

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 FEBRUARY 2025

Present: Cllr Paul Vann (Chairman)
Cllr Philip Cole
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Mel Rollinson
Cllr Julie Taylor

In Attendance: Martin Johnson (Secretary)

24/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

Public Open Forum

There were no members of public present.

24/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

24/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2024 which were approved as a correct record.

24/20 FLOODING, SEWAGE DISCHARGES & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

20.1 Recent flooding and/or sewage discharge incidents. There had been no significant incidents however, South West Water (SWW) had deployed tankers in Quay Car Park to relieve pressure on the drainage system during periods of high tides and heavy rainfall e.g. Sunday 23 February 2025. DCC had held online workshops in January for local volunteers involved in the Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP) project which hoped to improve resilience to flooding for communities across the county.

20.2 Review of the flooding roundtable meeting held on 12 February 2025.

Presentation slides from meeting had been requested from the Environment Agency (EA) and were awaited. KTC had been invited to join the EA, Devon County Council (DCC), SWW and South Hams District Council (SHDC) at their next technical meeting which was anticipated to be held mid-March in Exeter.

20.3 Review of the Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan available at: <https://kingsbridge.gov.uk/emergency-plan/> and offer of assistance from the Environment Agency Flood Risk Engagement team. While the plan was up to date it had been influenced by a Devon Communities Together (DCT) emergency planning

workshop held in October 2024 and therefore some minor amendments were required. Members agreed that EA Flood Risk team's input, introduced to KTC at the previous DCT Resilience Forum, was not required at the present time. KTC would not be represented at the next Resilience Forum on 11 March 2025 to be held in Torrington.

20.4 "Slowing The Flow" social media guidance. The guide from the Building Resilience in Communities team at Plymouth City Council had been signposted to KTC at a DCT Resilience Forum held in March 2024 to reduce surface water flood risk. Advice from the guide was being produced via Facebook posts and to date had included: drainpipe gardens, water butts and permeable paving with others in the pipeline. Members agreed that KTC's pamphlet "Flooding in Kingsbridge: What you need to know and do" should also be publicised via social media and on noticeboards.

20.5 Community resilience store and stock of sandbags/FloodSax. The store to the rear of the garage in Quay House grounds was well stocked however, a further 2 tonnes of builders' sand needed to be ordered for storage in Quay House rear courtyard in readiness to make-up more sandbags.

20.6 Review of the high tide timetable for 2025 available at:
<https://kingsbridge.gov.uk/council/high-tide-timetable/> The tide timetable for tides over 5m was available on KTC's website. Large tides were anticipated over the weekend of 1-2 March 2025 and a Facebook post had been programmed to make local residents aware of the potential risk of flooding.

20.7 Surface water drains clearance 29-31 January 2025. Exjet had completed the recent clearance of 69 gullies at identified 'hotspot' locations in town on 29 January and 11 February 2025. Members identified that a roadside gully in Embankment Road near Derby Road did not appear to drain leading to flooding across the highway; the issue would be investigated.

20.8 Scheduled cleaning of sewer pipes in Bridge Street 27-30 May 2025. Overnight road closures had been approved by DCC to enable the cleaning to be actioned.

24/21 ENVIRONMENT

21.1 Review of council's Climate and Nature Emergency (CANE) Action Plan 2023/24 and 2024/25. Members reviewed the Action Plan and noted that several amendments were required. It was **RECOMMENDED** for a small working group to revise the CANE Action Plan as required to include the retention of a listing of completed actions.

21.2 Kingsbridge community EV car/bike hire ambitions. The project had come to a stop due to the lack of available funding and the technical difficulties of introducing a charging point in the town centre. Members suggested that the focus should shift to electric bike hire. The Kingsbridge Area Sustainability Group was working up a "Go Electric Kingsbridge" for Bank Holiday Monday 26 May in the Town Square. The event would display electric vehicles and bikes and hopefully have local EV owners present.

21.3 Kingsbridge thermal imaging camera. The uptake for loaning the camera from Quay House was slow however, feedback was requested from borrowers. Members noted that a 'good news' story and potentially a video was required for promotion in autumn 2025.

21.4 Potential tree planting. It was reported that planting locations were required. It was **RECOMMENDED** to liaise with SHDC to explore planting trees in Cattle Market Car Park similar to Quay Car Park and Tesco.

21.5 Liaison with Kingsbridge Climate Action. The group had launched a Crowd Funding appeal to raise £3,600 to enable the planting of 6,000 trees around the world i.e. one for every person and business in the town.

24/22 TRANSPORT

Members received the following reports on bus services:

- **Coleridge Bus.** Managed by volunteers 4 days per week from Tuesday to Friday and operated one return journey a day from outlying villages to Kingsbridge which needed to be pre-booked.
- **Stagecoach.** Service 3 Plymouth-Kingsbridge and Service 93 Dartmouth-Kingsbridge. Both services were operating to the published timetable. Service MS3 run by Stagecoach on Wednesdays for Marks & Spencer in Dartmouth no longer operated.
- **Tally Ho.** Service 160 circular town route and Service 162 Loddiswell-Kingsbridge-Hope Cove were also operating to the published timetables via 'minibus' type Mercedes vehicles which were proving to be very successful in manoeuvring the narrow lanes. Service 164 Salcombe-Kingsbridge-Totnes i.e. the rail link service continued to be popular with good passenger numbers. There had been some recent alterations in the timetable with 2 services from Salcombe starting 5 minutes earlier to allow them more time to serve the villages en route to Totnes. A late 20.55 service from Totnes no longer operated being replaced by a pre-booked taxi Fare Car F22 operated by Price First Taxis at a flat fare of £3. The last bus from Totnes to Salcombe was now 19.00 and from Totnes to Kingsbridge at 20.05.
- Fare Car F17 was a pre-booked taxi service which operated one journey on Wednesdays.

24/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed in May or June 2025 (in mayoral year 2025/26).

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.