

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE, AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

**Present:** Cllr Anne Balkwill  
Cllr Philip Cole  
Cllr Martina Edmonds  
Cllr Steve Mammatt  
Cllr Chris Povey  
Cllr Graham Price  
Cllr Mel Rollinson  
Cllr Julie Taylor  
Cllr Paul Vann  
Cllr Julia Wingate (Chairman)

**In Attendance:** District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan  
District Cllr Susie Jackson  
County Cllr Julian Brazil  
One Member of Public  
Katharine Harrod (Town Clerk)

**25/130 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from, Cllrs Jennings, Rawstron & Yabsley.

**Public Open Forum –**

A representative of the Kingsbridge Park Community Tennis Group attended to provide an update on planned improvements to the tennis courts. The CIC is currently operating the courts on an informal basis and while negotiating a lease with South Hams District Council. The District Council has offered £15,000 towards an upgrade, the tennis group also have funds of approximately £15,000. The total cost of resurfacing is £45,000, leaving a funding gap of £15,000. The courts were last resurfaced 16 years ago and are now very worn and slippery.

The Group charges a low annual membership fee of £52 per family and offers coaching on Saturday mornings, summer camps, and “rusty rackets” sessions. The Group is refocusing efforts on securing external grants, including from Sport England. They would welcome support from the Town Council.

Membership stands at approximately 150, in addition to visitors who use the pay-and-play option.

Cllr O'Callaghan confirmed her support.

**25/131 SUMMARY REPORTS: POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL & SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

1. **Police Report received from PCSO Eabry** - No report received.

2. **Devon County Council Report from Cllr Julian Brazil:**

An agreement has now been reached with South West Water regarding the issue of the hole at the bottom of Fore Street. Various licenses must be signed off prior to any works proceeding. Highways are also looking to secure a tanker on standby in the event that the sewage pipe fails.

The issue with signage remains unresolved; the Devon County Council Chief Engineer is liaising with Kingsbridge Town Council and signage is expected soon. Furthermore, the One Network is not currently showing any works scheduled for Kingsbridge and needs updating as a matter of urgency.

Consideration is being given to installing a valve to prevent tidal ingress, enabling work to continue without tide-dependent constraints. This may be beneficial as a permanent measure.

The entire situation involves multiple agencies and is particularly complex.

With regard to the regular flooding issues at the pub on Bridge Street, Devon County Council will fund a structural survey to detail the extent of any damage and works required to protect it from future flooding - they will not cover the costs of mitigation works identified.

It was also noted that Highways have surveyed Ilbert Road (outside Boots) where water is bubbling through the tarmac. Results from this survey have not yet been received.

During the period of the works on Fore Street, the Fore Street Car Park will have a reduction in parking fees. Full details are on the machines and Pay by Phone app.

Slapton Line Update: MP Caroline Voaden is meeting the minister tomorrow. The estimated cost to replace the road is £18m, excluding defences. Work is ongoing to upgrade back roads and increase passing places.

Budget news: The Government confirmed they will cover 95% of the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) deficit. A new SEND paper is expected. As a result of this, Devon County Council's budget position and cashflow has improved significantly and will enable them to provide more flexibility.

The Library Consultation continues; community input is required to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience. This may result in libraries opening for additional hours without a librarian present, giving Libraries Unlimited scope to explore new options.

Additional funding is being directed to Highways and Children's Services. Borrowing will also be used to invest in potholes, ditches and drains. The removal of the parish lengthsman was a short-term saving but has caused long-term issues for parishes.

### **3. South Hams District Council Report:**

- a. Cllr Jackson reported that roads across Devon are saturated following recent weather. She expressed pride in how Kingsbridge has rallied together during a difficult period and hopes the parking fee reduction will help.
- b. There is no update regarding the sports centre; a query was raised about refurbishment of changing rooms, believed to be a Fusion responsibility. On a positive note, it was stated the centre is clean and staff are doing their best. External bins at the sports centre are overflowing. Disabled bays are affected by leaf mulch from nearby trees and require urgent clearance. Cllr Jackson will raise this at a meeting due to take place this week.
- c. Cllr O'Callaghan confirmed that solar panels will be installed on the leisure centre by mid-April. Councillors requested that guttering be cleared and the building exterior cleaned while scaffolding/cherry picker access is available.

d. Consultations:

- Car Parking Reduction – parking permit proposals open until 26 February.
- Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Consultation open until 26 March.

### **THE MEETING CONVENED**

**25/132 URGENT BUSINESS:** None

*Cllrs Brazil, Jackson and one member of public left the meeting.*

**25/133 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None received.

**25/134 BUSINESS TO BE NOTED/DISCUSSED**

1. The Fore Street road works were covered under the County Councillor report. It was confirmed that Kingsbridge Town Council are reviewing the number and locations of public notice warning signs around the town.
2. To question Devon County Council as to when essential works will be undertaken to the many loose paving slabs and brickwork on the pavements around Kingsbridge. It was agreed to carry this item forward by three months.
3. Members discussed the HATOC recommendations for double yellow lines on both sides of Embankment Road and noted that Devon County Council has approved and sealed the Traffic Regulation Order. Following review, it was agreed that no further action is required. It was also noted that the Portaloo previously located on the verge has now been removed.
4. It was **AGREED** that the Committee Members for all committees will remain as is for 2026/27
5. It was **RESOLVED** to support the proposal to add trees to the Cattle Market Car Park.
  - Trees may be available via Rob Sekula at South Hams District Council.
  - An initial discussion with South Hams District Council took place yesterday to introduce the concept.
  - The car park will require new marking to maximise space and revenue.
  - Funding for trees/associated works could come from environmental groups.
  - The proposal aligns with the Pocket Park environmental project, for which plans have already been prepared.
6. Councillors **AGREED** to support Kingsbridge in Bloom's request for a new planter on SHDC-owned land near the Quay Public Toilet, replacing the existing pyramid planter. The boards would match those at the Creeks End bed, and the planter would be similar in style to those along Embankment Road.
7. Members discussed the request to support the addition of dinghy storage on the slipway at the end of Quay Car Park in 2026.
  - A meeting is required to progress the proposal and review detailed plans.
  - Canoes currently stored in the Bowcombe racks are considered dangerous and cluttered. We would not want a similar situation in Kingsbridge.

- If dinghy racking is provided, it must ensure adequate space remains for boat launching. Storage must be fit for purpose, with specific design and no kayaks included.
- The area near the trees is underused and untidy; improvements would enhance the overall appearance.
- Tidal conditions on the slipway must be considered.
- Space for boats on the slipway must be retained.
- Concerns were raised about abandoned boats.

## **25/135 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:**

1. Many people have now heard about the abhorrent racist abuse occurring in Kingsbridge. Kingsbridge Town Council Kingsbridge stand united in condemning it. The individuals responsible for this intimidation do not represent Kingsbridge or the values we hold as a community.  
As is so often the case, some of our work takes place behind the scenes, and we are not able to share confidential information. We want to reassure residents that the Council continues to act responsibly, and in the best interests of the community at all times.  
We encourage residents to stand together and show solidarity with the local business at the centre of this unacceptable behaviour - a business that contributes so much to the life of our town.  
Racism and discrimination have absolutely no place in Kingsbridge. As a community, we must continue to support one another, challenge hatred in all its forms, and uphold the inclusive, welcoming spirit that defines our town.
2. We met again with South Hams District Council Officer Richard Gage regarding the Passageways Project update. Due to the number of sites being listed, the associated costs would have been significant. We are now reviewing our options and the potential areas for moths and murals.
3. Memorial Shelter update, I met with Guy Pedrick from South Hams District Council and discussed the options for improving the look of the Shelter – this would include large planters, internal painting options and a new piece of artwork on the side wall. A draft mock up of the shelter has been provided, we await approval and confirmation of any associated funding that may be forthcoming.
4. Kingsbridge Town Council will be a 'home' for hardcopy papers of the Local Government Review consultation once it has been issued. The papers are anticipated by the end of the week. More details to follow.
5. For the remainder of the year, I will be having regular meetings with Max Ahern the Grounds Maintenance & Public Spaces (Street Scene) Manager for South Hams District Council. Our first meeting, which included Deputies Ian and Andre, was positive and bodes well for the upkeep of the area.
6. We are due to receive information next week regarding how Kingsbridge will benefit from the South Hams District Council Delivery Plan for 2025-2028. We anticipate details of the program of refurbishment due to take place across several Council-owned community assets.

7. Bike stands have been received from South Hams District Council, they are due to be sited at Bowcombe Bridge and at the Skatepark.
8. Town Square Seating Project: The Working Group met with Nick Edmonds & David Wyatt. We are now commencing talks with local metalworkers about seat/fixing design. It is hopeful that improved seating will be on the Town Square in time for Fair Week.
9. The weather has been particularly challenging this year, with prolonged periods of heavy rainfall coinciding with high tides. This has led to more flooding than usual and has required several temporary road closures to safely divert traffic while water levels recede.  
The Kingsbridge Partnership consists of a number of agencies working together to reduce the impact of flooding. Kingsbridge has a long history of flood events, and while we cannot prevent them entirely, we are exploring measures such as improved floodwater holding areas and enhanced, automatically operated road signage to support safer and more efficient responses in future.

## 25/136      **REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AGENCIES**

1. Members received an update on the recent **Kingsbridge Parking Meeting**, which focused on Fore Street Car Park. It was reported that the meeting had been constructive, and a concession of 50p per hour had been agreed. We will continue to promote this via social media including details of the Residents Discount Parking Scheme.
2. **Kingsbridge Partnership Meeting:** It was noted that the void in Fore Street had been discovered on the morning of the meeting. Members agreed that the sooner works can commence, the better. Existing contractors will be used to undertake the repair, with the intention of resolving the issue for the long term. Minutes from the Partnership Meeting are expected to be issued shortly.

Concerns were raised regarding the Highways emergency contact number, which routes to a standard call centre, a councillor reported an eight-minute wait when calling.

Creative Kingsbridge has produced an excellent video demonstrating access to Fore Street for light vehicles.

**Slapton Line:** Members discussed the impact on the Kingsbridge economy, noting a noticeable effect. Cllr Wingate reported speaking with Caroline Voaden MP on Saturday. All updates will be published on Caroline Voaden's website.

3. **Kingsbridge Community Economic Plan:** Work is ongoing to finalise the business consultation questions, with the consultation scheduled for April 2026.
4. **Police Advocate Meeting:** Cllr Taylor attended on 23rd January. Members noted the Police Advocate update (see Paper 1). Councillors were invited to contact Cllr Taylor with any questions they wish to raise with the police.

5. Cllr Price attended the **Kingsbridge Gym Club 40th Anniversary** event. He reported that the group was highly impressive and talented, and praised the volunteers for their commitment. The event was well attended and showcased significant local talent.
6. **Kingsbridge Platt Map:** The exceptionally rare Tudor map of Kingsbridge has been acquired by South West Heritage Trust. The hand-drawn map, dated 1586, will now be held at the Devon Heritage Centre in Exeter. The purchase was supported by a grant of £17,691 from the Friends of the Nations' Libraries, with additional funding from the Friends of Devon Archives. The Cookworthy Museum intends to view it in Exeter and will lobby for it to be loaned to Kingsbridge. A high-resolution copy will also be obtained.

*Cllr O'Callaghan left the meeting.*

### **25/137 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that the Annual Town Meeting would take place on 27<sup>th</sup> and/or 28<sup>th</sup> March at Kingsbridge Library.

### **25/138 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN - None**

### **25/139 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE:**

Members received a schedule of payments; it was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £13,534.50 be approved and signed by the Chairman

<b>Description</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>
QH - Towel Rental	Johnsons Workwear	18.5	3.7	22.2
Electricity - Bandstand	Octopus Energy	18.3	0.92	19.22
Electricity Quay House	Octopus Energy	575.45	115.09	690.54
Christmas Light Repairs	Lamps & Tubes Illuminations Ltd	218.6	43.72	262.32
Grounds Maintenance	Greenspace	50	0	50
Grounds Maintenance	Greenspace	405	0	405
Website - Hosting & Support	Judge's Web Design	95	0	95
Non-domestic Rates	South Hams District Council	280	0	280
Bank Fees	South Hams District Council	8.5	0	8.5
Scribe Monthly Fee	South Hams District Council	109	21.8	130.8
Stationery Office Equipment	Viking Direct	96.96	19.39	116.35
Training course	DALC	35	0	35
QH - Various maintenance	Electric Center	260.93	52.19	313.12
Telephone Charges	Pulse8 Communications Ltd	95.45	19.09	114.54
Refreshments for meeting	Harrod, Mrs. Katharine	9.7	0	9.7
Training course	Society of Local Council Clerks	38.5	7.7	46.2
Training course	Society of Local Council Clerks	77	15.4	92.4
Training course	Society of Local Council Clerks	38.5	7.7	46.2
Training course	Society of Local Council Clerks	38.5	7.7	46.2
Data Protection registration	Information Commissioner	47	0	47
QH - Carpet cleaning	Fine Shine Ltd	170	34	204
QH - Various maintenance	J S Access Services	610	122	732
QH - Various maintenance	Heritage Preservation (South West)	597.62	119.53	717.15
Salary	Teignbridge District Council	4834.38	0	4834.38
Salary	Teignbridge District Council	4096.68	0	4096.68
Salary	Teignbridge District Council	100	20	120
<b>Total:</b>		<b>12924.57</b>	<b>609.93</b>	<b>13534.5</b>

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the following payments (as per the January minutes):

Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
Skate Park Floodlights	Kingsbridge Skatepark	4,463.00	0.00	4,463.00
CCTV - replacement signs	Futureclient Limited	444.00	88.80	532.80
Quay House Maintenance	Mark David Design	598.16	0.00	598.16
Expenses - Bandstand Carols	Mike McInerny	100.00	0.00	100.00
Cemetery - tree assessment	Dart Tree Consultancy	722.00	0.00	722.00
QH - Cleaning	Sally Hawkes Cleaning	266.00	0.00	266.00
CCTV - Annual Contract	Sound & Visual Systems Ltd	361.00	72.20	433.20
Scribe Monthly Fee	Starboard Systems Limited	109.00	21.80	130.80
Scribe Monthly Fee	Starboard Systems Limited	109.00	21.80	130.80
Christmas Lights - transformer	Lamps & Tubes Illuminations	148.00	29.60	177.60
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>7,320.16</b>	<b>234.20</b>	<b>7,554.36</b>

#### **25/140 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 without alteration. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

#### **25/141 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Finance Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 were received. It was **RESOLVED** to endorse the recommendations therein.

#### **25/142 ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT & RESILIENCE COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Environment, Transport & Resilience Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> January were received. It was **RESOLVED** to endorse the recommendations therein.

A short discussion took place regarding resilience. Social media reminders will be issued to detail how vulnerable people need to register with their utility companies, plus ensuring you have a grab bag in the event of an emergency as well as requests asking people to consider being 'guardian angels' for the roads they live on.

#### **25/143 MEETING CLOSURE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**Date of next meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

*The meeting closed at 20.42 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.