

**MINUTES OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE, AT 6.30 P.M.
TUESDAY 4th AUGUST 2026**

Present:

Cllrs: Anne Balkwill, Helen Cheetham, Philip Cole, Martina Edmonds, Mike Jennings, Steve Mammatt, Alex McCormick, Chris Povey, Graham Price (chairman), Julie Taylor, Julia Wingate.

In Attendance:

District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
Devon County Cllr Julian Brazil.
12 Members of Public
Katharine Harrod (Town Clerk)

26/63 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Vann

Cllr Wingate welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

Public Open Forum

- a. Director of Kingsbridge Tourist Information Centre: The Director confirmed she has been on the Kingsbridge Community Economic Plan steering committee for the last twelve months. In February/March Kingsbridge Town Council was alerted that the Information Centre was financially stretched and may have to close. At the May Full Council meeting, their manager attended and also raised it with the council. Funding was requested in April for a promotional video for the Information Centre, this was turned down. It was noted that Directors are volunteers and work hard to keep the doors open. There was a lack of understanding why Kingsbridge Town Council would create a company to publicise the town when there is already a platform in existence which could be expanded to meet all requirements. Last month the Information Centre had 536,000 engagements via Facebook, why wouldn't Kingsbridge Town Council use this?
- It was stated that the council cannot support a limited company in which case they could have employed the TIC to achieve those goals.
 - Where is the funding for tote bags coming from and why could this funding not have been used for a promotional video for the IC. As an aside, tote bags are not what the public want.
 - Where is the funding coming from for a part-time Marketing Officer, why can't those funds be pledged to the Information Centre so they can employ extra help, improve their systems and achieve what Kingsbridge Town Council want to achieve.
 - A query was made regarding the Project Officer role, how it was funded and advertised.
 - It was stated that it had been understood that the Love Kingsbridge logo was no longer going to be used in favour of using the Hello Kingsbridge logo.

- None of the IC team have been included in any discussions re the content of this agenda.
 - £1,700 is insufficient to provide a website, however, this money would allow the Information Centre to expand and do what you required.
- b. A resident expressed surprised about a proposed alteration to the logo. The resident also felt that the tote bag proposal was not appropriate.
Traffic and speeds in Kingsbridge are a concern. Fore Street has a 20mph limit and speed humps going up but there is nothing coming down from the top of Fore Street. Similarly, Ilbert Road should be 20mph, vehicles are regularly accelerating along Ilbert Road and onto West Alvington Hill or Cookworthy Road. It was noted that there is no speed watch group in the town.
- c. Vice Chair of Chamber of Commerce: In town we have the Information Centre, Chamber of Commerce and Southhams.com. The Chamber have a history of giving out grants and continue to support businesses via grants - in addition they currently have ringfenced funds from six years ago which have not been spent. The funding for the proposed website is insufficient and there is no information as to what the website is for. There are facilities already in place that could be utilised.
- d. Local businessman – noted the emergency plan is out of date and requires attention. Kingsbridge Town Council could be housebuilders but are not – support is needed for housing for local people. Concerns were noted that these proposals with no clear benefit could take away a job. The Information Centre has been trading for decades.

26/64 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

1. Cllr Wingate declared an interest in agenda items 26/65 a, b, c, d, e and f - as the current owner of the Love Kingsbridge domain name and current manager of the Love Kingsbridge logo and social media. Cllr Wingate remained in the room to answer any questions raised. Cllr Wingate did not take part in the voting for these agenda items.

At this point in the meeting Cllr Wingate handed the Chairmanship of the remainder of the meeting to Cllr Price, Deputy Mayor.

2. Cllr Mammatt declared an interest in agenda items 26/65a, b, c, d, e and f - as a director of the TIC, he remained in the room and took part in the voting.
3. No further declarations of interest were received.

26/65 BUSINESS TO BE NOTED/DISCUSSED:

1. Cllr Price read through the agenda items due to be discussed.

Cllr Balkwill, referred to the briefing document received, advised that it was not considered within the remit of the council and immediately proposed suspending all items other than item 'g', this was seconded by Cllr Edmonds.

A discussion then took place during which the following points were raised:

- i. We have an Information Centre, Chamber of Commerce and other organisations locally, we need to defer the agenda items, speak with those organisations and cohesively come together for the benefit of the town.
- ii. Destination Kingsbridge was a group that disbanded some years ago, it had a format known for achieving positive outcomes for the town. Could this or something similar be considered?
- iii. The interactive mapping facility including town trails, has been paid for by South Hams District Council, it does not require a new website and could be integrated on an existing site.
- iv. The language of the agenda was unhelpful by stating 'approve' rather than 'consider'.
- v. The passion and willingness of those in attendance to promote all kingsbridge has to offer was noted. We need to use that passion and drive to work together to ensure that Kingsbridge is a great town to live/work/play in.
- vi. While there was no appetite to do anything with the Love Kingsbridge logo, it was noted this logo introduces 'eat, shop, explore'. There was also no appetite for tote bags.
- vii. It was confirmed that the Town Council logo mock ups were undertaken in house at minimal cost and no funds have been spent on outside agencies.
- viii. With regard to the reopening of Fore Street following the completion of the culvert works a request was made for additional free parking to support the town.
- ix. Kingsbridge Town Council will review the proposed expenditure and how those funds could be better spent for the town.
- x. The Council await the outcome of the Kingsbridge Community Economic Plan.

Cllr Price summarised the conversation by stating that the passion from individuals in the town makes it clear that we all want Kingsbridge to survive as a year round location. Following these conversations we need to think carefully about how we move forward and make sure we come together to cover every aspect of the town – including activities, organisations, parks and the sports centre. It is essential that we as a council, digest the content of this meeting, and move forward in a mutually beneficial manner for all concerned.

DCC Cllr Brazil commented that the Town Council has done a good job over the last decade, and while it is unfortunate that we have arrived in this position, we now have an opportunity to come together and promote Kingsbridge. He noted that our strength lies in the independent shops that give the town its character - including the shop his wife runs - which make all the difference when comparing Kingsbridge to other towns. With the road reopening next week, he stressed the importance of carrying the energy from this meeting forward to drive something positive for the community.

Cllr Balkwill proposed suspending items 1a, b, c, d, e and f (shown below). This was seconded by Cllr Edmonds and approved unanimously by all Kingsbridge Town Councillors.

- a) To approve a change to the existing Kingsbridge Town Council logo.
- b) To approve 1. A new community website and interactive mapping facility and 2. Agree reimbursement of a domain renewal fee. Total costs £1,700
- c) To approve a new Community Interest Company to act as a centralised hub for all matters relating to Kingsbridge. This being for the benefit of Kingsbridge, to align with a long term marketing strategy and dovetail with aspects of the Kingsbridge Community Economic Plan.
- d) To approve a new bank account for the Community Interest Company.
- e) To approve financial support from Kingsbridge Town Council to the Community Interest Company to the sum of £1,000 once a new bank account is in place.
- f) To approve the purchase of 1,000 branded tote bags.
- g) To support the addition of four market stalls in the town by South Hams District Council, consider where to site them and any requirements associated with those sites.

During discussion the following was noted:

- i. This project came from an initiative that South Hams District Council are implementing in Ivybridge.
- ii. South Hams District Council consider if they were able to offer a better quality of stall, the offering would improve the market and associated footfall.
- iii. If stalls were added to the top of Fore Street Car Park, they would reduce the disabled spaces available. It would also remove the opportunity for Kingsbridge Town Council to consider the addition of a pocket park at this location.
- iv. A number of properties at the top of town have rights of way access, to change this to a potential one-way access could prove very costly.
- v. Concerns were raised allowing units at the top of town, likely to be food and drink orientated, allowing them to compete with bricks and mortar-based businesses. It would be a subsidised point of business in direct competition with those paying full rates.
- vi. A request was made for improved signage at Fore Street Car Park – visible ‘Give Way’ signage.
- vii. The South Hams District Council preference would be for these to be sited at the bottom of town within the Quay Car Park.
- viii. It was noted there used to be better markets on the Town Square, including specialist markets. There also used to be a weekly auction.

Cllr Povey proposed that Kingsbridge Town Council do not accept the structures proposed, instead we discuss ongoing support and engage with South Hams District Council regarding the market and the use of those funds to support the market. This was seconded by Cllr Edmonds and approved unanimously.

26/66 MEETING CLOSURE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Date of next meeting: 8th September 2026

Cllr Price asked for any further comments, a local trader stated the Information Centre was a powerhouse but questioned if the existing setup was problematic, could it be changed to Community Interest Company or similar to enable it to be more integrated and easier to support.

Prior to the closure of the meeting, Cllr Wingate confirmed there would be a road opening event, the ceremony can't delay the physical opening of the road but we do need an event that can be promoted. It was confirmed that South Hams District Council will be contacted regarding the provision of free parking for the reopening. The Chairman of the South Hams Chamber of Commerce suggested that the monies ringfenced in the Chamber bank account could be used in connection with a reopening event or associated promotion.

Cllr Price then thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed.

The meeting closed at 19:35 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.