

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE, AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 8th JULY 2025

Present: Cllr Julia Wingate (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
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 Julie Taylor
Cllr Paul Vann
Cllr Lorna Yabsley

In Attendance: District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
Two Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)
Katharine Harrod (Town Clerk)

Cllr Wingate welcomed Kathy Harrod as the new Town Clerk and recognised this as being the last full council meeting for outgoing Clerk Martin Johnson.

25/40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from, District Cllr Susan Jackson and County Cllr Julian Brazil

Public Open Forum

Statements from members of public are at Annex A.

25/41 REPORTS FROM POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

41.1 PCSO Tom Eabry provided a written report for the period 10th June 2025 – 8th July 2025. There were forty-four calls for service made to the police during this time, several of which involved the same individuals which brings the number down. It is anticipated that there will be a rise over the next two months as it gets busier with summer and tourists. It was noted there were approximately ten other issues raised for more minor matters: nine involving youths that committed ASB nuisance and minimal criminal damage which have been investigated and appropriately dealt with.

Crime levels for the area remain low. The police aim to patrol Kingsbridge proportionately and in an engaging manner. They have commenced Policing

Surgeries in Kingsbridge where residents can speak to a Police Officer or PCSO for advice and assistance, the times and locations of these will be advertised by both the Police and Kingsbridge Town Council.

Cllr Vann requested a comparison between the same month for the previous year to allow like for like comparisons due to seasonality.

Cllr Balkwill advised the museum is still fielding non urgent telephone calls for the police.

Cllr Price has recently had cause to email the police regarding doorstep callers, he has received no acknowledgement or response. UK Police and safety organisations advise:

- Not opening the door to anyone you are not expecting.
- Asking for ID and verifying it.
- Displaying a 'No Cold Callers' sign.
- Do not hand over money or personal details.
- If you feel unsafe or threatened ask them to leave and call 999.

41.2 Cllr Denise O'Callaghan gave her thanks to Martin Johnson for all the help and support he has provided over the years and wished him well for the future. The following report was then provided:

- Quayside leisure: The lift is now fixed but unable to be used as it is awaiting inspection. The swim clock needs a new motor which has now been ordered. Swimming arrangements/pricing are currently being reviewed as are the swim memberships - this was also mentioned at a recent Overview and Scrutiny meeting. The water pressure issue was due to a pump problem; this has now been rectified.
Fusion is looking to meet with Kingsbridge Town Council on a regular basis – this was questioned by Members as it is not within their remit or powers, and they have no authority in respect of the facility.
A query was raised about the utilisation of the bowling area and if, in time, it could be an appropriate community hall. There is a current contract in place, this will be reviewed at the proper time when it falls due for renewal.
The sports facility currently has several vacancies across the site to fill, additionally the café remains an issue as there has been little interest in taking on this element of the business although it was noted that if the bowling space were better utilised, the café lease would be more alluring.
A new two-hour parking option is due to be introduced at the Cattle Market car park.
It was suggested that all the above be incorporated into the Kingsbridge Community Economic Plan project that has recently commenced.
- The Development Management Committee are due to review 3094/24/VAR, Application for variation of condition 13 (car park management plan) of planning consent 28/2431/06/O. Cllr O'Callaghan will be speaking at the meeting, as will Cllr Wingate.
- The recent pump track meeting saw a good number of people in attendance. Adam Sherring received 487 responses regarding the proposals, 99.2% being in favour of a pump track and 42% being in support of the preferred site at the recreation ground. A petition with twenty-two signatures has been received, all

of whom are against the installation of a pump track at the Recreation Ground. The SHDC Legal Officer has confirmed that no planning application is required as the project would come under permitted development it was suggested that a Certificate of Lawfulness application be submitted – the decision will be the responsibility of the Development Management Committee.

Residents will be invited to provide input into the design of the project.

- £30,000 of grants have been given out under the Market Traders Grants Scheme to established and startup traders in Kingsbridge and Totnes. This is to allow for essential purchases such as gazebos and card readers. The grants are valuable to bring new trade into the towns and to improve the street market on a Tuesday/Thursday in Kingsbridge. Members requested information regarding the number and amount of the grants.
- A query was raised regarding the previously deferred arts festival, it was confirmed that this is due to be discussed again by South Hams District Council Full Council this month.

Cllr Steve Mammatt entered the room.

25/42 URGENT BUSINESS - None.

25/43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None.

25/44 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 10th June 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

25/45 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 17th June 2025 and 1st July 2025.

It was noted that the resurfacing at Westville has not been completed to an acceptable standard. This was raised with Highways, but their response does not address the issues. This will be followed up again.

25/46 ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT & RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Resolutions in the minutes of the Environment, Transport and Resilience Committee held on 24 June 2025.

September Agenda Item: To consider additional tree planting at the existing orchard to the rear of Wallingford Road.

25/47 PERMITS FOR OFF-STREET CAR PARKS

Councillors considered South Hams District Council's forthcoming review (18th September 2025) of its car parking permits (Business, Peripheral and Town Centre) in Kingsbridge car parks (Quay, Duncombe Park, Cattle Market and Lower Union Road).

The discussion required there to be more joined up thinking regarding parking, to include the maximisation of available spaces and the addition of trees to add shade and enhance the areas without taking away spaces.

Discussion points included:

- Five towns are being reviewed, all have different parking requirements and priorities regarding decision timescales. Salcombe and Dartmouth were considered to have a more pressing need for a decision whereas Kingsbridge need to have a minimum of six months worth of data before consideration can be given.
- Commuter permits should be a consideration.
- Business permits do not seem to be effective judging by the data provided.
- The price increases are pushing people to park on housing estates away from paid parking options.
- Consideration for a park and ride type facility.
- Is the primary objective simply to further increase parking charges with a view to closing their funding gap?
- Why is there no remit for overselling permits?

This is both a critical and passionate issue for those who live, work and trade in the town, it deserves a proper review.

It was **RESOLVED** to request Kingsbridge be withdrawn from the September permit review to enable six months worth of results to be available for review and analysis – this would be available in October. A meeting will be arranged with Emma Widdicombe and Stuart Noyce from South Hams District Council to discuss further.

One member of public left the meeting.

25/48 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

48.1 SHDC Development Management Committee

- Kingsbridge Town Council Recommended Refusal of planning application 3094/24/VAR at the Planning Committee held on 15 October 2024.
- The application will be considered at the Development Management Committee this Thursday 10 July 2025.
- Cllr Wingate will attend as the Kingsbridge Town Council representative to speak against the proposal to reduce the store's car parking duration from 2 to 1.5 hours.

48.2 Glove Hanging Ceremony, Floral Dance and Town Square ceilidh.

- Members have been requested to attend and support KTC's sponsored Fair Week event on Wednesday 23 July 2025.

48.3 South Hams “Rally for Nature”

- Sustainable South Hams is encouraging town and parish councils to help shape a district-wide “Rally for Nature” scheduled for summer 2026. This will be a collaborative initiative with SHDC.
- The project will be introduced at a meeting held 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on Tuesday 15 July 2025 at Follaton House, Totnes.
- Any Member who wishes to attend should inform the Town Clerk.

48.4 Shaping Devon’s Future – An Update

- SHDC has invited town and parish councils to attend an online meeting with Cllr Dan Thomas, Leader, and Andy Bates, Chief Executive, to be held 5.30 to 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday 23 July 2025.
- Any Member who wishes to attend should inform the Town Clerk.

48.5 Grants

- Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas has provided thanks for KTC’s recent grant aid and Reception has now received feedback from all groups who were awarded funding.

48.6 Recreation Ground Public Toilet

- A request was made for Cllr O’Callaghan to press for the opening of the public toilet in café at recreation ground. South Hams District Council Property Manager, Matt Hill has stated this is linked to the café. Councillors do not find it acceptable for users of the Recreation Ground to go without toilet facilities while the café is permanently closed.
- Cllr Brazil is the Lead Executive Member for Community Services & Operations, he will be contacted with an urgent request to add these facilities to the existing opening/closing/cleaning regime.

48.7 David Attenborough’s film “Ocean”

- Kings Cinema will be showing two screenings of “Ocean” to Kingsbridge Community College students next week. Thanks have been received from Mrs Tina Graham, School Principal, for organising and funding this for the pupils.

25/49 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES/AGENCIES

49.1 Kingsbridge Community Economic Plan Steering Group meeting 11th June 2025. The aim of an economic plan is to support existing businesses and community organisations to be as resilient as possible helping to foster local career opportunities, improve marketing for the town, enhance the public realm, improve transport networks and help develop activities and services that encourage the whole community to feel they have a future in Kingsbridge. Twenty-six potential

stakeholders attended the first meeting, this provided an overview of the process which will be led by Chris Shears and Laura Eames from South Hams District Council's Place & Enterprise team. The next meeting is due to take place on 9th July 6-7.30pm Kingsbridge Council Offices.

49.2 SHDC/Residents/Scouts/KTC Pump Track (purpose-built track for cycling) meeting 24th June 2025. Further to the meeting we await a report from South Hams District Council Officer, Rob Sekula.

49.3 Kingsbridge in Bloom Judging (RHS South West competition) 4th July 2025. Judging took place on 4th July, with the judge clearly enjoying the opportunity to meet the team and expressing admiration for their dedication to making Kingsbridge a vibrant and welcoming place. Kingsbridge Town Council is proud to note that the town is looking exceptional, full credit is due to the Kingsbridge in Bloom team for their tireless efforts in enhancing its beauty. The outstanding support from South Hams District Council Grounds Maintenance Team was also gratefully acknowledged.

The next stage of judging will take place on 30th July when Kingsbridge is being considered in the Small-Town category of the RHS National in Bloom Competition.

Cllr O'Callaghan & 1 Member of public left the building.

25/50 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 1st July 2025. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £20,899.72 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

25/51 SOCIAL MEDIA

Details regarding the following would be provided by Members to Cllr Yabsley:

- Skate Jam – 12th July, live music, food, drinks, skate heats & prizes. Sponsored by flatspot.
- Local interest stories – i.e. Community Economic Plan, Town Clock timings.

25/51 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN: None.

25/52 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Balkwill requested feedback regarding the application from Crispin Jones of Waterborn SUP requesting the sale of food and drink from the business. Kingsbridge Town Council have contacted the Ward Councillors for an update and will follow up again in one week.

Cllr Povey took the opportunity to say it has been a joy to work with Martin Johnson, the outgoing Clerk. Martin has always been hugely supportive, efficient and great fun as well as an incredible asset to the town. He will be sorely missed.

Cllr Price raised a concern on behalf of a parishioner regarding the campervan and associated vehicles on the land adjacent to Morrisons. Gas engineers currently have no access to the area for maintenance work, furthermore there are issues with disposal of waste products. The local police are aware. Wales and West have reported the issue to their Regional Operations Manager and are awaiting feedback.

Cllr Yabsley – in respect of the Kingsbridge Passageways Public Arts Project no thoughts or feedback have been received following the issue of the letter to businesses in Fore Street. The next step is to visit the shops and speak to the business owners directly as part of the consultation process. The ultimate outcome is for artwork to be installed at every entranceway subject to permission being obtained from the respective landowners.

Cllr Wingate closed the meeting by expressing what a joy it had been to serve as Mayor alongside Martin, whose steadfast support as Clerk and right-hand man had made the role all the more rewarding. While Martin's departure will be deeply felt, with Kathy stepping forward, there is every reason to look ahead with confidence and optimism.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

..... Presiding ChairmanDate

Annex:

A. Public Open Forum.

Annex A to KTC minutes dated 8th July 2025

Public Open Forum

1. Michael Westlake attended regarding an over 80s enhanced older bus pass allowing free travel before 9.30am. Cllr Brazil has passed the query to the Head of Engineering, Dan Thomas. It was suggested that other Towns and Parishes be contacted with a request that they also raise the matter with their County Councillor representatives, in the meantime Kingsbridge Town Council will continue to apply pressure towards a positive outcome.