had been strimmed with new planting to begin in January. The construction team were not satisfied with the finish of one concrete pour which was removed and would be re-done. Concrete 'printed' seating would be introduced where the current storage container was located. A Tech Deck fingerboard park was also being considered. Signage was currently being worked up. Finally, the Crowdfunder etched bricks had arrived ready for installation towards the end of the build.

23/99 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

99.1 Kingsbridge Sports Forum 11 October 2023. The meeting had been well attended with representation from cricket, football, hockey, rugby and tennis clubs. The key discussion was the potential development of a 3G synthetic pitch in town. SHDC's Playing Pitch Strategy, and the Forum, earmarked the Community College as the favoured location but unfortunately Education South West had reported that this was not possible. Kingsbridge Rugby Club confirmed that High House may be able to host a 3G pitch however, there were concerns around capacity, access and parking. In order to attract external funding a project would require both rugby and football using the same pitch in order to meet a target of 36 teams and liaison was ongoing. The cricket club had aspirations for an improved clubhouse, the cockey club sought pitch and floodlighting improvements and Community Tennis sought lighting, surfacing and toilet improvements.

99.2 SHDC/KTC engagement meeting 12 October 2023. A worthwhile discussion had been held between Cllr John Birch, Andy Bates (SHDC Chief Executive), SHDC senior officers and KTC Members which had focussed on the draft Corporate Strategy (agenda item 23/95). SHDC was keen to receive KTC's priorities which were effectively contained within the Neighbourhood Plan, Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan and Climate and Nature Emergency Plan (all available at <https://kingsbridge.gov.uk/>). Members had already listed their priority

projects in readiness for the meeting and it had been agreed to fine-tune further and report 3 or 4 key projects which KTC could work alongside SHDC to try and deliver.

99.3 SHDC/Landmarc/KTC Recreation Ground pond meeting 16 October 2023. It was anticipated for feedback to be received early 2024 on a feasibility study for enhancements of the pond.

99.4 Internal Audit 18 October 2023. The audit report had been received by a recent Finance Committee meeting (agenda item 23/93).

99.5 DCC/SHDC/EA/SWW/KTC IUDM flood analysis meeting 18 October 2023. Feedback from the meeting had been received by a recent ETR Committee meeting (agenda item 23/94).

99.6 SHDC/South Hams Society/KTC Conservation Area meeting 20 October 2023. The meeting, including a walkabout, had been worthwhile and was a precursor to a formal public consultation for the emerging Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan e.g. potential boundary changes and additional buildings or features.

99.7 Harbour House/Information Centre/KTC Public Art meeting 1 November 2023. A proposal for an art project would be made to KTC shortly with a request for funding from the agreed public art projects' budget.

99.8 Tumbly Hill future plans engagement meeting 3 November 2023. DCC's lease on the building from Anchor Housing ended in March 2024. Livewell South West and Next Steps Together, in liaison with interested partners, wished to retain the venue as a community resource.

99.9 Remembrance Sunday 12 November 2023. The Kingsbridge Branch of the Royal British Legion had delivered a meaningful commemorative event. KTC had managed the road closures and would cover all expenditure.

99.10 Fore Street Traders meeting. A worthwhile social and networking event had been held recently which had included discussions on: collective advertising, late night shopping and providing festive displays and/or lights for empty shops.

23/100 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 14 November 2023. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £14,997.56 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

23/101 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

23/102 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate