

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE,
AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Present: Cllr Julia Wingate (Chairman)
Cllr Philip Cole
Cllr Mike Jennings
Cllr Steve Mammatt
Cllr Danielle Rawstron
Cllr Mel Rollinson
Cllr Paul Vann
Cllr Lorna Yabsley

In Attendance: County Cllr Julian Brazil
District Cllr Susan Jackson
Four Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

24/51 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Anne Balkwill, Cllr Barrie Fishman, Cllr Martina Edmonds, Cllr Chris Povey, Cllr Graham Price, District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan and Sgt Charlie Wilkes.

Public Open Forum

Members of public made the statements at Annex A.

24/52 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

52.1 County Cllr Brazil stated that the following day's Cabinet meeting would consider Devon County Council's (DCC) mid-term financial position. Government had announced that local authorities could take more control over bus services and further information was awaited. Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) safety valve funding was in place. The Devon Devolution Deal between DCC and Torbay Council may progress alongside Plymouth City Council given recent government and MP changes. South Hams District Council (SHDC) would double council tax on second homes from April 2025 and ring fence the extra funding for affordable housing. All 8 Leaders of Devon's district councils had written to DCC to encourage the authority to do likewise and an outcome was awaited. Government was keen on house building however, housing need was the primary matter given the South Hams' housing crisis. SHDC had worked up innovative schemes including key worker housing for said funding. He considered that the Waverley Road community garden scheme was a big improvement and the locale looked well. However, there had been some complaints from local residents and DCC Highways had been uncooperative. He had attended the recent flooding meeting which received a report from South West Water (SWW). There were culvert issues under the highway and he had made the Head of Highways aware that there was potential for a catastrophic failure. SWW had been keen to impress that other authorities

could be at fault for recent flooding incidents however, sewage matters belonged to the agency. A future meeting would be held between the Environment Agency (EA), DCC and SWW and it was hoped that a range of options to mitigate flood risk and sewage discharges could be worked up. DCC had to agree the future of highways maintenance shortly i.e. whether the service should be managed in-house, by an arm's length company or via contractor. Finally, in answer to a question he noted that the £300k crown court fine recently imposed on the Garden Mill developer was likely to be received by government.

52.2 District Cllr Jackson had not been able to attend the recent flooding meeting due to other SHDC business. Fusion Lifestyle was scheduled to make a briefing to SHDC on 19 September regarding the district leisure centres. She had personally noted that cleanliness levels at Quayside were of variable quality over several visits. Finally, she was interested to hear KTC's consideration of the South Hams Festival during the meeting.

52.3 A written Police Report for August 2024 had been distributed to Members. There had been 26 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, numerous safeguarding referrals and multi-agency meetings. The summary of crime and incidents included 1 assault by beating and 1 common assault. There had been several calls about ASB at Bowringsleigh resulting in 2 occurrences, 2 possible ASB incidents in the town centre, 1 ASB in Devon Square with regard to neighbouring issues, another ASB with 5 persons fighting involving alcohol, 1 criminal damage and 2 further incidents filed due to evidential difficulties, 1 harassment, 3 drugs, 2 burglaries at Coast nightclub, 1 shoplifting, 1 theft, 1 residential burglary within the family and 1 suspicious banking activity. Finally, 2 malicious sexual communications, 1 unsubstantiated sexual assault and 2 domestic arguments had been recorded. The Police had also attended 3 sudden deaths which were not suspicious. Members commented that there had been a greater visual Police presence in town recently.

24/53 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

24/54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

County Cllr Brazil left the meeting

24/55 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

24/56 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 6 August 2024 and 3 September 2024.

24/57 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 16 July 2024.

24/58 PROPERTY & RECREATION COMMITTEE – SITE VISITS

Members received notes from site visits which had included Quay House grounds, Fore Street, Trebblepark Allotments, Trebblepark play area, St Edmunds Churchyard and Duncombe Park. Various maintenance actions had been identified and were ongoing. The Town Clerk would liaise with the committee for further site visits to Embankment Road Cemetery, Brittons Field, Recreation Ground, Embankment Road/The Promenade (Memorial Shelter, War Memorial and festoon lights) and Eastern/Western Backways. It was **RESOLVED** to note the Property & Recreation Committee sites visits held on 30 July 2024.

24/59 SOUTH HAMS FESTIVAL

Members received SHDC's briefing paper for town and parish councils' support and participation in the proposed South Hams Festival in June 2025 which provided funding information and sought support for the event and a financial contribution of £2,500. Members discussed:

- whether KTC managed Love Your Park should be retained for 2025 or its funding be re-directed to the South Hams Festival,
- the exploration of local groups which may be interested in engaging with the festival, and
- the concept of a Kingsbridge Fringe Festival which had been suggested for September 2025.

Members did not wish to make a decision at the current time and SHDC's lead officer would be invited to an independent meeting to further discuss the South Hams Festival.

24/60 TRANSPORT PROVISION IN THE SOUTH HAMS

Members received a request from South Hams Community Action (SHCA) for assistance in managing a transport provision survey. Members were mindful of KTC's previous suggestion for a weekend minibus service to cover Loddiswell-Kingsbridge-Hope Cove which had not come to fruition and that KTC currently subsidised the 160 town service. Moreover, government had recently announced that principal authorities could take back control of local bus services. After discussion, there was no enthusiasm to join up with SHCA's transport project.

24/61 WAVERLEY ROAD COMMUNITY GARDEN

Members received a verbal report regarding the installation of metal planters growing flowers, herbs and vegetables by the Waverley Community Garden group as part of the Transition Streets movement. DCC had received representations from some local residents which countered the earlier majority support for the project and a site visit had taken place between Members and DCC on 3 September 2024 to discuss the project. DCC Highways held concerns regarding visibility splays and access for underground utilities. The group had not received approval for the project from DCC however, this was seemingly due to a genuine oversight. Subsequently, KTC had requested the group to consult via questionnaire with all Waverley Road households to ascertain if they wished for the planters to be retained or removed; the deadline for responses was 11 September. Members did not wish to make comments at the current time until the results of the consultation were known.

24/62 KINGSBRIDGE FAIR WEEK

Members received a verbal report on the KTC's input to Fair Week and particularly the Glove Hanging Ceremony and Floral Dance which included the following suggestions:

- The ceremony should be more theatrical and a spectacle with potentially the band marching in the glove, more music, a blessing and Town Mayor's hat and robes/costume.
- The floral dance to potentially include a local dancing group, greater KTC participation, visual recognition and prior practice.
- The whole event to be better promoted in the Fair Week programme, via KTC's social media and on the evening itself in order to signpost to visitors who were likely to be unfamiliar with proceedings.

Members and Staff to pursue the above suggestions ahead of Fair Week 2025.

24/63 YOUTH PROVISION

Members received a verbal report that there was no central directory for public access which collected all the available sports and recreational opportunities for young people in town and the surrounding area. Such a community facility could be contained on KTC's website or elsewhere for youth based activity without defining an age limit. Members and Staff to pursue the above suggestion for a youth activities directory.

24/64 LAND OFF EASTERN BACKWAY

Members considered the potential use of a small plot of land adjacent to Eastern Backway located between Leigham Terrace and Wistaria Place and were mindful of comments made during the Public Open Forum. Members recognised the location was unloved at present, considered that the area should be retained within 'community ownership' and KTC could explore its historical context and seek ownership via the Land Registry which was likely to be complex. However, any re-invention of the space would achieve only minor community benefit, ongoing maintenance/costs and juxtaposed with the current listing of KTC ambitions could

not be viewed as a priority matter. After discussion, there was no enthusiasm for KTC to take any current action to reinvigorate a small plot of land off Eastern Backway.

24/65 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

65.1 Climate & Nature Symposium for South Hams Town & Parish

Councillors. To be held 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on Friday 11 October at Follaton House, Totnes.

65.2 Forthcoming meetings

- **Committee/council meetings** at 6.30 p.m. every Tuesday until Christmas.
- SHDC Leader & Chief Executive and **Mayors & Clerks meeting** at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday 19 September at Follaton House, Totnes.
- **Recreation Ground Anti-Social Behaviour meeting** at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 24 September in Quay House (KTC & SHDC Members, Police, SH Community Safety Partnership, SHDC Assets & Assertive Outreach).
- SHDC public consultation on proposals for **Kingsbridge Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP)** 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 25 September at the Market Hall.
- **Devon Community Resilience Forum** at 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Thursday 26 September at Crediton Rugby Club.
- **Traffic Management for Community Events Course** at 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Saturday 28 September in Quay House.
- **Remembrance Sunday (10 November) preparations meeting** at 6.00 p.m. on Thursday 3 October at The Mill Club. KTC has already applied to DCC for the required road closures.

65.3 Quay House garage/store – vandalism. The roof had been heavily damaged over the period 26-28 August and KTC was assisting the Police with their enquiries. However, the roof required repairs as soon as possible and the suggestion was to also apply anti-climb paint to the building.

65.4 Gambling Act 2005 – Consultation. SHDC was required to review its gambling policy every 3 years which set out the principles which will apply when dealing with applications, enforcing the law and making decisions under the Gambling Act 2005. Responses had to be received by 13 October 2024 if KTC wished to make comments.

65.5 Thank you letter. Received from Kingsbridge Fair Week for KTC's support and assistance particularly for the Floral Dance.

**REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND
AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES****66.1 Harbour House/Skatepark/KTC public art meeting 10 July 2024.**

Skatepark at circa £5.3k and Fore Street passageways at circa £5.8k art projects had been discussed.

66.2 Enerveo/KTC street lighting meeting 16 July 2024. Cost estimates for new street lighting in Ropewalk and Tumbly Hill plus ambient bollard lighting in Duncombe Street were awaited.

66.3 Kingsbridge In Bloom judging day 17 July 2024. Two senior RHS judges had assessed the town and feedback had been very positive. The theme celebrating the 200th anniversary of the RNLI had been well received. The RHS presentations would take place in Bath on 8 October.

66.4 WPS/KTC insurance meeting 17 July 2024. A revised insurance schedule with effect from 1 September had been carefully reviewed.

66.5 Kingsbridge Fair Week 19-27 July 2024. KTC has sponsored the fun run, fireworks, glove hanging, floral dance, ceilidh band and town criers' competition.

66.6 Police/KTC KINS meeting 25 July 2024. The Sector Inspector had provided a district wide policing update to key individuals.

66.7 SHDC South Hams Festival 2025 briefing 25 July 2024. Members had attended a remote online briefing to town and parish councils.

66.8 Love Your Park 11 August 2024. A fun day with lots of activities had been enjoyed and the cost had been estimated at circa £6.75 per head.

66.9 DCC/EA/MP/SHDC/SWW/KTC flooding & sewage discharge Meeting September 2024. South West Water gave a presentation on the analysis of their data collected from late 2023 to April 2024, including photographs and video footage, and a related report commissioned from Pell Frischmann was awaited. An independent meeting would subsequently be arranged between DCC, EA and SWW with the intention of working up options to combat the flood risk in town.

66.10 Kingsbridge Show 7 September 2024. The show had been well received with great crowds.

66.11 Tree Wardens meeting 9 September 2024. An informative meeting had been held.

District Cllr Jackson and a member of public left the Chamber

24/67 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 10 September 2024. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £28,374.13 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

24/68 SOCIAL MEDIA

It was noted that requests for information via Instagram did not achieve a good response and a press release should be considered for the Kingsbridge Gazette in order to seek historical information and local residents' stories about the passageways to feed into the proposed art project (agenda item 24/66.1).

24/69 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

24/70 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 8.56 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Mr & Mrs Pollok-Morris had previously briefed the Planning Committee on a concept for a residential development on a greenfield plot of land located between Eastern Backway, Leigham Terrace and Wistaria Place which could utilise an additional small parcel of land, which was not any other parties' ownership, between the site itself and the Eastern Backway footway. They noted that Members were to consider the potential future use of the latter parcel of land at the meeting.

The Chairman replied that SHDC had reported, in response to a pre-application enquiry, that the loss of said parcel of land next to the footway would be unacceptable and had provided the rationale for its position. Effectively the debate for Members was whether council wished to take any action in order to make the space more attractive to encourage public use.

2. Julie Taylor stated that the road to the rugby club adjacent to Lock's Hill (K4/Garden Mill development site) was in an unsatisfactory condition and suggested that it should be monitored.

The Chairman and County Cllr Brazil replied that the route had been inspected next to the privately owned Lock's Hill site and at present there were no known issues.