

## **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 25 JUNE 2024**

**Present:** Cllr Paul Vann (Chairman)  
Cllr Philip Cole  
Cllr Barrie Fishman  
Cllr Mel Rollinson

**In Attendance:** One member of public  
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

#### **24/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Vann as Chairman of the Environment, Transport & Resilience Committee for mayoral year 2024/25.

#### **24/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Graham Price, Danielle Rawstron and Julia Wingate.

#### **Public Open Forum**

There were no statements from members of public present.

#### **24/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **24/04 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2024 which were approved as a correct record.

It was noted that:

- KTC's request to lower the speed limit during flood events in the town centre had been considered by Devon County Council (DCC). Generally the lowest speed was 20 mph but an advisory speed limit next to a flood alert board could be positioned. However, KTC could be susceptible to a claim for damages should a vehicle have an issue while driving through flood water at low speed. The upshot was that DCC did not recommend that anyone drives through flood water and KTC should stick to its current operations. Drivers should drive to the prevalent conditions and then any issues are of their own making.
- The agreed "Drip Feed" via Facebook and/or Instagram of flood guidance for the local community should commence in autumn 2024.
- Finally, the Salcombe ZEST bus project appeared to have been mothballed.

## 24/05 TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was **RECOMMENDED** to retain the Terms of Reference for the Environment, Transport & Resilience Committee without amendment.

## 24/06 FLOODING, SEWAGE DISCHARGES & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

### 06.1 Review of the Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan at:

<https://kingsbridge.gov.uk/emergency-plan/> Members considered the Plan and noted it had been thoroughly reviewed/updated in October 2023 and forwarded to Devon Communities Together. It was **RECOMMENDED** for no further changes to be made however, the Plan should continue to be reviewed on an annual basis.

While the Plan was used to chiefly focus upon flood events it did cover other emergencies and Members discussed whether KTC should highlight other matters e.g. periods of very hot/cold weather or whether there was already enough information available from other sources. It was **RECOMMENDED** that KTC should only identify matters to local residents if they specifically 'added value' to community resilience.

**06.2 Recent flooding and/or sewage discharge incidents.** There had been no significant incidents since late March. KTC's Flooding Awareness Event had been held on 6 April at the Market Hall and Members/Staff had patrolled the town during high tides on 9 and 10 April. The next major high tides were anticipated Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 August during the morning commuter period. Following a meeting held on 10 May, the next roundtable meeting of DCC, KTC, Environment Agency, South Hams District Council (SHDC) and South West Water (SWW) to discuss flood events and sewage discharge incidents would take place at 12.00 p.m. on Friday 6 September 2024. It was **RECOMMENDED** to contact SWW to ascertain if the agency was on-track to explore all the data it had gleaned earlier in the year.

**06.3 Applegate planning/drainage correspondence.** Members considered that the new Applegate housing development could potentially have impacted on a large increase in the combined sewer overflow (CSO) output recorded recently in Bridge Street. The matter to be brought up at the meeting to be held on 6 September (agenda item 06.2).

## 24/07 ENVIRONMENT

**07.1 Review of the Climate And Nature Emergency (CANE) action plan at <https://kingsbridge.gov.uk/climate-nature-emergency-action-plan/>** Members considered the action plan and noted it remained current for 2024/25.

**07.2 Kingsbridge Nature Festival feedback.** The festival had been successful with lots of things of interest and to participate in.

**07.3 Progress on Quay House PV project and potential encouragement of others.** Negative feedback had been received from SHDC's planning heritage officer and generally the installation of PV panels on prominent/front elevations of

historic buildings was not supported. However, SHDC was content to engage with KTC through a formal pre-application process.

**07.4 Kingsbridge community electric vehicle (EV) car hire – latest thinking.**

Members received a briefing paper on a potential £50k project working with Hiyacar which would probably require external funding at circa £40k with a KTC contribution at £10k. The project would require the purchase of a relatively low-cost EV from a local supplier and a town centre located community EV parking space with dedicated charging point. Next steps were to liaise with DCC, SHDC and related parties to seek their support. Members noted that a potential EV bike hire could also be explored. It was **RECOMMENDED** to progress a potential EV car hire project for the Kingsbridge community.

**24/08            TRANSPORT**

It was reported that DCC had provided North Devon with free Sunday bus travel during June to promote public transport and encourage leisure travel covering a wide area for all services in and out of Barnstaple. Therefore, liaison had commenced to ascertain if a similar scheme could be provided to South Devon?

**24/09            DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 24 September 2024.

*The meeting closed at 7.56 p.m.*