

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 24 JUNE 2025**

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

In Attendance: Katharine Harrod (Town Clerk designate)
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

25/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Vann was elected as the Chairman of the Environment, Transport and Resilience Committee for mayoral year 2025/26.

25/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mel Rollinson.

Public Open Forum

There were no members of public present.

25/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Vann declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 24/21.1.

25/04 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2025 which were approved as a correct record.

25/05 FLOODING, SEWAGE DISCHARGES & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

05.1 Annual review of the Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan. The plan was on KTC's website (redacted version) and paper copies were available in 'grab bags' in the Community Resilience Store within Quay House grounds (full version with personal details). The plan had been reviewed as up to date however, the following were required:

- Personal contact details for the full version needed to be checked for local volunteers/flood wardens and management of the primary evacuation assembly point.
- Review of the Community Emergency Response Team made up largely of Members of the Environment, Transport & Resilience Committee alongside some key local residents.

- A new Annex R3 “Off-grid battery supply contacts” was required for known persons/bodies to be contacted in case of sustained power failure/outages.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to progress minor amendments to the Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan as required.

05.2 Recent flooding and/or sewage discharge incidents. There had been no significant incidents since the previous meeting. However, Bridge Street had flooded recently during torrential rainfall and feedback was awaited from Devon County Council (DCC) Flood Risk and Highways regarding a field buffer scheme to mitigate flooding in Darky Lane and repair to the footpath surface itself which had deep gorges caused by run-off. It was noted that the Blue Print for Rivers project may be able to support the latter.

The latest Kingsbridge Partnership meeting had been held in Exeter on 13 March 2025 with representation from DCC, Environment Agency, KTC, South Hams District Council and South West Water. The next meeting was anticipated shortly (date to be confirmed).

05.3 Feedback on the proposed joint town/parish council letter to South West Water. Acknowledgements had been received from 5 councils and feedback from 2 other councils was awaited. Members considered that full support was not required and KTC should progress matters if feedback was not received shortly.

05.4 Community resilience store and stock of sandbags/FloodSax. The store to the rear of the garage in Quay House grounds continued to be well stocked. A further 35 tubs of cold lay tarmac and a box of joint sealer/tack coat spray had been ordered and was due to be delivered shortly.

25/06 ENVIRONMENT

06.1 A first draft Climate And Nature Emergency (CANE) action plan for 2025-2028. A draft was considered by Members with acknowledgement that it was a work in progress. Several comments were made regarding low carbon energy generation, tackling fuel poverty, low carbon transport, tree planting, other nature protection and actions to date. It was **RECOMMENDED** for comments to date on the CANE Action Plan 2025-2028 to be input into a second draft and for Committee Members to progress it to a final version to be received by full council.

06.2 Feedback on council’s thermal imaging camera hire scheme. Camera hire was zero at present during the summer months however, the scheme would be promoted again later in the year.

06.3 Feedback on Embankment Road Cemetery re-wilding project. The pilot project was going well with several swathes of grass left to grow wild and the grass cut around them to identify the growth was intentional. Several native species were growing and signage at the gates communicated the project to visitors. It was **RECOMMENDED** for a survey of the various species to be actioned and Wild About Kingsbridge would be contacted.

06.4 Water quality testing by South Hams District Council (SHDC), Friends of the Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary and the Blueprint project. Members received a report of ongoing water testing by various bodies. A project in East Allington was highlighted where water quality had been improved in a simple manner. A watercourse which meandered to the estuary had been polluted by cattle and thick layers of silt had appeared. However, the introduction of fencing along a stretch of the water with carefully constructed gravel ramps for the cattle to access the stream had resulted in clear running water again and the silt had been washed away.

06.5 Potential further tree planting in town e.g. Cattle Market car park (including SHDC feedback) and Wallingford Road play space. Members received a comprehensive response from SHDC's Arboricultural Officer to KTC's request for trees to be planted in Cattle Market car park at the 'meeting point' of 4 parking spaces similar to the Tesco car park in town. It was suggested that such a project would require serious consideration of costs, removal of existing tarmac, large pit for the sub soil, planting cell, hydration system, choice of tree and growth of tree roots impacting on the surrounding surface. Seemingly, the success rate of trees in harsh environments was low due to lack of regular watering. Members acknowledged the inherent difficulties of such a scheme and it was then **RECOMMENDED** for a further recce of the car park to be actioned to ascertain if there were other areas in the locale where trees could be planted.

06.6 Liaison with Kingsbridge Climate Action and Wild About Kingsbridge. Liaison with KCA and WAK was ongoing and a Nature Festival was being worked up for 2026.

25/07 TRANSPORT

07.1 Locations for additional 'Sheffield' hoop cycle storage e.g. Skatepark and Bowcombe amenity space. SHDC could supply and install a cycle hoop and Members considered that 2 each were required at the Skatepark and Bowcombe amenity space. It was **RECOMMENDED** to investigate costs for supply and installation of 3 cycle storage stands for the next full council meeting.

07.2 Review of requirement for council managed speed alert and recording signs. Members acknowledged that KTC's vehicle activated signs were time-worn and unworthy of repair. Also the value of said signs had been previously questioned by full council. However, it was suggested that the modern 'smiley face/colourful' speed alert signs which were in operation in surrounding villages did have value and probably alerted motorists to their speed and encouraged them to slow down. Moreover, the data collected by modern signs assisted Police with enforcement. It was further suggested that KTC's request for a 20mph speed limit for the whole town, supported alongside numerous other communities across the county, should be explored. It was **RECOMMENDED** to review the value of modern highways speed alert signs (and to gain quotations if supported) and to request DCC to provide an update on 20mph speed limit areas.

07.3 Electric bike hire scheme for the town and review of projects elsewhere. Members agreed that the success or otherwise of electric bike hire schemes should be closely followed with a view to working up a scheme for Kingsbridge if there appeared to a demand for such a service.

25/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 23 September 2025 (if required).

The meeting closed at 8.13 p.m.