

Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC)

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT & RESILIENCE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE, AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2025

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

In Attendance: Katharine Harrod (Town Clerk)
0 Members of public

25/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies were received from Cllr Cole.

Public Open Forum - There were no members of public present.

25/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – No declarations received.

25/11 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2025 which were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25/12 FLOODING, SEWAGE DISCHARGES & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

12.01 Kingsbridge Community Emergency Plan: Some contact details remain outstanding, it was also agreed to add what3words.com references alongside grid references, after which the plan will go to Full Council for approval.

A brief (annual) training session plus associated notes, will be organised for Councillors to detail what is expected of them in the event of an emergency.

12.02 On 29th August, Bridge Street, Duke Street, Ilbert Road, Lower Union Road, Mill Street and Stentiford Hill all suffered floods. The most serious being the flooding along Bridge Street including the King of Prussia public house. The flooding was due to heavy rainfall, the tide at the time was low and therefore did not exacerbate the situation. Sewers could not cope with the volume of water, the leat overflowed and some drains were blocked, all of which led to the levels of flooding experienced.

On 9th September, another heavy rainfall led to drains on Ilbert Road lifting, Eastern Backway flooded and we were advised that Absolute Dental sustained flood damage.

On both occasions, all issues were reported to Devon County Highways.

We await details from Devon County Council regarding their visual inspection of the drainage. Concern was raised in respect of the potential sinkhole on

the Ilbert Road near the yellow bollards where water can occasionally be seen bubbling up through the tarmac. This will be followed up.

The official minutes from the South West Water meeting held on 22nd July remain outstanding. No details have been received regarding the next meeting date which was scheduled to take place prior to Christmas. This will be followed up again.

Due to the leat overflowing again it was **RECOMMENDED** to write a letter to those householders asking them not to put any type of waste in the leat and to ensure hedge trimmings do not fall in when garden maintenance takes place. Cllr Rawstron will deliver the letters.

A query was raised regarding the Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP) The project is running from 2021 until 2027, working with 19 organisations to improve resilience to flooding in 26 communities across Devon. Many of the communities selected would not typically be high priority within the local flood risk management strategy due to the low numbers of properties at risk. In Kingsbridge smart technology cannisters were recording data in various flood zones around the town. Since they have been removed no further update has been received by Kingsbridge Town Council. This will be followed up.

- 12.03 The Community Resilience store has recently suffered a leak which, in turn, has caused part of the flooring to collapse. Repairs are in hand.

At the end of August, two tonnes of sand were delivered, one tonne of which was made into sandbags, the other tonne securely stored to the rear of Quay House.

Following the recent floods, some sandbags have been collected for use, we still have a stock of approximately thirty bags to distribute when needed. A register will be maintained of all those who are provided with sandbags.

- 12.04 It was noted that the South Hams Energy Assembly is due to take place on 18th October 9.30am – 3.30pm at Kingsbridge Community College.

25/13 ENVIRONMENT

- 13.01 A second draft Climate and Nature Emergency (CANE) action plan for 2025-2028 was approved by Members to take to Full Council for adoption. See **APPENDIX A**

Noted that better information is required in respect of the loan and use of the thermal imaging camera. A social media campaign will be created to improve loan take up.

A BLUEprint for Rivers Summit is due to take place at Kingsbridge Community College on 4th October. Full details can be found at: <https://www.blueprint-for-rivers.org/events-1>

13.02 Discussion re glyphosate products: These products are not banned by the British Government. Kingsbridge in Bloom do not use products containing glyphosate around the estuary or in areas of wildlife, preferring instead to hand pull weeds in those areas. The contractor used by Kingsbridge in Bloom and Kingsbridge Town Council is certified to spray chemicals. South Hams District Council and Devon County Council restrict use to particular weeds in specific areas and never in the vicinity of the estuary.
It is the view of the Royal Horticultural Society that providing glyphosate products are used properly, and in a limited manner, this is acceptable.

The view of Kingsbridge Town Council is to continue as is unless there is a mandate to ban use in this country.

Cllr Price will provide details to be used on our social media pages (and letters as appropriate) to detail why reducing use and taking the extra step to protect wildlife and the estuary is so important to the local area.

13.03 It was **RECOMMENDED** to contact South Hams District Council with a request that additional trees be planted at the existing orchard to the rear of Wallingford Road. The preference is for native Devon fruit trees, ten or twelve in number.
NB: ParkLife were previously involved with planting projects in Kingsbridge.

13.04 It was noted that the South Hams Energy Assembly is due to take place on 18th October 9.30am – 3.30pm at Kingsbridge Community College.

13.05 The rewilding areas at Embankment Road Cemetery will be mowed in the next two weeks, left on the ground to seed and the thatch will be collected approximately two weeks later.
Cyclamen is growing around the edges, Cllr Price will speak with our contractor.

Additional works due to take place include the pollarding of a Holm Oak in early 2026. Rabbit/mole management and grass maintenance continues as previously approved.

The Men's Shed are collaborating with us to produce re-wilding signage for the area.

13.06 Following a review of the Cattle Market Car Park it was agreed that additional planting of trees would significantly enhance the area. Initial thoughts are for planting in the hatched areas around the car park and in the vacant triangles to the rear of the bus bays, consideration could also be given to the grass verge at the south side. Cllr Price to finalise the initial plan for further review prior to submission to SHDC.

25/14 **TRANSPORT**

14.01 It was **RECOMMENDED** to approve the two free days of parking in December as Saturday 13th and Saturday 20th.

There was an option to pay for a third day at a cost of £1,520, it was agreed to not to offer a third day of free parking in 2025, preferring instead to consider how to make this a cost neutral option for dates in 2026.

14.02 Members **RECOMMEND** approval of an agreement with South Hams District Council to supply four bicycle hoops subject to the Town Council arranging installation.

14.03 Consideration was given to reduce speeding in the town, this would include, but is not limited to Church Street, Embankment Road, Stentiford Hill and West Alvington Hill.

A 20mph speed limit could be requested of Devon County Council, however, Kingsbridge Town Council would be expected to pay for implementation of any changes.

Speed Indicator Devices (SID's) were discussed, one option would be signage that alternates between showing your speed and a smiley/sad face. Locations would need to be agreed, it would be particularly useful if any new signs could be attached to existing poles/lampposts. Initial investigations have found a suitable machine that is solar powered with battery backup and provides bi-directional traffic statistics available for approximately £2,400 per unit plus VAT.

Our Highways Officer and the local police will be contacted for their recommendations and feedback.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that this proposal be taken to Full Council for further consideration.

14.04 Consideration was given to the timings of operation of the Fore Street Disabled bays and the impact of extending those timings. Current timings are Mon – Sat 8.30am – 6pm 1 hour, no return within 1 hour. Outside of these hours, the priority is the provision of parking areas to be used by the residents of Fore Street, the provision of 24 hour disabled parking would displace those residents who rely on parking in the evening. It was **RECOMMENDED** not to request any adjustment to the existing parking restrictions.

25/15 FINANCE

15.01 Budgetary requirements were discussed for the 26/27 period, initial thoughts include funding for SID's and tree management/planting schemes.

25/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 24th February 2026 (if required).

The meeting closed at 8.26 p.m.

Signed as a true record: _____

Print Name & Date: _____

Distribution List: All current Town Councillors, Kingsbridge Town Council Website.

For Information: e-circulation to: Councillor representatives - South Hams District Council and Devon County Council.

APPENDIX A:



Climate and Nature Emergency (CANE) Action Plan 2025-2028

In declaring a Climate and Nature Emergency in March 2020, Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC) agreed that it should prepare and look to deliver an action plan targeting low carbon energy use including renewables on key buildings, more nature focussed planting of flowers and trees, appropriate planning policy developments, electric vehicle use, promotion of energy saving, local produce and business as well as household action with art action support.

Much progress has been made and this is summarised in Appendix 1 which also includes a degree of looking ahead to 2028 and beyond.

In the light of the above and bearing in mind the experiences of delivery to date, because such things take time, the following is suggested as action that KTC should look to see delivered over the financial years 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28 working with others e.g. DCC, SHDC, KIB, KCA, KASG, SSH, SDCE, WAK and FOSKE as appropriate.

1. Low Carbon Energy Generation and Use

- PV panels on Quayside Leisure Centre's extensive roof area scheduled for, and expected to be delivered in, 2025/26 is supported.
- Encourage KCC to consider/deliver PV on its extensive available roof area.
- Consider KTC's approach to its energy contract beyond the existing 24 month contract's end date of 30 June 2026 with Octopus Energy.
- Promote PV/Heat Pump event(s) in Kingsbridge for area households/businesses working with KCA/KASG.

2. Tackling Fuel Poverty/Energy Use Reduction

- Continue to promote/support local take up of national energy related schemes e.g. to improve home insulation/reduce household energy costs working with others e.g. DCC, SHDC, KCA, SDCE, KASG and SDCE as appropriate.
- Continue to promote KTC's Thermal Imaging Camera hire scheme to households/businesses in order to identify heat loss/cold ingress issues with their properties and look to provide simple guidance on its use.

3. Low Carbon Transport

- Continue to monitor schemes that provide public access to an hourly rentable electric car(s) to increase EV use/experience and provide an alternative to additional, potentially fossil-fuelled, and car purchasing/ ownership.
- Continue to seek delivery of a Kingsbridge-Salcombe off-road footpath/cycle/multi-use track with potential associated electric bike hire facilities at each end.
- Consider how KTC working with others can support the take-up of electric powered boats instead of fossil-fuel powered boats working with SHDC/local suppliers.

4. Tree Planting

- Continue to identify potential for, and enable delivery of, additional trees within and around the town recognising their carbon capture, temperature and flood management, wildlife/nature recovery and visual amenity roles.
- Explore and look to deliver further tree planting at Wallingford Road and Rack Park amenity spaces to enhance the community orchards.
- Explore the introduction of tree planting at Cattle Market Car Park at the intersection of car parking spaces, cross-hatched areas and around the perimeter to provide carbon capture and shade.
- Explore also the introduction of tree planting in fields to the south of Darky Lane to provide carbon capture and act as a buffer strip to aid flood management and limit the town's drainage system impact.

5. Other Nature Protection and Recovery Promotion

- Continue to support groups FOSKE, KCA, KIB, WAK and others with their nature/wildlife supporting projects and promotion of the value of such to households and businesses.
- Identify the potential for additional nature/wildlife recovery across the town e.g. using DCC/SHDC/KTC managed green spaces and through engagement with others in respect of their land e.g. further 'living churchyards' work.
- Monitor the 2 year trial of wildflower/no-mow areas at Embankment Road Cemetery.
- Continue to work with SHDC on a nature friendly re-invention of the pond in the Recreation Ground and its link with the estuary.
- Continue to work with key partners/experts on ensuring the environmental health of the estuary and its special habitats/species (e.g. sea grass, Sargasso eels) through delivering the best possible management of effluent/discharges/litter and supporting the improvement of related habitats.
- Continue engagement with FOSKE and BLUEprint projects in pursuit of a cleaner estuary and its tributary streams.

6. Repair/Share/Re-Use/Other Action

- Support KCA and partners, as appropriate, with their ongoing delivery of the Repair Café and Share Shed operations.
- Recognise as and when the re-use importance (and therefore Climate and Nature value) of charity shops and of other retailers/businesses minimising their own and wider Climate and Nature impacts.

Acronyms:

KTC	Kingsbridge Town Council
DCC	Devon County Council
SHDC	South Hams District Council
KIB	Kingsbridge in Bloom
KCA	Kingsbridge Climate Action
KCC	Kingsbridge Community College
KASG	Kingsbridge Area Sustainability Group
SSH	Sustainable South Hams
SDCE	South Dartmoor Community Energy
WAK	Wild about Kingsbridge
FOSKE	Friends of the Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary

Appendix 1 - Kingsbridge CANE Actions to March 2025

1. Kingsbridge Town Council/South Hams District Council (KTC/SHDC)

- KTC declared a Climate and Nature Emergency in March 2020.
- Community Orchard planting at Rack Park amenity space (37 mixed fruit trees) and Wallingford Road play area (25 mixed fruit trees).
- Tree planting via a successful joint SHDC/KTC Urban Tree Challenge Fund bid at Duncombe Park, Recreation Ground, Embankment Road Cemetery and Trebblepark/Homelands amenity spaces (75 mixed trees in total).
- Public Electric Vehicle Charging Points operational at:
 - Tesco Car Park x 4
 - Quay Car Park x 2
 - Fore Street Car Park x 2
 - Duncombe Street Car Park x 2
 - Lower Union Road Car Park x 2.
- PV on Quayside Leisure Centre scheduled summer 2025.
- Council Offices at Quay House using 100% renewable generated electricity for heating, lighting etc.
- SHDC nature friendly greenspace management, biodiversity action plan etc.
- KTC was the South Hams local council representative for the Bioregional Learning Centre journey June 2024.
- KTC ongoing engagement with South West Water regarding flooding and sewage issues and action required. This is a specific and significant resilience issue for Kingsbridge. Wide ranging action potential to include a major flood mitigation scheme and upstream action.

2. Kingsbridge Climate Action (KCA)

- Design, printing and distribution to all Kingsbridge households of the Greenpeace booklet '101 Ordinary Ways to Make an Extraordinary Difference'.
- Regular Repair Café established (with SHDC financial support).
- Regular Share Shed visits established.
- Distribution of home energy saving support postcards to 300+ lowest energy performance rated dwellings. Designed by KCA/SDCE, printing funded by KTC, delivery by KCA and subsequent support work by SDCE.
- Maintaining a significant Facebook and Instagram presence with 699 and 838 followers respectively in 2025.
- Successful Kingsbridge Nature Festival 2023 during Great Big Green Week and plans for another festival in 2026.
- Production and distribution of the booklet "Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary – Aspects of its Well-Being".
- Kingsbridge Trees Around The World Crowdfunder project enabling the commissioning of the planting of 1,500 trees around the world.

3. Kingsbridge In Bloom (KIB)

- Addressing climate change and enhancing environmental sustainability are at the forefront of the group's planning and horticultural work with a commitment to reduce environmental impact, improve biodiversity and adapt to the changing climate.

- A significant shift towards perennial planting which reduces the need for annual replanting, minimises soil disturbance and enhances carbon capture.
- Key locations are Town Square, Embankment/head of the estuary, Recreation Ground, Fore Street and Duncombe Park.
- All plants are sourced from local nurseries to reduce transportation emissions and support the local green economy. Said nurseries are prioritised that use peat-free compost aligning with sustainable growing practices.
- An increasing number of volunteers grown and propagate plants in their own gardens thereby reducing reliance on commercial sources and promoting community involvement.
- The group has transitioned to using organic fertilisers which avoid chemical run-off and improve soil health.
- Drought resistant species are favoured which require less watering and are more robust in extreme weather conditions.
- Water butts have been installed to capture rainwater at key sites including Recreation Ground, Town Square, 'little train' station and Primrose Railway space.
- Insect hotels have been installed in the Recreation Ground to provide vital shelter for pollinators and other beneficial insects supporting ecosystem health and biodiversity.
- It is planned to replace 'pyramid planters' in the Town Square with larger boxes planted with drought resistant perennials. Additional rainwater butts will be installed at new locations such as Quay House. A new wildflower meadow is planned for Cookworthy Road in partnership with a local nursery.
- Through proactive and practical measures, Kingsbridge In Bloom is proud to be playing a vital role in the town's response to the climate crisis with an approach which combines environmental stewardship, local engagement and long-term planning.
- With initiatives such as insect hotels, drought resistant planting and community propagation the group is creating a greener, more diverse and climate resilient Kingsbridge.

4. Wild About Kingsbridge (WAK)

- Wildflower areas management to the rear of Devon Square (DCC asset) and on grass banks in Quay Car Park and the Recreation Ground (SHDC assets).
- WAK Facebook page which provides very regular news, stories and updates with 969 public group members.

5. Kingsbridge Area Sustainability Group (KASG)

- Successful Kingsbridge Energy Fair 2023.
- Planning for the successful Kingsbridge Go Electric event May 2025.
- Opportunity noted to learn about use of Thermal Imaging Cameras to identify household heat loss/cold ingress issues - on-line training video available.
- Discussion about latest solar PV/battery storage costs and returns on investment (ROIs). South Milton had held an event which generated considerable interest (33 households and farmers attended).
- Clear potential value of hosting a home energy focused event (talks e.g. on options, costs, ROIs, plus time/space for individual discussions) in Kingsbridge.

6. Friends of the Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary (FOSKE)

- Group established in 2024 to monitor and seek improvements to the condition of and access to the estuary (a designated SSSI).
- KTC grant awarded in 2025 to support its monitoring work.

7. BLUEprint Project

- Engagement with this project looking to work with farmers around the Avon, Gara/Slapton Ley and the Salcombe Kingsbridge Estuary to support the reduction in pollution of these water bodies.

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