

## **Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC)**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT & RESILIENCE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE, AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2023**

**Present:** Cllr Barrie Fishman (Chairman)  
Cllr Philip Cole  
Cllr Graham Price  
Cllr Danielle Rawstron  
Cllr Mel Rollinson

**In Attendance:** Two Members of Public  
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

#### **23/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Martina Edmonds, Mike Jennings and Paul Vann.

#### **Public Open Forum**

Julie Taylor stated that some of the reasons for recent flooding included: blockages in surface water drains, some drains were in the wrong position e.g. near the Creeks End Inn, and the highway adjacent to the King of Prussia required re-profiling to direct flood water away from the business.

The Chairman thanked Julie for her statement and reported that flood mitigation was an agenda item.

#### **23/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **23/13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2023 which were approved as a correct record.

#### **23/14 KINGSBRIDGE IUDM & FLOOD ANALYSIS**

Representatives from Devon County Council (DCC), Environment Agency, South Hams District Council (SHDC) and South West Water (SWW) had met with Members on 18 October 2023 to present the findings of the Kingsbridge Integrated Urban Drainage Management (IUDM) and Flood Analysis report dated February 2023. This was further to Pell Frischmann's report at the previous meeting. Members were disappointed to hear that there was no current funding available to action improvements and/or new infrastructure to mitigate the flood risk in town e.g. new attenuation areas to the north of Kingsbridge. For example, SWW's Drainage Waste

Management Plan dated May 2023 included a Kingsbridge catchment report which ran until 2050 available at:

[https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/siteassets/documents/about-us/dwmp/strategic-catchments/kingsbridge-south-devon\\_l2\\_dwmp.pdf](https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/siteassets/documents/about-us/dwmp/strategic-catchments/kingsbridge-south-devon_l2_dwmp.pdf)

Members noted there were no immediate projects identified for the town.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to:

- request for the Kingsbridge IUDM report to be made public in order that local residents could read it, and
- for KTC to sustain its own 'first aid' response to Met Office flood warnings, to support the local community as best possible and to report to properties which actually flooded during weather events.

## **23/15 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

**15.1 Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan (draft revision October 2023) available at: <https://kingsbridge.gov.uk/emergency-plan/>.** The plan had been updated and reviewed by Members. It was **RECOMMENDED** to adopt the revised Kingsbridge CEP.

**15.2 Flood Wardens.** Wardens were available for 7 of 8 areas of the town identified in the Community Flood Plan (Annex H of the CEP) however, more were required. Liaison was ongoing with Devon County Council regarding what wardens could and could not do prior to and during a flood event to focus upon accountability and risk. It was **RECOMMENDED** to further explore the recruitment of Flood Wardens and their roles.

**15.3 Flood mitigation including highways' surface water drains cleaning.** Exjet had been contracted to clear circa 55 drains in early November.

That day, DCC had reported upon a surface water flood forecasting pilot project which was running as part of Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP) available at: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/flood-and-coastal-resilience-innovation-programme-fcrip/>

The project officer wished to make a presentation and to encourage some volunteers to sign up to receive alerts. It was **RECOMMENDED** to invite DCC to report upon the DRIP scheme.

A report on the tidal surges experienced over the previous weekend, and particularly Saturday 28 October, would be provided to the next full council meeting on 14 November.

**15.4 Sandbags, flood boards and di-icing grit.** Recent flood events had exhausted KTC's entire stock of ready-use sandbags. Further one tonne dumpy bags of sand were inbound and sandbags would be made up on receipt to replenish the resilience store in Quay House grounds. Flood boards were bespoke to properties; businesses and households in identified potential flood areas would be

encouraged to consider investment in property level flood resilience. A satisfactory stock of de-icing grit was held in the resilience store within Quay House grounds.

**15.5 Power outages and listing of households with Solar PV and storage batteries working off-grid.** It was **RECOMMENDED** to invite, via Facebook and Instagram, off-grid households to assist in periods of power outages.

**15.6 Pothole filling.** The stock of tarmac for potholes was almost exhausted and a bid for funding or replacement stock had been made to DCC.

**15.7 Publication of information.** Flooding and emergency situations were complex and succinct information was deemed to be difficult to produce however, it was **RECOMMENDED** to attempt to work-up and place in the public domain some emergency guidance for the local community.

**15.8 Survey.** The agenda item was not taken.

## **23/16 TRANSPORT**

KTC had liaised with DCC, a local taxi company and neighbouring parish councils for the introduction of a 'dial-a-ride' minibus service on Saturdays to replace deleted bus services. A draft timetable and route had been worked up. It was now with DCC and the taxi company to progress.

## **23/17 ENVIRONMENT**

**17.1** Members received an update on the Kingsbridge Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan 2023-25 available at:

<https://kingsbridge.gov.uk/climate-nature-emergency-action-plan/>

- The Quayside Leisure Centre PV project would commence soon.
- The Energy Fair was scheduled for Saturday 18 November.
- A listing of available thermal imaging cameras was being worked up.
- Members received a proposal for a potential electric car hire project and agreed for it to be received at the next full council meeting as an independent paper.
- A report on the environmental health of the estuary was being worked up.

**17.2** Members received a report on SHDC's public consultation (deadline 14 November 2023) regarding Public Space Protection Orders for Dog Control available at: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/news/2023/dog-control-consultation-have-your-say>

It was agreed to focus on the Dogs On Leads Order and it was **RECOMMENDED** to respond to SHDC that the only areas in town where dogs should be allowed to run off leads were Duncombe Park and Rack Park amenity space.

## **23/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed in March/April 2024.

*The meeting closed at 7.52 p.m.*