

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY
13th APRIL 2010**

Present: Cllr Philip Yates (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr John Binns
Cllr Bob Freeman
Cllr Rufus Gilbert
Cllr Mike Howarth
Cllr Kate Lynn
Cllr Jim Romanos
Cllr David Thorning

In Attendance: District Cllr Denise O'Callaghan
Insp Phil Chivers
Jenni Briscoe (Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette)
Two Members of Public
Martin Johnson, Town Clerk

09/169 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Robin Griffin & Beryl Washington and County Cllr Julian Brazil.

Public Open Forum

There were no statements or questions from members of public.

**09/170 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL, DISTRICT COUNCIL
AND POLICE REPRESENTATIVES**

170.1 Inspector Chivers reported on crime statistics for March 2010. A total of 23 crimes had been committed, compared to 31 crimes in March 2009. The breakdown was: theft of motor vehicle/taken without owners consent 1, theft from motor vehicle 1, criminal damage to motor vehicle 4, theft/fraud 6, criminal damage 2, arson 1, assault/violence 6, drugs 1, and others 1.

The assault/violence offences were: a wounding which had taken place outside licensed premises; 3 actual bodily harm with 2 offences linked to a group fight at the top of Fore Street and one domestic incident; one common assault; and one harassment. Thefts included an aluminium tender from New Bridge and fenders/inflatable floor taken from a boat yard; enquiries were ongoing. Also a boy's pedal cycle had been taken from a garden; the bike had not been secured. The Neighbourhood Police Team's activity included enhanced patrols of the Cattle Market Car Park for the duration of the recent Fun Fair. A historic boundary dispute between neighbours had incurred the involvement of the district's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer. Significant work by PCSOs with the Police Cadets had taken place and the end of training inspection was forthcoming. Finally, Insp Chivers reported that the station's front office opened

daily between 9.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. and was staffed by 2 persons. However, one member of staff would be away from the work place for 2 to 3 months. While current opening hours could not be maintained the office would remain open as often as possible during the period, and an emergency phone was available to members of public outside the building. Ironically, a force-wide consultation was due to take place shortly regarding 'front office' facilities and local councils would be contacted.

Cllr Romanos enquired whether a record was kept of how many people attended the front office. Insp Chivers replied that no formal record was taken however, the Police had a good handle on matters; while there appeared to be no consistency in usage, he assured members that townspeople were aware of opening hours. Cllr Binns asked what was the function of the front office. Insp Chivers replied that it provided an information service, allowed for bail conditions to be met, lost and found, and fundamentally provided a reassurance service for the community. Cllr Howarth noted that it was rumoured for Kingsbridge and Dartmouth stations to close and asked if an outreach service would be provided given such an event. Insp Chivers reported that a service could be provided similar to a 'mobile library' as the nearest offices would be Ivybridge and Totnes. Cllr Howarth further questioned how the policing of the recent Fun Fair had been assessed and whether it was likely that further licences would be granted. Insp Chivers responded there had been one blip regarding some young people however, early Police intervention ensured that no crime was committed. He required early notice for such events in order that effective policing could be arranged. The venue at the Cattle Market had worked well and closure at 9.00 p.m. had been strictly adhered to. Later closure may impact on the amenity of the neighbouring residential area. Cllr Romanos remarked that the poor weather had probably kept attendance figures down. Finally, Cllr Gilbert commented that he had been informed that noise from the nightclub was increasing and there had been reports of rowdiness after closing times however, he had not visited personally. Insp Chivers replied that he was aware of a recent change of ownership and re-branding from Fusions to Coast. Noise issues came under bailiwick of SHDC however, any disturbance outside the premises was Police business. Due to the time of year the nightclub serviced locals only however, he anticipated visitors during the summer and he would be making contact with the owners to discuss management matters.

Insp Chivers left the Chamber.

170.2 District Cllr Gilbert reported that the plane tree in the town square had disrupted paving slabs due to poor planting with the likelihood of its roots growing upwards towards the surface. Build of the new skate park was progressing well and a new tarmac surface had been laid. Temporary repairs to Jubilee Pier were almost complete to ensure satisfactory operations during the forthcoming summer season. There was spare office capacity at SHDC's Follaton House headquarters however, there were some legal issues to be overcome to make rooms available on a commercial basis.

Cllr Balkwill stated that only 3 trees in the town square had been pollarded which looked odd. Cllr Gilbert replied that it had taken 3 years to get this far and from now on the trees would be pollarded heavily. Cllr Freeman remarked that pollarding actually encouraged tree growth.

170.3 District Cllr Howarth reported that following the budget process it was anticipated for a 20% drop in income over the next few years which would require a radical review of services. Statutory services such as waste collection could not be altered and therefore discretionary services such as landscape and leisure, parks and trees would probably be cut. A recent meeting of the Executive Committee had received a paper from the Head of Landscape & Leisure which detailed a range of future options including management of parks by an independent trust similar to the current model for leisure centres. Other options suggested a more commercial approach, partnership with other bodies, and new sources of funding. Torbay Council managed similar services via a trust model with 20% income from the council and 80% from other sources. However, SHDC was probably in a very different position and it was doubtful that such a scheme could be replicated in the South Hams. The DAPC report on delivery of services had not been completed; KTC was the only local council which had expressed an interest for self-delivery of all SHDC services and therefore was in a small minority. The Kingsbridge DPD had been agreed: Proposal K1 (North) had been deleted, Proposal K3 Union Road area had been expanded to include locations in Upper Union Road, Proposal K6 for an employment site at Leigh Cross had been retained, identification of a football pitch adjacent to Proposal K1 (South) had been added, and a new Proposal K7 Avon Centre had been added to encompass a current industrial site off Wallingford Road. KTC's proposal for site 9 in Westville had not been added. Overall, he considered the DPD to be a good result for the town.

Cllr Binns asked when the formal DPD consultation stage would begin. Cllr Howarth replied that the whole process had been held up by the Salcombe DPD and therefore a date had not been set. Cllr Romanos stated that KTC could have taken longer over reaching a decision and the next stage of consultation would be interesting. He further commented that at the DAPC meeting to review delivery of services he noted that SHDC perceived to look after landscape and leisure business in a satisfactory manner however, Kingsbridge areas had degraded over time, were in a poor state and there were concerns. Cllr Howarth responded that Kingsbridge's viewpoint was not shared across the South Hams and SHDC was to undertake a strategic review of all its Landscape and Leisure business.

170.4 District Cllr O'Callaghan reported that she had donated monies from her SHDC locality budget to the "Go Wild" youth project at Tresilian to purchase outdoor equipment. She considered the Annual Town Meeting had gone well and was particularly good news for young people. She was pleased to see play areas in the Recreation Ground and the new skate park in Quay Car Park progressing well. Vandalism around the tennis courts had been reported by Paul Taper, SHDC engineer, but she did not have further information. The budget was in place for pedestrian safety works in Quay Car Park. West Alvington Parish Council had made representations to DCC regarding new

parking enforcement measures near Kingsbridge Community College. Rumours were still circulating regarding the introduction of parking meters in Fore Street. Alongside Cllr Brazil, she had tabled a motion at the last SHDC meeting for 2nd homes council tax to be doubled; currently it was 90%. SHDC agreed that “the Government should be required to increase Second Homes Council Tax”. At the recent Executive meeting she was surprised to hear that SHDC was to sell the Old Malthouse, Ebrington Street on the open market when it could be supplied for affordable housing. Finally, she felt the recent Fun Fair had gone well despite the poor weather. All rides were £1 or less and burgers at the same price, the staff were very good, and the Fair covered the whole car park with lots to do.

Cllrs Balkwill and Howarth reported that the property in Ebrington Street was small, in poor condition, and was not considered viable for affordable housing.

09/171 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Yates reported there was one item of urgent business to be taken at agenda item 09/179: “Recreation Ground – Flooding”.

09/172 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

09/173 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the full council meetings held on 9 March 2010 and 23 March 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

09/174 PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the minutes of the Planning Committees held on 16 March 2010 and 6 April 2010. It was further agreed for a letter to be sent to SHDC Development Control regarding the poor condition of a wall at the Tumbly Hill development site, off Quay Car Park.

09/175 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Property Committee held on 16 March 2010.

09/176 CLERK’S REPORT

The Town Clerk reported on the following matters:

176.1 Kingsbridge Open Spaces. A meeting with Ross Kennerley, SHDC was to be held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 14th April in Quay House.

176.2 “Prioritising in Tough Times”. A meeting with SHDC officers and other local councils entitled “Prioritising in Tough Times” was to be held at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 21st April in Follaton House, Totnes; an agenda was awaited. Cllrs Binns, Romanos & Yates agreed to represent KTC.

176.3 Wildlife Watch. Members had been invited to a Devon Wildlife Trust family event to be held at 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on Saturday 24th April at Washbrook Farm.

176.4 Devon & Cornwall Police Cadet Passing Out Parade. Members had been invited to the Passing Out Parade to be held at 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon on Sunday 25th April in the Main Hall, Kingsbridge Community College. The inspection would be conducted by Superintendent Sarah Sharp and presentations by District Cllr John Baverstock. The Clerk would ascertain any input required from the town mayor, Cllr Yates.

176.5 “Play It Safe”. KTC had reserved 2 places on the course, aimed at improving knowledge of management and inspection of play areas, to be held at 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday 28th April at the Village Hall, Ipplepen. The Clerk was to attend and another place was available.

176.6 South Hams Hospital League of Friends – Annual General Meeting. Members had been invited to the AGM to be held at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 12th May at the Day Hospital.

176.7 Kingsbridge & Salcombe Area Parish Cluster Meeting. The next Cluster Meeting was to be held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 24th May at Cliff House, Salcombe. A full agenda included items on: LDF update, budget challenges, shared services update, ‘Sorley Cross death trap’, and options for service delivery/feedback from DAPC. KTC had been requested to nominate attendees.

176.8 Kingsbridge In Bloom – Sustainable Planting Project. DCC had responded to KTC’s request for the road and lamp column to be removed from the roadside edge of the flower bed in Ilbert Road. The road signage would be removed without replacement as it was effectively a ‘repeater’ sign. However, there were problems and considerable costs involved to remove the lamp column and therefore it would remain. Kingsbridge In Bloom had been informed and were very content with the outcome as it would allow enhanced delivery of its sustainable planting project in the area.

176.9 Advisory Disabled Parking Bays – Rack Park Road. DCC intended to mark out a further 2 advisory Disabled Parking Bays outside 29 and 41 Rack Park Road. The bay outside 21 Rack Park Road was no longer required and would be returned to full public use. After the above works had been actioned 25% of parking stock between 1 and 47 Rack Park Road would be reserved for disabled parking. DCC policy detailed that bays should not exceed 25% of available parking and therefore no further applications would be accepted from this section of road.

176.10 Destination Kingsbridge – Christmas Lights. The group had ordered 5 cross street decorations (to be positioned on alternate catenary wires in Fore Street), “Welcome to Kingsbridge” decoration (for lower Fore Street), and 5 street lamp decorations (for Quay area). Expenditure to date was £3,229 plus delivery charges to be negotiated from KTC’s allocated budget of £6,500. The group was to explore: storage, fixing/taking down, insurance, further Fore Street stock, Bridge & Mill Street displays, Christmas tree, and related matters at future meetings and wished to keep members apprised of the project.

176.11 Thank You Letters. Received from:

- Kingsbridge & District Agenda 21 (letter dated 5 April 2010): for KTC’s grant aid of £200 towards their work for Combe Royal to become a community resource.
- SHDC’s Chairman (letter dated 28 March 2010) and Cllr Roger Moore, Mayor of Salcombe (undated card): for KTC’s Civic Evening at the Cottage Hotel.

09/177 REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND AUTHORITIES

177.1 Cllr Freeman had attended a recent meeting of Dodbrook Feoffees.

177.2 Cllr Binns had attended meetings of Kingsbridge Agenda 21 and Combe Royal lobby group.

177.3 Cllr Gilbert had attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting.

177.4 Cllrs Romanos & Thorning had attended a recent meeting of Kingsbridge Feoffees.

177.5 Cllr Balkwill had attended the opening of Cookworthy Museum’s new exhibition “Come Rain or Shine”.

177.6 Cllr Yates had attended an Energy Saving Trust workshop at Buckfastleigh which had been very worthwhile and signposted options for lost insulation at Quay House.

177.7 The Clerk reported that Cllr Griffin had attended meetings of: Kingsbridge Skate Park User Group, South Hams Home Start, KM United, Kingsbridge In Bloom, Walk & Talk, and Walkers Are Welcome.

09/178 FINANCE – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received a schedule of payments due to date 31 March 2010. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments amounting to £20,680.01 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**09/179 BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN:
RECREATION GROUND – FLOODING**

Members were in receipt of SHDC's response (letter CE/DJI/NP dated 7 April 2010) to KTC's representation that the combined inaction of Landscape & Leisure and Property Services staff had resulted in excessive flooding at the front of the Recreation Ground. The response noted the comments made by KTC and reported that SHDC staff were now fully aware of the need to maintain and manage the drainage system in an effective manner. It also requested clarification that KTC remained content with the aims of the Kingsbridge Public Space for an informal saline salt marsh at the front of the park which would allow tidal ingress of salt water. Members discussed the matter and it was then **RESOLVED** to reply to the Chief Executive, SHDC that KTC fully supported the designs commissioned from Mor architects. However, the project was dependent on funding and therefore was a long term ambition. At present, and until such time that the project could move forward, the drainage system required a dedicated management and maintenance system.

District Cllr O'Callaghan left the Chamber

09/180 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Balkwill asked the Chairman if members were aware that a liquid amber tree had been taken from the flower bed adjacent to the Information Centre on Monday 13th April. Seemingly, a male person had approached a SHDC operative claiming to be a town councillor and took the tree away. Members were concerned and the Clerk would follow-up with SHDC's Landscape & Leisure department.

09/181 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest, that the public and press be temporarily excluded.

Members of public and the press left the Chamber.

09/182 FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Recommendations in the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 6 April 2010; subject to one amendment.

09/183 CASUAL VACANCIES

Advertisements had been placed in the Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette to alert North Ward parishioners to 2 separate vacancies and that elections for new councillors could be requested. The first deadline had passed and an election had not been called; the second deadline was 19 April 2010 and the Clerk would be informed by SHDC's Electoral Services whether or not an election had been requested. It was **RESOLVED** for the North Ward casual

