

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

Present: Cllr Julia Wingate (Chairman)
Cllr Philip Cole
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Mike Jennings
Cllr Steve Mammatt
Cllr Chris Povey
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Danielle Rawstron
Cllr Mel Rollinson
Cllr Paul Vann
Cllr Lorna Yabsley

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

24/37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Anne Balkwill, Cllr Barrie Fishman and Sgt Charlie Wilkes.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

A member of public left the meeting

**24/38 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND
SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

38.1 County Cllr Brazil commented upon the Public Open Forum that the new skatepark was a fantastic asset for the town and Devon County Council (DCC) would support the Town Council's (KTC) views on a pump track. He then reported that there had not been much recent business at County Hall given the recent purdah period leading up to the general election on 4 July. The outcome was that the previously agreed Devon devolution deal was effectively suspended but may start again with the inclusion of Plymouth. DCC's management of road maintenance was under review for either outsourcing or to become an in-house service. Freeport (central government designated investment area) which had Plymouth City Council support was likely to be progressed for the region with £40m of inward investment via 50/50 funding between government and DCC; the scheme offered tax and customs incentives for businesses.

38.2 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that the region had a new Member of Parliament who was working hard and the outcomes would be interesting. She agreed that the Skate Jam had been successful and there was potential for the introduction of a new seating area on the bank near the leisure centre. It was anticipated that Church Steps Passageway would be opened for late July. All vegetation and debris required clearing from the footway and also the Silver Band Hut grounds. An online meeting had taken place the previous day to discuss potential housing developments in Ropewalk. Options and 3D modelling had been considered and the ambition was to provide the greatest number of affordable housing without causing issues elsewhere. She had been made aware of ASB matters in the Recreation Ground and the introduction of CCTV at the café had been raised with SHDC Assets. SHDC's ASB officer had been unable to attend a recent Police Liaison meeting as there had been some misunderstanding of roles alongside the Community Safety Partnership which had now been resolved. The Director of the proposed South Hams Festival in June 2025 had met KTC Members and herself on 5 July and provided a briefing on the proposals. An online meeting would be held shortly to introduce the festival concept to all local councils across the district. Waste and recycling issues continued in Fore Street with containers and black bin bags being left on the footway on the wrong days despite SHDC letters to local residents identifying the collection routines. Posters warning of fixed penalty fines would be positioned on street lamps and waste was being checked by SHDC officers to try to identify households concerned alongside the potential operation of mobile CCTV. A separate letter would be sent to households in Ebrington Street regarding black wheelie bins blocking the footway.

38.3 District Cllr Jackson reported that the Localities team would attend the Town Square on Thursday 11 July between 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. to take residents' questions and provide information on SHDC services. She was a member of the Task & Finish Group for Fusion Leisure which managed the district's leisure centres and would be pushing for PV panels to be installed at the Quayside. Members identified some issues with cleaning e.g. showers, Kingfishers' swimming club timetable and clocks not working at the pool. She would take such matters onboard and was about to start using the leisure centre again shortly so would be able to monitor personally.

38.4 A written Police Report for June 2024 had been distributed to Members. There had been 33 crime or anti-social behaviour (ASB) occurrences created from direct calls, website reports by the public or officer attendance at incidents. In addition, there had been several administration occurrences relating to disclosure requests, licensing activity and firearms' checks. Legally possessed firearms and knives had been handed in at the station. The summary of crime and incidents included 4 criminal damage reports (3 to vehicles and 1 to private property), 2 thefts of bicycles, 2 shoplifting incidents were under investigation, 6 low level assaults, 1 indecent image incident would not be further investigated, 6 incidents of ASB had all involved youths causing a nuisance in public spaces or shops, 1 male throwing eggs at a vehicle was under investigation as part of an ongoing community issue, 3 reports of theft/fraud were under investigation, 2 domestic incidents, and 1 fight with no injury and was resolved without Police action. During the Food & Music Festival a reported fight had not been located by the Police. One attempted grievous bodily harm was under investigation however, a knife incident had been completed.

Several calls had been made to parents to take drunk youths home and general ASB had been managed on the scene by the Police with no crimes reported. A report of witness intimidation and another malicious communication were under investigation. A missing person had been found safe and well. Two vehicles had been seized for documentation offences. At least 6 of the recorded crimes involved the same person of interest who had attended court in early July.

Members further noted that there had been a recent incident at Dodbrooke Church and the Police were interrogating CCTV. Notes from an informative Police Liaison Committee were also received at this juncture which, amongst others, had received updates on the re-opening of the station enquiry office and staffing resource.

24/39 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

24/40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

24/41 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 11 June 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

24/42 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 18 June 2024 and 2 July 2024.

24/43 ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT & RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Environment, Transport & Resilience Committee held on 25 June 2024.

It was proposed to invite Caroline Voaden MP to the next multi-agency meeting to discuss flooding and sewage discharge matters to be held on 6 September.

24/44 POTENTIAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Further to the previous meeting, Members explored the earmarked short term projects:

- Weather/teen shelters. Location was agreed as the crucial factor with internal lighting possibly on a timer system. SHDC was aware of the proposal on its land assets and feedback was awaited.
- Memorial Shelter. It was considered that repairs and maintenance were required, the artwork was faded and should be removed, lighting should be re-introduced, there was potential for flower displays and improved CCTV. Liaison was required with SHDC.

- Water drinking fountains. SHDC supported the proposal subject to all regulations being adhered to for installation near the Skatepark and at the head of the estuary. Liaison was required with South West Water e.g. potable water, insulation, cleaning and inspections. There was potential for KTC to apply for partial external funding for the project.
- Toddler/young children play equipment at Trebblepark play area. The public consultation for the recent re-invention of the basketball court had also received requests for play equipment for under 5 year olds. Springers similar to those recently installed by KTC in the Recreation Ground had been earmarked. Members viewed images of the play area and identified their preferred location. Liaison was required with SHDC.
- Community noticeboard. Community noticeboards in Fore Street Car Park had been removed during recent commercial redevelopment. It was debated whether such 'old school' communication was still needed and therefore deemed to be of lower priority. However, it was agreed that KTC's noticeboard outside Peacocks in lower Fore Street could be re-purposed if required.
- Shared gardens in lieu of allotments. The concept had been shared with the local community via social media and several expressions of interest had been received. The next stage was for KTC to act as enabler and match people together.
- Ropewalk street lighting. A meeting with Enerveo's regional street lighting technician had been arranged for 16 July to consider if the proposal could be actioned and to gain budget costs.
- Bandstand/Town Square use and promotion of KTC assets. The Bandstand was now fully operational again with the giant crossword due shortly and table tennis table wheeled out weekdays during the school holidays. KTC assets would be promoted via social media.

24/45 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

45.1 Waste and recycling issues – Fore Street and passageways. Further to agenda item 38.2, SHDC had written to local residents again on 18 June to explain the revised collection routines because general waste was still being placed out weekly rather than fortnightly. Also, on opening bags, much recycling material had been discovered. Members mooted that a 'central point' to deposit waste may still be required notwithstanding negative SHDC feedback to date.

45.2 Fair Week. Members provided their availability to take part in the Floral Dance, outdoor movie night and Town Criers' competition.

45.3 Love Your Park. Members were requested to consider their availability for Sunday 11 August for the KTC managed family fun day 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

**24/46 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND
 AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES**

46.1 Kingsbridge Nature Festival 20-22 June 2024. The event had been informative with much to see and participate in.

46.2 SHDC/KTC water sports hub meeting 25 June 2024. The meeting had underlined the value of the paddleboarding school and that such a facility should be supported to continue, at the same location in Quay Car Park, on completion of the current licence/planning permission.

46.3 Police/SHDC/KTC liaison meeting 1 July 2024. See agenda item 38.4.

46.4 Kingsbridge Skate Jam 6 July 2024. See Public Open Forum.

46.5 SHDC/Hastoe/KTC Ropewalk housing developments meeting 8 July 2024. See agenda item 38.2.

46.6 SH Festival/SHDC/KTC liaison meeting 5 July 2024. See agenda item 38.2.

24/47 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 9 July 2024. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £19,628.15 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

24/48 SOCIAL MEDIA

Discussions during the meeting had earmarked a further 3 in number Instagram posts.

24/49 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

24/50 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

50.1 The Chairman/Members supported the concept of a Kingsbridge Fringe Festival in September 2025.

50.2 Members supported the Chairman raising the profile of local sports clubs during the Fair Week Carnival Procession on Saturday 27 July.

The meeting closed at 8.42 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Julie Taylor noted that young people at the skatepark were drinking water from the tap at the head of the Slipway in Quay Car Park and that it may be unhygienic.

The Chairman thanked Julia for her statement and responded that the introduction of drinking water fountains was a KTC ambition and would be brought up at agenda item 24/44.

2. Adam Sherring stated that the Skatepark Committee had managed an online survey for a proposed pump track which had gained over 450 responses which included numerous constructive comments. A maximum 1,000m² space would be required and all accessible green spaces in Kingsbridge had been explored: Rack Park amenity space, Recreation Ground (both ends), Duncombe Park, Trebblepark play area, Britton's Field and Bowcombe Bridge amenity space. Such total space was 21,913m² therefore 1,000m² would use up 4.5%. It was suggested that the small percentage of green space required would provide a facility that a large percentage of the community would use and for an activity that was not catered for this represented a worthy sacrifice. The survey and results were distributed to Members for their consideration.

The Skate Jam held on Saturday 6 July had been amazing with up to 300 people in attendance at one point. A couple of bouts of rain had not damped participants for spectators' spirits and everyone had come together to enjoy a successful event. The Skatepark Committee had liaised with "Make Space For Girls" a charity which campaigned for parks and public spaces to be designed with teenage girls in mind and Kingsbridge Community College. To this end, while the skatepark could not restrict public access, a girls-only evening slot for 2 hours was being explored with SHDC.

The Chairman thanked Adam for running the pump track survey and providing an update on the skatepark; Members would be interested to explore the survey and its outcomes.