

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 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 Susan Jackson
District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
Philip Ward, RNLI
Richard Pullan, RNLI
Two Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

23/103 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Lorna Yabsley.

Public Open Forum

An attendee made the statement at Annex A.

**23/104 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

104.1 A Police report for November would be forwarded to Members in due course. It was unlikely for the Police Station's front office to re-open before Christmas because staff had to complete their training.

104.2 The Chairman thanked Cllr Brazil for Devon County Council's (DCC) recent resurfacing of Saffron Park and forthcoming resurfacing of Wallingford Road. Cllr Brazil replied that this action had been funded via the £6.2m awarded by central government from the HS2 dividend and potholes had been earmarked potholes as a major community concern. He then reported that he was aware of recent flooding issues again in the town centre which had been caused by pluvial flooding (rainwater) and fluvial flooding (high water levels in streams), rather than tidal surges, which had overwhelmed the drainage systems. He had received a useful letter from a member of public present regarding flooding matters. Members also reported that Lower Union Road industrial estate was being regularly flooded and the

situation was becoming worse as the north west watercourse silted up in places. The Town Council (KTC) intended to hold a drop-in flood awareness event in the New Year. The operation of recycling centres would be discussed at DCC's Cabinet meeting on the following day including a proposal for household DIY waste to be accepted free-of-charge. The Devolution Deal from central government to Devon and Torbay was progressing with the proposal for a combined county authority. This would be another level of local government with £1m set-up costs and South Hams District Council (SHDC) would be ineligible to vote on the arrangements. The A379 at Stoke Fleming would be closed from January to March alongside other road closures in the local area. Finally, vehicles had recently received parking tickets in Knowle House Close however, enforcement had actually been requested there by local residents.

104.3 Cllr Jackson reported that she was pleased to return to the Council Chamber. She had received good feedback from the recent Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas event however, some people had made representations about the lack of car parking.

104.4 Cllr O'Callaghan reported that the footway in parts of Fore Street had potential trip hazards. Free parking would be available in all the town's car parks on Saturday 16 December. The preferred developer for 2 sites owned by SHDC in Ropewalk had met officers on site and a wider meeting alongside KTC would be arranged in the New Year. SHDC hoped to purchase flats in Westville to be used for temporary housing. The wall repairs in Church Steps Passageway were going well and anticipated to complete in January; a discussion with a third party regarding shared costs was ongoing. Land areas had been identified near Kingsbridge at circa 40 hectares for tree planting, potentially funded by Defra, and a project alongside the Woodland Trust was being worked up. There had been a delay in Fusions' ambitions to install PV panels at its leisure centres and further news was anticipated in early 2024. Finally, SHDC had identified on its website a range of home energy and heating grants available to reduce fuel bills including HUG2 for households without a mains gas supply.

Cllr Brazil left the meeting

23/105 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

23/106 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23/107 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 14 December 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

23/108 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 21 November 2023 and 5 December 2023.

23/109 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 28 November 2023.

Members received a further paper regarding the potential installation of solar PV panels at Quay House on its south east and south west facing roof areas. Costs would be in the region of £10,000 with a payback period at circa 5 years. Members supported the proposal and for 3 quotations to be gained.

23/110 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

110.1 Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP) surface water flood forecasting. Several Members expressed an interest in attending a briefing by DCC officers at Quay House in early January with a date/time to be agreed.

110.2 KTC and SHDC joint projects. SHDC was keen to work alongside town councils on joint projects which could be delivered in the short term. A listing taken from ambitions contained in KTC's Neighbourhood Plan; Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan; and Climate & Nature Emergency action plan had been distributed to Members. Three to 4 front runners were required.

110.3 Flooding advice leaflet. Examples of local authority flooding advice leaflets had been distributed to Members and it was agreed for a double sided A4 leaflet to be produced tuned to Kingsbridge.

110.4 Property in Fore Street. Efforts were being made to encourage the landowner of a property in Fore Street, which has been in disrepair for a few years, to commence maintenance in 2024.

110.5 Bandstand. Updates for the Bandstand rebuild were being requested on a weekly basis from the main contractor. Carpentry works for the new fascia had been completed on 1 December.

110.6 Speeding. Representations had been received from local residents recently regarding speeding traffic in Embankment Road and Stentiford Hill. Responses had been made and the Police managed Community Speedwatch scheme identified.

23/111 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

111.1 Police Key Individuals (KINS) remote meeting 15 November 2023. Nil specific issues for Kingsbridge had been reported.

111.2 MP/Bus Companies/Local Councils' bus operations remote meeting 30 November 2023. Anthony Mangnall MP had led a worthwhile 'fact finding' discussion on local bus services with a follow-up meeting to be held in the New Year.

111.3 Skatepark. The build was going well and remained on target for completion by end December. Removal of some trees had revealed how attractive the leisure centre was and many favourable comments had been received however, some of the new trees needed to be re-planted as they were too close together. The etched sponsorship bricks had been successful and more had been ordered following further requests.

23/112 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 12 December 2023. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £49,624.72 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

23/113 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

23/114 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

Members asked if DCC could be lobbied to install street lighting in Ropewalk where it was pitch black in the winter evenings and pedestrians had to walk in the highway as there was no footway. The Chairman replied that the matter would be investigated.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

Philip Ward, Fundraising Chairman for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution Salcombe & Kingsbridge, provided a report on local events throughout 2024 to celebrate and commemorate the national 200th anniversary of the RNLI. Key events in the town included a Marine Jumble on 27 April which had encouraged 2 new volunteers to come onboard in 2023, attendance at KTC's Love Your Park event on Sunday 11 August, Kingsbridge Show on 7 September and liaison with Kingsbridge In Bloom throughout the year. A "One Moment, One Crew in Salcombe" event, would be worked up, to be held on 1 August commencing at 1824 and ending at 2024! Chiefly, a Salcombe Field of Light exhibition by the artist Bruce Munro would be installed in East Portlemouth, facing Salcombe, from October 2024 to January 2025. The display which had been exhibited across the world for the past 15 years would be visible from dusk to 2300 each evening with 20,000 stems, each stem housing a fibre optic light. The land area to be returned on completion to the owner/tenant in the same condition as before the exhibition. Digital fundraising would be available costing £20 per stem to sponsor. It was anticipated for the exhibition to celebrate the beauty of the Salcombe-Kingsbridge estuary and provide the opportunity for businesses to extend their season. A dedicated Facebook page and website was scheduled for February 2024.

The Chairman thanked Philip for his briefing and wished the RNLI well for their ventures in 2024.