

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE, AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2025

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

In Attendance: District Cllr Susan Jackson
District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
PC Jon Lonsdale
Three Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

25/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anne Balkwill, Martina Edmonds, Mike Jennings, Chris Povey, Julia Wingate and Lorna Yabsley; County Cllr Julian Brazil and Katherine Harrod (Town Clerk desig).

Public Open Forum

Statements from members of public are at Annex A.

25/24 REPORTS FROM POLICE AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

24.1 PC Lonsdale presented a Police report for the period 1 to 30 April 2025. There had been 39 reported crimes in comparison to 27 crimes for the same period in 2024. In particular there had been a significant rise in stalking/harassment but this was probably not a spike but simply that people were reporting such occurrences. The Neighbourhood Team was at full complement of a Sergeant, 3 Constables and a Police Community Support Officer had just started. However, the team were often called out to other areas and he had been in Exeter and Newton Abbot during the previous day. Anti-social behaviour letters regarding some youths had been sent to parents and reports made to the Youth Offending Team. Finally, Members thanked PC Lonsdale for his off-duty actions in assisting a person in Fore Street recently.

24.2 District Cllr Jackson reported that Quayside Leisure Centre was ending its swimming only membership which was a national policy affecting all its leisure centres. However, she was aware that people who used the centre for swimming would now have to pay for a full membership and intended to bring up the matter at South Hams District Council's (SHDC) Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26 June. A new 2 hour tariff would be introduced at the Cattle Market car park shortly to offer leisure centre users greater flexibility. Finally, Cllr O'Callaghan and herself had been liaising with local residents regarding the ongoing residential housing development in Wallingford Road and there was likely to be a site meeting shortly.

24.3 District Cllr O'Callaghan thanked the Kingsbridge Food & Music Festival committee for an excellent weekend. Cllr Brazil had recently stepped down as Leader of SHDC as he had been elected as the leader of Devon County Council (DCC) however, he remained on the Executive with the portfolio for community services. Mr Pallis, who had attended previous council meetings, retained his expression of interest to manage the Recreation Ground café and would produce a business plan shortly. Matthew Hill had recently been appointed as SHDC's new head of service for assets and public space business. The proposal for a pump track (purpose-built track for cycling) was likely to require a Certificate of Lawfulness and an on-site meeting would be arranged shortly. The water pressure at Quayside Leisure Centre had been rectified however, the lift remained out-of-order awaiting new parts. A new changing area for schoolchildren would be installed in readiness for the next school year starting in September and the solar panels would be installed on the roof shortly. Further to Cllr Jackson's comments, the access to the Wallingford Road residential development site was difficult. However, complaints had been received that tractors/trailers removing spoil off-site were leaving debris on the highway in Fosse Road and Wallingford Road. It had been alleged that said vehicles were speeding and commercial/residential walls had been damaged in the locale.

PC Lonsdale and 2 members of public left the meeting

25/25 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

25/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

25/27 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 13 May 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

25/28 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 20 May 2025 and 3 June 2025.

25/29 ANNUAL 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 2024/25 Form 3) for the financial year ending 31 March 2025.

25/30 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Members received and considered the Annual Internal Audit report (IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd's report dated 30 May 2025) and the draft Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 Form 3). It was **RESOLVED** to approve the unaudited Annual Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2025 for despatch to the External Auditor and to confirm the Exercise of Public Rights inspection period as 17 June to 28 July 2025.

25/31 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

31.1 Town Maintenance. There was a backlog of maintenance matters at present: weed control, cemetery/churchyard husbandry, street/parks furniture repairs and repainting, pothole repairs, graffiti cleaning/overpainting, Britton's Field maintenance, footpath and vegetation clearances, and replenishment of dog control signage. A full listing had been posted on the Chamber noticeboard.

31.2 Kingsbridge Community Economic Plan. Around 20 people representing various groups had confirmed their attendance for the following day's KCEP Introduction by Chris Shears and Laura Eames, SHDC Place & Economy, at 6.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

31.3 Waverley Community Garden. The group's application for a seat in Waverley Road (Property & Recreation Committee 29 April 2025 item 23.9) had been Refused by DCC as the area was deemed unsuitable particularly because it would face residential housing opposite. The group had been advised to now proceed with a retrospective application for planters as agreed on site 27 March 2025 between relevant parties (full council meeting 8 April 2025 item 185.7).

31.4 Kingsbridge Trees Around The World. Kingsbridge Climate Action's Crowdfunder project had reached £915.00 which meant that circa 1,500 trees would be planted at remote locations via Ecologi. The sum included a magnificent donation of £610.00 from Josh Tolley, the town's benefactor from Kingsbridge USA. KTC's gratitude had been forwarded to Josh.

31.5 Thank yous. Hearty thanks had been received from a range of organisations which had received grants in May, following Members' consideration at the previous meeting, including the Cookworthy Museum and Kingsbridge Park Tennis Club.

District Cllrs Jackson and O'Callaghan left the meeting

25/32 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

32.1 SHDC/local traders/KTC markets meeting 14 May 2025. A 'bigger and better' weekday market on the Town Square had been supported.

32.2 KTC Members projects meeting 27 May 2025. Notes from the meeting were distributed and suggested projects would be taken into consideration when budget setting for financial year 2026/27 began in November.

32.3 Internal Audit 28 May 2025. The auditor had made 3 observations during his visit to be received at the next Finance Committee meeting on 15 July 2025.

32.4 Kingsbridge Sports Forum site meeting 29 May 2025. The meeting had discussed the potential provision of an artificial turf pitch in Buckland-Tout-Saints.

32.5 Recreation Ground Green Flag Assessment 29 May 2025. SHDC officers, Kingsbridge In Bloom and KTC had hosted the judge and the assessment's outcome was awaited.

32.6 Recreation Ground café site meeting 29 May 2025. SHDC Ward Members, local residents and KTC had held an on-site meeting to discuss the potential re-opening and new lease for the café.

32.7 Kingsbridge Food & Music Festival 30 May to 1 June 2025. The weekend had attracted the largest ever audiences and had been a great success. A warm thank you letter had been received from the Town Mayor.

32.8 Police/KTC liaison meeting 4 June 2025. Notes from a worthwhile meeting were distributed.

32.9 Councillor Advocate remote meeting 6 June 2025. KTC's 11th hour apologies had been provided due to resource issues.

25/33 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 10 June 2025. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £38,741.47 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

25/34 SOCIAL MEDIA

A post would be worked up to identify recent donations received by KTC and the Food & Music Festival.

25/35 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:

None.

25/36 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None.

25/37 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the nature of the business about to be transacted, at agenda item 25/38, it was advisable in the public interest, that the public be temporarily excluded.

A member of public left the meeting

25/38 GRANT

Further to the previous meeting when annual community grants had been considered, it was noted that funds remained in the “Solar Farm – Community Benefit” cost code 270. After discussion, it was then **RESOLVED** to make another grant to Kingsbridge Feoffees for repairs to the Town Hall and clock at £726.00 under Section 137 of the LGA 1972.

25/39 QUOTATION

Members received a quotation for 2 screenings of David Attenborough’s film “Ocean” at the Town Hall for Kingsbridge Community College students. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from Kings Cinema and to delegate the logistics to Cllr Wingate and the Town Clerk for the project to come to fruition.

The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.

..... Presiding Chairman Date

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Public Open Forum

1. Michael Westlake stated that in other areas of the country, e.g. Plymouth, an over 80s enhanced older persons bus pass allowed free travel before 9.30 a.m. however, in Devon the bus pass could only be used from 9.30 a.m. onwards. He had lobbied Caroline Voaden MP and County Cllr Brazil and now sought KTC Members' support for a review to enable free travel throughout the day until the end of services.

Members agreed that KTC should request DCC to review the current bus pass conditions with a view to relax the rules to enable over 80s to travel free throughout the day.

2. Steven Russell, Steve's Taxis, stated that he had health and safety concerns regarding vehicle and pedestrian activity at the Bus Station. Pedestrians constantly walked through the Bus Station rather than walking on the available footway around it. There was only one advisory sign in situ. Also, vehicles regularly drove past the 'no entry' signs into the Bus Station and then parked up in the taxi rank. Therefore, a review of all current signage was required.

SHDC Ward Members agreed to explore potential safety issues at the Bus Station and better signage.