

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 9 JANUARY 2024**

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
Cllr Lorna Yabsley

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

23/115 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

**23/116 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

116.1 A Police report for December would be requested. The front enquiry office at the Police Station was anticipated to re-open on 22 January.

116.2 Cllr Brazil reported that Devon County Council (DCC) had set its budget for the following financial year 2024/25 to be increased at 4.99% however, the largest increase was by the Police. The Cabinet meeting on 10 January would consider budget monitoring including a special educational needs debt at £165m. Operation Safety Valve was available for principal councils with finance issues but was unlikely to cover year-on-year deficits. Road closures at the A379 in Modbury for 5 weeks and in the town's Fore Street for one week would cause inevitable disruption however, Wallingford Road had been re-opened following resurfacing works. He advised that local residents should take care when driving due to a large number of potholes which the authority was trying hard to repair. Finally, he was aware that the current location for the Kingsbridge Foodbank had been mooted for development and a site meeting was likely.

116.3 Cllr Jackson had attended a recent South Hams District Council (SHDC) Overview and Scrutiny Committee which received a presentation from the Environment Agency and South West Water. Raw sewage discharging from surface water drains in the town centre was brought up and it was hoped to be addressed. A new reservoir in North Devon was anticipated however, regarding tap water there was no mechanism to flush out chemicals. Any fines paid by the Environment Agency went to central government rather than being used for new infrastructure. Fusion which managed the district leisure centres would attend the next meeting but unfortunately the project to install PV panels on the centres had been placed on hold. A motion had been put forward for free dentistry across the whole of Devon because it was a public health matter that people were not receiving necessary treatment.

116.4 Cllr O'Callaghan was aware of wet wipes being a main cause of recent flooding in Mill Street and Quay Car Park. The Hearing for the K4/Lock's Hill development would take place on 16 January. The proposed Ropewalk development sites were behind schedule due to the necessity for feasibility studies. The Plymouth and South Devon Freeport project had been discussed at SHDC's council meeting in December and had been supported by Members. SHDC would borrow £5.5m to purchase land at Sherford which had been agreed by the previous administration to be repaid via business rates' income. Cllrs O'Callaghan and Jackson had abstained from the vote. Wall repairs in Church Steps Passageway were anticipated to be completed by the end of January. A new £2k allowance for SHDC Members was available to fund local climate change projects. Finally, she was aware of a tree being felled off Fore Street which was subject to a Tree Preservation Order and she had forwarded information to the Executive Member for planning and enforcement.

Cllrs Brazil & Jackson and a member of public left the meeting

23/117 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman agreed to receive one item of urgent business at agenda item 23/126: "Planning Inspectorate's Garden Mill Hearing".

23/118 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23/119 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 12 December 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

23/120 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 19 December 2023.

23/121 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 4 January 2024.

The Precept for financial year 2024/25 was confirmed at £210,711 which would require a KTC Band D council tax contribution at £91.91. This was an increase at £3.70 from the current financial year 2023/24 in line with Office of National Statistics data issued on 20 December 2023 for the Consumer Price Index rise by 4.2% in the 12 months to November 2023.

23/122 FLOODING GUIDANCE

Further to the previous meeting, Members received a draft flooding advice leaflet which was a double sided A4 sheet to be folded into a 6 side leaflet. A local company would be sourced to design the leaflet, add images to the text and estimates had been supplied. There was potential to seek external funding for its production. It was **RESOLVED** for KTC to produce a “Flooding in Kingsbridge – What you need to know” leaflet.

23/123 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

123.1 Harbour House had thanked KTC for its recent support of the “Seaweed in the Fruit Locker” project.

123.2 Members had confirmed their 3 in number short term SHDC/KTC projects: public toilets in the Recreation Ground, a pocket park in Fore Street car park and a Kingsbridge-West Alvington-Salcombe cycle/multi-use track.

123.3 An update for the Bandstand had been received in early January for further works required: completion of internal decoration, electrical ‘second fit’ works, scaffolding to be removed, guttering and other rainwater goods. Contractors had been on site during the previous and current weeks.

23/124 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

An informative Mayors & Clerks meeting had been held with SHDC’s leader and senior management team alongside the other 4 South Hams’ town councils.

23/125 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 9 January 2024. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £8,700.45 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

23/126

**BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:
PLANNING INSPECTORATE'S GARDEN MILL HEARING**

KTC had received an invitation from SHDC on 4 January to attend the Garden Mill Hearing at Follaton House, Totnes, on 16 January to consider planning appeals for the following:

Appeal 1

Application reference 1170/23/ARC

Appeal reference APP/K1128/W/23/3325969

Application for approval of details reserved by condition 8 (Materials) of planning consent 28/1560/15/O (APP/K1128/W/16/3156062)

Appeal 2

Application reference 1803/23/ARC

Appeal reference APP/K1128/W/23/3327455

Application for variation of condition 7 of outline application 28/1560/15/O (APP/K112/W/16/3156062) to allow for revised dwelling design and layout and variation of condition 1 of reserved matters application 0826/20/ARM to allow for revised landscaping

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Cole, Cllr Edmunds and the Town Clerk to attend and, at the Inspector's discretion, to express KTC's views for the Appeals to be Refused on the following grounds:

- Appeal 1. The outline permission had lapsed and the proposed materials did not represent good design quality (JLP DEV10 and KWAC Neighbourhood Plan BE3).
- Appeal 2. The outline permission had lapsed and:
 1. Affordable homes quota should be 30% (JLP DEV8 and KWAC Neighbourhood Plan H1).
 2. Housing mix does not reflect local needs (DEV8 and KWAC Neighbourhood Plan H2) alongside incorrect identification of bedrooms for the C1 type dwellings.
 3. Mock timber cladding, overbearing 4 storey A1 type dwellings, inadequate outside amenity space and lack of natural light (JLP DEV10, DEV20 & DEV23 and KWAC Neighbourhood Plan BE3).
 4. Negative impact on grade II listed Buttville House (JLP DEV21 and KWAC Neighbourhood Plan BE4).

23/127

QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

Members asked questions to the Chairman who responded:

127.1 The Town Clerk would liaise with DCC's street lighting contractor regarding the potential introduction of lighting in Ropewalk.

127.2 KTC would respond to the current Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority's public consultation on a proposed 6 month fixed net fishery

within the Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary. Members agreed to support Kingsbridge Climate Action that it was opposed to the amendments.

127.3 KTC was aware of the proposals for the introduction of parking meters in Dartmouth and Salcombe.

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Julie Taylor stated that anyone wishing to attend the Planning Inspectorate's Garden Mill Hearing on 16 January had to register their attendance by 12 noon on 12 January.
2. Jeffery Fielding stated that a group of children around 12 or 13 years old were causing consistent trouble in town e.g. throwing eggs at people. He considered that action needed to be taken.

Members noted that the front enquiry office at the Police Station was due to re-open shortly and that a member of the above group had been barred from entering all town centre shops unless accompanied by an adult and had an evening curfew at 7.00 p.m. Several minor incidents of anti-social behaviour would be brought up with Sgt Shotton when Members met with him at a KTC/Police Liaison Committee on 17 January.