

## **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 26 MARCH 2024**

**Present:** Cllr Barrie Fishman (Chairman)  
Cllr Danielle Rawstron  
Cllr Mel Rollinson  
Cllr Paul Vann  
Cllr Julia Wingate

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

#### **23/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Philip Cole, Martina Edmonds and Graham Price.

#### **Public Open Forum**

Julie Taylor stated that the access to Rack Park amenity space was muddy and waterlogged. There was much litter in the area adjacent to the Dodbrooke stream which was potentially dangerous for dogs running off their leads. There was also much deadwood and fallen branches in the latter area which required attention. Finally, there was an overgrown hedge at the junction of Church Street and Waterloo Road.

The Chairman responded that South Hams District Council (SHDC) and Devon County Council (DCC) would be informed and requested to investigate the matters raised.

#### **23/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **23/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2023 which were approved as a correct record.

It was noted that no action had been taken to date raising a listing of off-grid households to assist during power outages and feedback was awaited from SHDC's consultation regarding Public Space Protection Orders for Dog Control.

### 22.1 Recent flooding incidents – lessons learned?

Members had assisted on the ground during the morning tidal surges 11 to 13 March which had tested KTC's 'firefighting' system.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to explore the following:

- Ensuring resilience equipment is prepared as best possible in readiness for an anticipated flood event.
- A step was required to navigate the driveway wall to reach the resilience store.
- A secondary store may be required if Quay House could not be accessed.
- KTC should sustain its presence during flood events, which had been appreciated by the local community, and helped to slow down traffic and thereby the wash created by vehicles.
- Devon County Council (DCC) and South West Water (SWW) had been on site, with carriageways and surface water drains cleaned on completion, and liaison should continue.
- Carriageway and pavement heights could be raised to prevent the impacts of surface water/tidal surges.
- There was no flashing flood alert sign for Bridge Street.
- New shop owners in the lower town centre should be appraised of the flood risk.
- KTC to have delegated authority to position signage to lower the speed limit during flood events.

### 22.2 Recent sewage discharge incidents – future strategy?

It was **RECOMMENDED** to note the following report:

- It appeared fair and reasonable to suggest that recent sewage discharge incidents could be attributed to a historical lack of investment by South West Water (SWW) into the town's combined sewer system.
- Tankers had been on site relieving pressure on the system in Kingsbridge, Churchstow and West Alvington however, the operation was now being scaled down.
- Further to the last council meeting, SWW officers on the ground had been excellent and following a recent Teams Meeting a further update was anticipated.
- It was important to continue to report all sewage discharge incidents to SWW and to keep communications open.

It was noted that flooding and sewage discharge matters would feature as an independent agenda item at the next full council meeting.

### **22.3 “Devon Prepared – Whole Society Resilience” conference 22 March 2024 – feedback.**

It was **RECOMMENDED** to note the following report:

- The conference had been good value and Cllr Cole had made a presentation regarding how KTC supported community resilience and represented the town and parish sector on the Question & Answer panel. KTC’s new “Flooding in Kingsbridge – what you need to know and do” leaflet.
- The workshops had been informative e.g. Dawlish Community Emergency Plan challenges and Plymouth City Council’s “Slowing the Flow” project.
- Much information had been received and enough to provide a “Drip Feed” of helpful hints to the Kingsbridge community via social media to grow their community resilience. Waverley Road ‘transition streets’ project was identified as a good example of neighbourhood resilience to meet local challenges.
- It was important to make the Chamber of Commerce, Fore Street traders groups and supermarkets aware of KTC’s efforts and to encourage them to get local businesses onboard regarding community resilience.

### **22.4 Kingsbridge Flooding Awareness Event 6 April 2024 – update.**

It was **RECOMMENDED** to note the following report:

- Promotion of the event via website, posters and social media would be co-ordinated with a Gazette advert from Thursday 28 March.
- A roster would be produced for Members’ attendance for the event to be held between 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. alongside the Annual Town Meeting.

## **23/23 ENVIRONMENT**

It was **RECOMMENDED** to note the following report:

- The inaugural meeting of Friends of the Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary (FoSKE) had taken place on 29 February via a public meeting which would be followed by a group meeting to be held on 28 March which would explore initiatives such as water quality monitoring.
- Kingsbridge Climate Action had produced a Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary Aspects of its Well-Being report.
- A Kingsbridge Nature Festival would be held 20-22 June with planning underway.
- The energy fair which had been held in Kingsbridge would go ‘on tour’ around surrounding villages.
- An EV car and e-bike fair would be arranged for spring 2025 with a range of cars and owners present to include a public charging teach-in.
- The solar PV project for Quay House was progressing with potential companies earmarked.

## **23/24 TRANSPORT**

It was **RECOMMENDED** to note the following report:

- An update from the Salcombe ZEST bus project would be requested.

- The proposed minibus service to cover the aborted weekend Loddiswell-Kingsbridge-Hope Cove bus service had not commenced due to driver resource issues. The weekly service may be under pressure unless it was used more often.
- It was considered that use of the 93 bus service should be promoted by KTC to local residents.
- The recently revised route of the 164 service was working well.
- The town bus service would continue to run and a bespoke bus was anticipated.
- The Cattle Market car park had 4 free parking spaces for coaches but there were occasions when it was difficult to park and directions to the car park needed to be improved.

**23/25            DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed in September 2024.

*The meeting closed at 7.54 p.m.*