

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2024**

Present: Cllr Philip Cole (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Mike Jennings
Cllr Graham Price
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
Five Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

23/128 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Martina Edmonds, Steve Mammatt, Chris Povey and Danielle Rawstron, and Sgt Shotton.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

23/129 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

129.1 Sgt Shotton had provided a Police Report for January 2024 in his absence. There had been 26 occurrences created from direct calls/website reports by the public and officer attendance at incidents. In addition, there had been several administration occurrences relating to disclosure requests, licensing activity and firearms' checks. The summary of crime and incidents included: 6 reports of criminal damage e.g. a smashed shop window, thefts from shops, mental health crises, 6 assaults, 2 domestic related incidents and a malicious communication offence.

129.2 District Cllr Jackson reported that she had attended a recent South Hams District Council (SHDC) Overview & Scrutiny Committee where Fusion Lifestyle area manager had given a presentation. Due to financial matters the proposal to introduce PV panels on leisure centres had been delayed and it was anticipated that a report would be provided to the next Executive Committee on 21 February. The company's accounts were submitted to align with SHDC's and there were different contracts in place for the centres in the South Hams. Kingsbridge was the best performing leisure centre, fully staffed and some recent cleanliness issues were improving. However, some old flooring and pumps needed to be replaced/repaired to ensure progress was sustained. Members commented that they had also seen a rise in cleaning standards, showers were working and lockers had been fixed.

The Committee meeting had also received a report from the South Devon & Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership.

129.3 County Cllr Brazil reported that a public consultation for a Combined County Authority for Devon and Torbay had commenced. The devolution deal could attract £16m new funding which equated to circa £15 per person and briefings were being arranged. This new tier of local government proposed for the region championed: greater economic potential, addressing housing needs, improvements in public transport, meeting net zero ambitions, delivering investment and support for the local economy. If the consultation supported the proposals then Devon County Council (DCC) and Torbay Council would have to apply to central government. SHDC had no input into the combined authority to date and would consider the proposals at the full council meeting in March. He suggested that the Town Council (KTC) may wish to consider what devolution should look like? Plymouth City Council had stepped away from the proposal due to concerns over strategic transport.

He was aware of recent flooding in the town centre due to spring tides and heavy rain. DCC had checked drains in Bridge Street and was continuing to monitor flow rates. He recognised that Kingsbridge was being poorly served with raw sewage rising from surface water drains and evident on the highway in Bridge Street, Mill Street and Quay Car Park.

The Chairman reported that KTC had supported Loddiswell Parish Council's lobbying to Anthony Mangnall MP for the road from Sorley Cross to Aune Valley to be repaired. Cllr Brazil agreed that action was required on this pivotal stretch of highway.

129.4 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that a further meeting on the proposals for affordable-led housing developments in Ropewalk had been arranged for 23 February. At Church Steps Passageway, SHDC had completed the repairs to its own assets however, the next section of wall was owned privately and also needed to be repaired which had been costed by SHDC. Therefore, the passageway remained closed and could not be opened to the public until all repairs had been completed. She had received reports of dog faeces in and around the town centre. Several dog notices were faded and new notices had been ordered to replace them. SHDC officers had the authority to fine dog owners for fouling but needed evidence and more foot patrols had been scheduled. Finally, she noted that Members were due to consider Public Space Protection Orders for alcohol at the meeting; effectively this was about anti-social behaviour and the Orders provided powers to take alcohol away from people and fines could be issued.

County Cllr Brazil left the Chamber

23/130 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

23/131 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23/132 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 9 January 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Further to the previous meeting, it was reported that a proposed fixed net fishery within the Salcombe-Kingsbridge estuary had received 6 comments in favour and 354 against with a recommendation to the Devon & Severn Fisheries and Conservation Authority Board to turn it down.

23/133 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 24 January 2024 and 6 February 2024.

23/134 PROPERTY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property and Recreation Committee held on 23 January 2024.

Further to the above minutes, Members received an update on the Bandstand. Guttering/rainwater goods had been installed and brackets for the festive lights' display during the previous week. The scaffolding would be removed shortly and the area fully cleaned. Thereafter, further painting was required and drop catches fitted to the rear stanchions in order to fix awnings during live events. The Town Clerk had met DNH Construction's contract manager on 6 February on-site.

Moreover, a briefing for local artists would be drafted for them to bid for the Fore Street passageways' art project.

23/135 PSPO ALCOHOL SOUTH HAMS

Members received SHDC's Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) for the consumption of alcohol relating to Kingsbridge and was carefully considered. It was **RECOMMENDED** to retain all present areas and to request the following additional locations to be considered: Montagu Road play area, Trebblepark play area and the locale of Public Footpath No.1 heading west from Quay Car Park to Ropewalk.

23/136 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

136.1 Flood Resilience. Several flood related matters were reported:

- **Tidal Surges.** The flashing flood warning signs had been operational over 2 days due to very high tides. A Facebook message had been posted appealing to motorists to slow down if they chose to drive through flood water. The next huge tides were anticipated over the mornings of Monday 11 to Wednesday 13 March.
- **Flooding in Kingsbridge Leaflet.** Further to the last meeting Members were distributed the information leaflet and 500 copies would be printed on quality paper.
- **Devon Community Resilience Forum funding.** DCRF via its Resilience Fund had kindly granted £241 to KTC for the above leaflets (artwork, design & printing) and

£210 to purchase 3 tonnes of sand (for traditional sandbags) and the purchase of 20 in number Floodsax (to trial sandbag alternatives).

- **Flood Forecasting Trial.** Several local residents, alongside Members, had volunteered to take part in the DCC Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP). A Zoom meeting would be arranged shortly by DCC to 'show & tell' with the trial due to commence in March.
- **Whole Society Resilience Forum – Friday 22 March.** The Forum would take place at The Kenn Centre near Exeter and KTC had been requested by DCRF to join the Panel during the morning session to be the 'towns representative' and to provide Kingsbridge's recent flooding experiences and community engagement.
- **KTC Flood Awareness Event.** The event had been scheduled for Saturday 6 April at The Market Hall 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. The drop-in was for local residents to share their flooding experiences, to collect said data, and to encourage community resilience via signing up to flood warnings, becoming flood wardens and installing flood protection for homes.

136.2 Annual Town Meeting. Members agreed for the Annual Town Meeting, usually held in the Town Square, to be amalgamated with the above Flood Awareness Event.

136.3 Thank you letters.

- From Kingsbridge & Saltstone Caring for free tenancy in Room 9 at Quay House and the support KTC had offered the charity over the years.
- From Kingsbridge Youth for Christ for the grant of £1,000 which had been spent on upgrading a PC and equipment at The Lounge Youth Club: new office phone, new gaming PC, mouse and keyboard, 2 new controllers, 4 new pool cues, a Bluetooth receiver and some DJ decks. The club sees 15-20 young people each Tuesday night and KTC's grant had added much value to the space.

136.4 Mayor & Deputy Elections for next mayoral year 2024/25. A memorandum would be issued to Members on Friday 23 February.

136.5 Promotion. Advertisements for Community Champions 2024, KTC's grant scheme for local groups "Grant Aid", and the Love Your Park family fun day on Sunday 11 August would all commence shortly.

23/137 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

137.1 Planning Inspectorate Hearing for Garden Mill applications 16 January 2024. Members had attended the Hearing and provided comments to the Inspector where required. Decisions on the 2 planning appeals were awaited.

137.2 Devon County Council/KTC DRIP surface water flood forecasting pilot meeting 16 January 2024. DCC officers had presented the project to Members (see agenda item 136.1).

137.3 Police/KTC Liaison Committee 17 January 2024. Members had held a

productive meeting with Sgt Shotton to discuss local policing matters.

More recreational activities for teenagers had been brought up and Kingsbridge Community College had recently conducted a survey across all year groups to ascertain students' wishes. This also fed into the Kingsbridge Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan available on KTC's website. It was agreed to hold a meeting with interested parties to discuss which projects were viable.

137.4 SHDC/Local Councils planning training event 24 January 2024. Planning Committee Members had attended a worthwhile remote training session.

137.5 MP/Bus Companies/related agencies bus services' meeting 1 February 2024. Driver training, current roadworks, condition of bus stops and Peninsula Transport Strategy were among the discussion items.

23/138 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 13 February 2024. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £17,469.13 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

23/139 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

23/140 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

Members asked whether action could be taken about household waste being dumped in Fore Street on the wrong collection dates. It was noted that SHDC had moved from weekly to fortnightly collections and had written to over 300 properties in the locale to explain the new routine. Subsequently, KTC staff had hand-delivered over 80 similar letters to all properties in passageways leading off Fore Street ahead of a recent collection day. The Town Clerk would liaise with SHDC Waste again regarding the matter.

The meeting closed at 8.52 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Graham Keddie stated that he was unlikely to be available to attend the following week's Planning Committee and therefore wished to make a statement regarding a planning application (3921/23/FUL) for an extension at Wills Marine. He recognised that there was no right to a view however, the proposals would dramatically change the outlook from adjacent properties and lose light. There were already several cafes within 100 yards and another café was not required. He also had concerns with food waste. The proposals would realise negative impacts on The Malt and Coach House at Pindar Lodge; the latter property was a listed building.

The Chairman thanked Graham for his comments and replied that Members would carefully review the planning application alongside material planning considerations.

2. Adam Sherring stated that he had reviewed the recent Kingsbridge Community College youth survey (agenda item 137.3) and noted that a pump track was a popular request. The skatepark was almost complete and he was keen to pursue a new community project. Therefore, a pump track for young people would deliver what the community wanted and he was content to assist KTC.

It was anticipated for the skatepark to open mid-March on completion of the installation of fencing on its eastern boundary.

The Chairman thanked Adam for his comments and welcomed his input on youth provision.