

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2024**

Present: Cllr Graham Price (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Mike Jennings
Cllr Steve Mammatt
Cllr Chris Povey
Cllr Danielle Rawstron
Cllr Mel Rollinson
Cllr Paul Vann
Cllr Lorna Yabsley

In Attendance: District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
Eight Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

24/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Philip Cole, Cllr Julia Wingate, County Cllr Julian Brazil, District Cllr Susan Jackson and Sgt Charlie Wilkes.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

Seven members of public left the meeting

**24/22 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that she was aware of grass cutting and grounds maintenance requirements in Duncombe Park and the Recreation Ground and she encouraged the Town Council (KTC) to seek her assistance if required. South Hams District Council's (SHDC) website had dedicated a section of its website for the general election on 4 July. She was also aware of waste collection issues in Fore Street and the passageways. SHDC officers were on the lookout for properties which flouted the revised collection routines, rubbish bags would be checked to try and locate who was at fault and there was potential for fines to be levied. In response to questions, SHDC officers did not consider it was possible for a 'central' waste collection point or industrial style bins for the likes of Mill Street. A contractor had been instructed to complete repairs to the wall in Church Steps Passageway. A remote Teams Meeting that day between SHDC, Hastoe and KTC had discussed progress at earmarked housing development sites off Ropewalk. There was a possibility of up to 16 homes for the brownfield site dependent on a range of matters however, there were constraints for the greenfield site around access and topography. There had been a delay for residents to occupy SHDC's St Ann's

Chapel affordable-led housing development however, agreement with contractors meant that issues had been overcome. She was informed of regular late evening disturbances in Quay Car Park caused by young drivers; the Police were aware and the car park was a SHDC asset. It was anticipated for KTC to hold a Police liaison meeting shortly.

24/23 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

24/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

24/25 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 14 May 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

24/26 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 21 May 2024 and 4 June 2024.

24/27 WAITING RESTRICTIONS

Members received Devon County Council's (DCC) Waiting Restrictions Amendment Order regarding streets in Westville. Some questions had been posed to DCC and answered swiftly to dispel any concerns. It was **RESOLVED** to note DCC's proposed amendments to waiting restrictions in Westville.

24/28 PROJECTS

Members received a listing of potential community projects which had been worked-up at a Members' team meeting held on 28 May 2024; said projects were listed under the headings: short term and/or 'quick wins', medium term and/or medium size, and long term and/or large size projects. A further paper with a complete listing of over 60 potential projects derived from Members' discussions; Neighbourhood Plan; Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan; and the Climate and Nature Change action plan had also been produced and was distributed to Members. Concerns were held over the availability of sufficient space and/or funding for the projects. It was mooted to hold another Members' team meeting to discuss funding streams before the first budget-setting meeting of the Finance Committee took place in late November for the next financial year. It was **RESOLVED** to progress several potential community projects.

Cllr O'Callaghan and a member of public left the meeting

24/29 ACCOUNTS GOVERNANCE

Members received and considered the draft annual governance statement. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 Form 3) for the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

24/30 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Members received and considered the Internal Audit report (IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd's letter dated 2 June 2024) and the draft Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 Form 3). It was **RESOLVED** to approve the unaudited Annual Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2024 for despatch to the External Auditor and to confirm the Exercise of Public Rights inspection period as 17 June to 26 July 2024.

24/31 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

31.1 Quay House – electricity contract renewal. KTC's current 5 year contract with Drax completed on 30 June. Quotations had been received from 10 in number electricity suppliers and Members supported an Octopus Energy 24 month contract with effect from 1 July 2024.

31.2 Fair Week – KTC commitments. Members were requested to consider their availability for a number of KTC sponsored events during Fair Week and a programme would be circulated.

31.3 Water Restoration Fund – KTC support for funding bid. KTC had provided a letter of support for Seadream Education CIC's bid to deliver Good ecological status for the Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary alongside nearby rivers and watercourses.

31.4 Use of Cattle Market Car Park. SHDC had supported KTC's feedback that a film company should not have exclusive use of the car park Monday 10 to Friday 14 June. The rationale being it would be too much inconvenience for locals, commuters and visitors. Alternative parking on private property had been arranged.

31.5 Use of Quay Car Park. SHDC had supported KTC's feedback that the Tumbly Hill residential development should remove its current compound and vacate parking spaces from 12 to 29 July, as proposed, and for the arrangement to be sustained until 2 September. The rationale being that the main visitor car park would be freed up for the summer holidays in order to support the local economy.

31.6 Members photos & biographies in Quay House hallway. Costs for individual black frames, a frameless/pinnable felt board and restoration of the existing board had all been worked up for Members to consider. Individual frames were supported.

31.7 Grant Aid. Several letters of thanks had been received following the recent grants provided to community groups/projects e.g. from the Wind Project and Cookworthy Museum.

31.8 Town Clerk – annual leave. All next week Monday 17 to Friday 21 inclusive. The Reception would be manned and another member of staff would act as Secretary for the Planning Committee on 18 June.

31.9 Maintenance tasks. A revised listing of all outdoor/grounds maintenance tasks was distributed to Members.

24/32 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

32.1 Bandstand refit sign-off meeting 16 May 2024. It was highlighted that the snagging list had not been completed and sign-off was not agreed however, the contractors had subsequently returned and the Bandstand was completed for the Food & Music Festival (agenda item 32.5).

32.2 SHDC/Mayors & Clerks meeting 22 May 2024. An informative meeting had discussed, amongst others, SHDC's corporate peer challenge, second homes council tax and a potential South Hams Festival in 2025.

32.3 Members' get together 28 May 2024. The meeting had been the precursor to agenda item 24/28.

32.4 Internal audit 29 May 2024. The auditor had supported the annual accounts at agenda item 24/30.

32.5 Kingsbridge Food & Music Festival 31 May-2 June 2024. The event had drawn good crowds and had been very well received. Litter issues around the periphery of the Town Council had been identified to be considered for the next festival.

32.6 D-Day80 War Memorial service 6 June 2024. The Royal British Legion had managed a sincere and moving memorial service.

32.7 Bioregional Learning Centre climate adaptation learning journey to Kingsbridge 7 June 2024. The visit had supported KTC and Kingsbridge Climate Actions efforts to mitigate climate and nature challenges. Briefings had been delivered and field visits had taken place at a private garden in Fore Street and the Kingsbridge Community Garden.

32.8 SHDC/Hastoe/KTC Ropewalk housing meeting 11 June 2024. The meeting had been reported upon at agenda item 24/22.

24/33 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 11 June 2024. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £15,007.54 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

24/34 SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook continued to provide relevant local government and community news and Instagram ran circa 3 posts per week. Members made further suggestions for the latter.

24/35 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

24/36 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Vann queried if Members were aware of the initial consultation feedback on the proposed solar PV for the front facing roof of Quay House which had gained 48 comments of support and zero negative responses. This would be a precursor to a formal planning pre-application to SHDC.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Andrea Quintana made a statement on behalf of the Seven Concerned Citizens group. The salient points were:

- The group had placed Devon County Council, Cornwall Council and Torbay Council on a notice of rectification in order to prevent a potentially catastrophic strategic planning event across the South West region.
- The group alleged that there were serious failures and defects in the above principal councils relating to emergency planning and the declared climate crisis.
- Said failures were alleged to display institutional bias and pre-determination.
- The councils' responses were alleged to demonstrate leadership hubris and a lack of organisational maturity to engage and respond to strategic risk warnings.
- The group offered a 20 minute presentation to KTC to explain the current situation, seriousness of the issues and how to rectify the situation.

The Chairman thanked Andrea for her statement.

2. David Dain made a statement on behalf of local residents and users of Duncombe Park. The salient points were:

- The current condition of the park was totally unsatisfactory and grass was very overgrown throughout the park.
- There were defects in the children's play area and weeds were growing through the surface of Trim Trail outdoor exercise equipment.
- The last grass cut had been witnessed at the end of April with no subsequent grounds maintenance.
- There were tall weeds growing across the entire park but particularly around the perimeter areas.
- SHDC's adopted biodiversity plan which reduced grass cutting to either annual or bi-annual grass cuts of on areas of council land may not be suitable for an urban/town park.

The Chairman thanked David for his statement and replied that KTC was aware of the park's current condition and was lobbying SHDC for maintenance.

3. Rose Dunstan stated that biodiversity initiatives were important such as No Mow May. Therefore, parts of the park should be left to grow wild with dovetailed with the ambitions of the Wild About Kingsbridge group.

The Chairman thanked Rose for her statement.

4. Lee Bonham stated that he had read the previous meeting's minutes which identified a pump track to be located at the Recreation Ground. He considered that a public consultation was required in order to highlight all potential sites in the town for such a facility.

He also queried if KTC had any influence over the management of the annual Remembrance Sunday service.

The Chairman thanked Lee for his statement and replied that Remembrance Sunday was organised by the Royal British Legion.

5. The Town Clerk read out a statement from Jo Royle, leaseholder of the Recreation Ground café, who was unable to attend the meeting. The salient points were:

- There continued to be anti-social behaviour at the café despite her best efforts to mediate with some young people involved.
- Over the previous weekend, groups of teenagers had climbed up on the café roof and bottles of alcohol had been smashed in the café's rear courtyard leaving a hazard for staff.
- With the summer holidays approaching she was concerned that the issues would be amplified and have a damaging impact on the café's reputation and park in general.
- The local Police had been helpful but she felt that a coordinated approach was required to solve a problem which was beyond her control.
- She would appreciate KTC's support and advice going forward.

The Chairman that an early liaison meeting with the Police was required.