

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE, AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 10th MARCH 2026

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

In Attendance: District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
Two Members of Public
PC Sam McGregor
Katharine Harrod (Town Clerk)

25/144 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from, Cllrs Cole, Jennings, Rawstron, Rollinson, Yabsley, District Councillor Jackson & Devon County Councillor Brazil.

Public Open Forum –

- A resident again raised concerns about the chain across the privately owned Kingsbridge Town Council car park behind Quay House. He also raised issues with illegal parking at the taxi ranks. Clearer signage is required at the taxi ranks once they are reinstated at the bus station.
- A question was raised regarding the age and effectiveness of the CCTV system in town. It was confirmed that elements of it have recently been upgraded and it is due to have further upgrades in the 2026-27 financial year. Every annual budget includes funding to ensure the system is operative and effective. The local police confirmed the quality is good and footage has been of use to them in numerous enquiries.

25/145 SUMMARY REPORTS: POLICE, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL & SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

1. Police Report received from PC McGregor – see Appendix A

A question was raised re the 'meet a cop' sessions being held in the local area. It was confirmed that information received has been useful and varied.

A question was raised regarding illegal electric bikes in the area. The bikes haven't been seen in the vicinity for some time. As the weather improves it is anticipated that the bikes will be on the road more regularly – the police have the authority to seize any illegal bikes.

It was noted vehicles using Embankment Road, particularly over weekends, are regularly travelling at dangerous speeds. Residents are asked to submit reports to include times/dates of the issues.

All issues in the area must be reported to the Police to ensure they are aware of issues, by reporting all problems, trends can be identified, this enables the local teams to operate more effectively.

2. **Devon County Council Report from Cllr Julian Brazil:** No report received.

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

- a. Cllr O’Callaghan confirmed that she has reported issues with the taxi rank to the officers.
- b. The signage showing shops are open for business was commended.
- c. Councillors raised concerns re incorrect access to Bridge Street – this has been raised with Devon County Council.

A member of public left the meeting.

- d. Reminder - there are some parking concessions from SHDC at the Fore Street Car Park, a 50p reduction per hour. New prices are shown on the ticket machine and the Pay by Phone app.
- e. Ropewalk site – government funding of £117,000 has been secured, largely towards demolition of the existing site structures. Some preparatory work has already been undertaken.
- f. SHDC has taken over ten flats on Westville to use for much-needed temporary accommodation, the refurbishment of them has now been completed and we expect them to start being occupied soon. It was noted that a grant of £700,000 has been received from government towards temporary accommodation in the area.

A question was raised as to why the taxi rank was moved to the free parking area on Embankment Road rather than on the South Hams owned Quay Car Park. Kingsbridge Town Council will discuss this with South Hams District Council officers, focusing on a public safety aspect.

Regarding issues at the sports centre, the Town Clerk was able to confirm having met with one of the managers. Various issues were raised by both parties and it was agreed to meet regularly over coming months. Cllr Edmonds thanked South Hams District Council for attending to the bins at the sport centre.

THE MEETING CONVENED

25/146 URGENT BUSINESS: None

25/147 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Mammatt declared an interest in items 25/148.2 and 25/148.3. The Councillor withdrew from these discussions and did not take part in the vote.

25/148 BUSINESS TO BE NOTED/DISCUSSED

1. Fore Street Culvert Works Update: The new manhole being built in the taxi rank is almost finished. This is needed to receive the pumped culvert water while they are working on the culvert further ‘up stream.’

Tuesday (10th March) saw the craning in of the pumping chamber that weighs 3 tonnes being put into place. This took additional space at the bus station during the early afternoon, but busses were able to operate as normal.

This week we will also have teams using GPR – Ground Penetrating Radar – to map out the complex routes of the fibreoptics, sewage pipes and services that the culvert.

Following this, 12" pipes, 3 or 4 generators and pumps will divert the water flow so work can begin on the culvert. Diesel generators will run during the day and then switch to quieter electric battery supply overnight.

Three-way traffic lights will be needed to allow the pipes to take the water to the taxi rank and allow excavations to begin.

Short delays to journeys will be inevitable. We request that everyone please show kindness and courtesy while the workforce help put our town back together.

The Mayor and Town Clerk walked around town with the Chief Engineer earlier today, sharing local knowledge and receiving an update on the works and how they are planned to proceed. Timescales remain at 9-12 weeks subject to no major snagging works being required.

It is imperative that people realise these works are being undertaken in connection with the stream water coming down the valley NOT the sewage pipe or surface water drainage which are both a South West Water issue. During high tides or heavy storms there will still be flooding in the town.

If residents see sewage coming out of the drains it must be reported. Both Mill Street and Bridge Street regularly experience sewage discharges. Kingsbridge Town Council can then follow up by asking for a clean-up team to attend.

Sewage discharges should be reported online to <https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/household/help-support/report-a-problem/pollutions/report-a-pollution>

For environmental contamination (estuary, rivers, beaches), call the Environment Agency at 0800 80 70 60 (24/7).

For both South West Water and Environment Agency reports, make sure you:

- Make a note of what you saw including what it looked like and how it smelled.
- Make a note of the date and time you saw the pollution.
- Record where you saw it. Using What Three Words can be useful for an accurate location.
- Take a photo or film the pollution so that those investigating can see what the pollution looks like.

Thanks were given for the improved communications being issued via the Facebook social media with details of the works being undertaken in Kingsbridge. It was confirmed that Kingsbridge Town Council will continue to provide updates, including technical details and photos where possible, throughout the course of the works.

2. It was **RESOLVED** to approve .gov.uk email addresses for every councillor.
3. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a minor variation to the bandstand premises licence at a cost of £89 to incorporate a three-hour extension for the annual Food & Music Festival – i.e. allowing this event to have the same terms of use as Fair Week currently enjoys.
4. South Hams District Council have requested Towns and Parishes submit expressions of interest regarding assets that they would be prepared to take ownership of. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a working party consisting of the Chairmen of each committee, to review each asset before providing recommendations at the April meeting.

One member of public & PC McGregor left the meeting.

5. It was **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to draft official responses in respect of each proposal for local government reorganisation in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay taking into account the below questions.
 - Question 1: Do the proposals meet the Government's criteria for local government reorganisation including appropriate size, efficiency and financial sustainability?
 - Question 2: Do the proposals support local identity and community cohesion?
 - Question 3: Do the proposals provide strong democratic accountability and accessible governance structures?
 - Question 4: Will the proposals improve service delivery and integration across areas such as social care, highways, planning and housing?
 - Question 5: Are the proposals financially sustainable including transition costs and council tax implications?
 - Question 6: Are there any other matters the Government should consider in assessing these proposals?

25/149 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Appendix B

It was **AGREED** to take the Town Clerk's report as read.

Cllr Vann raised a question regarding funding for the Tennis Club, it was confirmed the Officers dealing with the Kingsbridge Community Economic Plan are investigating potential funding streams.

25/150 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AGENCIES

1. **Kingsbridge Community Economic Plan:** Work is ongoing to finalise the resident's consultation questions, with the consultation now scheduled for May 2026.
2. **Police Advocate Meeting:** Councillors were invited to contact Cllr Taylor with any questions they wish to raise with the police. **Appendix C**
3. **Slapton Line Partnership:**

The Slapton Line Partnership met on 20th February, this was a meeting of authorities, organisations, Town & Parish Councils to discuss actions taken since the A379 was severely storm damaged adjacent to Slapton Ley. **Appendix D**

There is also a Start Bay Business Forum who met last week. They are requesting assistance with signage to ensure that residents and visitors know that businesses in the area remain open and accessible.

Kingsbridge Town Council have already requested that Devon County Council improve signage re the Slapton Line closure as the current signs displayed in Kingsbridge are contradictory and confusing.

4. Monitoring Water Quality:

Salcombe Kingsbridge Estuary is now monitoring water quality and is operational 24 hours per day. The monitoring site is from one of the pontoons in Salcombe. Data is not currently accessible by the public. The monitoring covers various characteristics of the water.

It was noted the Safer Seas and Rivers Service (iPhone app) provides up to date pollution information regarding over 450 locations in the UK.

Cllr Vann will advise when the next sewage data release is available.

Cllr O'Callaghan left the meeting.

5. 6th March Emergency Planning Meeting re Gas Outage:

Further to the gas outage in January, a meeting took place in Malborough Village Hall between Wales & West Utilities, South Hams District Council, Devon County Council, Devon, Cornwall & Isles Scilly Local Resilience Forum, Devon Communities Together and local Town/Parish Clerks and Councillors.

Councillors were surprised to learn medium pressure gas mains are not marked anywhere – the pipe that fractured was a medium pressure pipe. Furthermore, when the main fractured, contractors who arrived did not know where the isolation valve was and no bypass was in place to enable the supply to continue while the fractured pipe was fixed. No bypass will be considered until after 2029 when the program to replace all gas lines has been completed.

During the outage it became apparent that there was no full list of vulnerable people in the area, nor was there a listing of properties with a gas supply. It was particularly difficult to access all properties, this in part due to the high number of holiday homes/second homes in the Salcombe area. Even now, there are still over 200 properties in Salcombe needing to be reconnected.

At the meeting it was clear that local councils felt South Hams District Council provided a sub-standard response to the outage and had not communicated with Towns and Parishes effectively. The District Council representative confirmed that they could have done better – yet still excluded Town Councils from their briefing to review their actions during the outage.

From a Kingsbridge Town Council perspective, we will be reassessing our emergency plan in light of our experiences – although it was noted that the plan was able to be put into operation and was effective during the outage. We need to promote the priority registers of utility companies to ensure vulnerable people

are better able to be identified and we need to work with other local towns and parishes to ensure that in the event of any further incidents we can again react with efficiency and speed.

The issues with the gas raised the importance of local knowledge, knowing where our services are, where the leats run etc. We have a list of voluntary services and those with essential equipment, this will be improved upon.

All present remained extremely impressed with the service provided by Wales & West Utilities and by the number of contractors who they seconded to the area within a short timescale. Councillors were also highly supportive of Rod Birtles, the Devon Communities Together, Operations & Project Manager.

Finally, Councillors commended the Town Clerk for her input at the meeting to highlight the problems experienced by Town and Parish Councils due to lack of communications from South Hams District Council and Devon County Council.

25/151 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

25/152 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN – None

25/153 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE:

Members received a schedule of payments; Councillors **RESOLVED** the ratification of payments re voucher numbers 370 – 378 and **RESOLVED** that the payments for voucher numbers 379 – 391 be approved.

Following the change of banking arrangements, it was **RESOLVED** to set up relevant direct debits for monthly suppliers and contractors effective March 2026.

Kingsbridge Town Council March 2026 Payments					
Voucher	Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
370	Allotments - Lease	VMS & MJ Goodlad Farm & E	155.00		155.00
371	Canva Pro	Brock, Mrs Charlotte	100.00		100.00
372	Telephone Charges	Pulse8 Communications Ltd	95.45	19.09	114.54
373	QH - Cleaning	Hawkes, S A	245.00		245.00
374	Electricity Quay House	Octopus Energy	1,112.83	222.57	1,335.40
375	Electricity - Garage	Octopus Energy	19.16	0.96	20.12
376	Electricity Quay House	Octopus Energy	95.38	4.77	100.15
377	Electricity - Bandstand	Octopus Energy	18.30	0.92	19.22
378	Bank Fees	Unity Trust Bank	6.00		6.00
		Total:	1,847.12	248.31	2,095.43
Voucher	Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
379	Salary	Teignbridge District Council	5384.84		5384.84
379	Salary	Teignbridge District Council	2046.81		2046.81
379	Salary	Teignbridge District Council	1977.65		1977.65
380	Scribe Monthly Fee	Starboard Systems Limited	109	21.8	130.8
381	Bank Fees	Barclays	8.5		8.5
382	Bank Fees	Unity Trust Bank	10.15		10.15
383	QH - Cleaning	Hawkes, S A	305		305
384	Grounds Maintenance Contract	Greenspace	50		50
384	Grounds Maintenance Contract	Greenspace	405		405
385	Various open space works/maintenanc	Greenspace	237.6		237.6
385	Various open space works/maintenanc	Greenspace	60		60
385	Various open space works/maintenanc	Greenspace	162.4		162.4
385	Various open space works/maintenanc	Greenspace	577.2		577.2
386	CCTV - replacement hard drive	Sound & Visual Systems Limit	1460.16	292.03	1752.19
387	Town marketing strategy	Visit South Devon	250	50	300
388	Highways grass verge cut & weed spr	South Hams District Council	4158	831.6	4989.6
389	Bunting	Hampshire Flag Company	900.9	180.18	1081.08
390	Annual Town Meeting Expenses	Harrod, Mrs. Katharine	58.8		58.8
390	Annual Town Meeting Expenses	Harrod, Mrs. Katharine	1.25		1.25
391	Expenses - Postage	Gomm, Mrs Ann	6		6
391	Expenses - Postage	Gomm, Mrs Ann	6.96		6.96
		Total:	18176.22	1375.6	19551.83

25/154 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10th February 2026 without alteration. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

25/155 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Finance Committee held on 3rd March 2026 were received. It was **RESOLVED** to endorse the recommendations therein.

25/156 PROPERTY & RECREATION COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Property & Recreation Committee held on 24th February were received. It was **RESOLVED** to endorse the recommendations therein.

A request was made for a green energy provider to be considered when looking to change the current provider.

25/157 MEETING CLOSURE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Date of next meeting: 14th April 2026

The meeting closed at 20.44 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

Devon & Cornwall Police

Kingsbridge & Salcombe Neighbourhood Policing Team

February – March 2026 Kingsbridge

The following report focusses on the period of 1st February to 9th March 2026 and is for the neighbourhood beat area of Kingsbridge town. It does not contain figures for the wider patrol patch from Modbury to Torre Cross.

For the location and period of time there have been a total of 35 recorded crimes. These were recorded in a mixture of ways including proactive police patrols, operations, responding to 999 calls and directly from 101 contact. As well as the 35 recorded crimes, further Police occurrences have been generated for licensing activities, firearms checks and vehicle related offences.

One report was for a historic sexual offence, which was disclosed as part of an ongoing investigation into harassment. Several incidences around stalking, assault and public order are attributed to one male who has been a priority for policing over the past few months. 5 of the crimes were generated off the back of a Pubs against Drugs operation within the town.

For the same period from 1st January to the 9th February 2026 there were 11 occurrences recorded. Although this seems a large increase, many of these were generated by an operation, proactive policing and by one priority male.

Over the past month the neighbourhood team have engaged with the local Scouts, supported visits to the local area by the local MP, run community engagement events and visited the local secondary school.

A joint operation entitled Pubs Against Drugs, encompassing multiple Police teams (neighbourhood, special constabulary, neighbourhood support team, Police licensing and dogs) and the local authority was executed on the 28th February 2026. This was an operation targeting drug use and supply within local pubs. The aim of the operation is for a highly visible presence within the town targeting drug supply and possession in pubs through the use of a trained dog and Police stop search powers. The outcome of this was 7 stop searches at the first pub, with 4 possession offences being recorded and 1 possession with intent to supply. Due to this initial success resources had to redeploy to investigate the more serious possession with intent to supply offence. However, another event is in the planning stages.

PC 8327 McGREGOR

APPENDIX B

Kingsbridge Town Clerks Report, 10th March 2026

1. The Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas AGM is due to take place on 23rd March 5.30pm at the Crabshell, Kingsbridge. All are encouraged to attend – particularly if you are able to volunteer some time towards making this event a continued success.
2. A meeting was recently held with Jo Butler, General Manager of Visit South Devon. This was an incredibly informative meeting and we have already commenced a project to encourage more visitors to the area via bus tours. In addition, Jo has shared some of her experiences and expertise with the Information Centre. We look forward to improving the ways in which the town is marketed and to working in closer conjunction with both the Information Centre and South Hams Chamber of Commerce.
3. The Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette team visited the office on 3rd March, we will be providing them with a fortnightly article from Kingsbridge Town Council. Additionally, we will meet quarterly and work together to ensure all pertinent information is shared to help to inform all members of the community of projects/developments in the local area.
4. There is a Resilience Event taking place at Malborough Village Hall on 6th March, five councillors and the clerk are due to be in attendance.
5. The Mayor and Clerk have been invited to a Youth Council meeting 18th March, feedback will be provided at a later meeting.
6. A February Clerks meeting was held online to consider Resilience, LGR and other issues such as streamlining between the towns.
7. I attended a meeting at Follaton House to receive and update on potential 3G football pitch in the area. Further updates to follow.
8. There was a meeting regarding asset refurbishment with Wayne Babey and Emma Widdicombe from South Hams District Council. Both public toilets are due to be refurbished, also a program of bin/bench replacement is due to take place.
9. The Rotary/Kingsbridge in Bloom seating project for the end of quay is now awaiting South Hams District Council approval.
10. The Memorial Shelter upgrade is also awaiting South Hams approval.
11. We await a response from Devon County Council re some of the costings and connectivity issues regarding CCTV installation on Fore Street.
12. Security locks codes have been changed on both the garage and the bandstand box. Codes will be changed more frequently in future to ensure our assets are protected as far as possible.
13. The pump track project is progressing, an initial design has been received, we are now due to meet with the successful tender to discuss some of the aspects of the plan.
14. Nominations are now open for the 2026 Community Champions, forms can be completed online or hard copies are available from the Town Council offices. Nomination deadline is 31st March 2026.
15. Grant funding is available for local clubs, groups and organisations involved in recreational, social or cultural pursuits within the community. Bids are now invited for the Financial Year 2026 – 2027. Application forms and full details can be obtained from the Council Offices or by downloading from our website. The deadline for applications is noon on Friday 17th April. Successful grants will be distributed mid-May.

APPENDIX C

Police Advocate Meeting – Tuesday 24 February 2026 Summary of updates, crime trends and discussion points

Recent Crime Updates (Dec 2025 – Feb 2026)

- **Shoplifting:** Incidents: 13 (Dec), 21 (Jan), 10 (Feb) - 41% reduction compared with Feb last year.
- **Kingsbridge Young Offender:**
Enhanced focus led to two major investigations, arrests and remands. The individual was sentenced in February to 12-month Detention and Training Order (six months to serve).
- **Salcombe Young Offender:**
Complex case managed by Neighbourhood Police Team with Performance Assessment Unit support. The individual was arrested for multiple offences in Salcombe and beyond South Hams. Initially remanded to London Local Authority care; now remanded awaiting hearing.
- **Crime Volumes:**
Overall crime - Feb: 334, Jan: 384, Dec: 249
Theft - 140% increase, largely due to Operation Ferryhill (parcel thefts).
Arrest Rates (Jan 2026): Domestic Abuse: 52.4%, Rape and Serious Sexual Offences: 69.2%, Stalking: 38.3%
- **Crimes by Area (Jan 2026):**
Kingsbridge/Salcombe: 119 (up from 61; 95% increase)
Kingsbridge Town - 22 crimes (Dec) → 46 (Jan) – Theft/young offender account for most offences.
Rural Kingsbridge - 29 Dec, 48 Jan - 30 thefts linked to Operation Ferryhill.
- **Operational Updates:**
Engagement events have been taking place; more dates on police website.
Operation Ferryhill: Ongoing parcel theft investigation (Evri series).
Drug warrants and house closures continue.
- **Meeting Discussion Points:**
Request made for police reports at full council meetings (2nd Tuesday monthly, 6.30pm).
Rogue traders continue to operate in the area targeting vulnerable people. Public are encouraged to report concerns so safeguarding checks can be made.
Drug enforcement continues, this is intelligence-led, potential use of dogs around pubs in summer.
PADS (Pubs Against Drugs) surveillance and covert work on violence against women and girls.
Torcross protest monitored; individuals visited; support and monitoring in place.

Public intelligence remains essential.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 31 March at 13:00