



## **KINGSTEIGNTON TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 AT THE COMMUNITY HALL, RYDON ROAD, KINGSTEIGNTON AT 7.00pm**

Present:

Mayor: Councillor Peart

Deputy Mayor: Councillor B Austen

Councillors: I Burrows, M Field, J Scagell, D Ripping, L Goodall, J Stacey

Town Clerk: Mrs M Lewis-Clarke

RFO: Mr P Banner

Members of the Public: Rev David Goddard

#### **Presentation re Teignbridge Local Plan 2020-2040 by TDC Planning Policy Team**

Cllr Peart welcomed Mr Trevor Shaw to the meeting.

Mr Shaw said that he was a Senior Planning Officer for Teignbridge District Council.

Mr Shaw gave a short presentation to Council on the Draft Teignbridge Local Plan 2020-40.

Mr Shaw summarised this presentation.

- The plan will be adopted in 2024.
- Extensive work has been done on flood risk and Coastal area of the Plan.
- TDC listened to Questions posed by KTC during the 2018 and subsequent consultations and advised that the majority of which were taken on board by TDC and revised.
- With regards to the 50 new homes, Brownfield site for a residential-led development proposed in the plan (GC18: North of Broadway Road, Opportunity Area, Kingsteignton) this will not happen until the business currently sited at this location can and are relocated.
- TDC housing target is currently 741 houses per year to be built over a 16 year period which equates to approx. 12,000. This is devised by government using a standard method and is due to be reviewed.
- KTC were advised that with regards to issues that have been raised it may be beneficial to Council to Consider a Neighbourhood Plan or a revised Community Plan.
- Infrastructure needs to be looked at, but this is something that DCC is responsible. For in terms of highway and education provision. He advised that he is confident that the future will resolve this.
- The quality of new houses being built will need to be of higher standard and environmentally friendly.

Mrs Lewis-Clarke advised the meeting that any Questions that she had been informed of prior to the meeting had been forwarded to Mr Shaw. He advised the meeting that



questions which were relevant to the Plan would be answered in writing and returned to the Clerk.

Councillors were given the opportunity to ask any other questions to Mr Shaw. Consisting of:

- Concern for infrastructure especially around the Horse Mills field proposed site.
- Concern that Kingsteignton still only has one Drs surgery.
- Manipulation by builders of planning applications.
- Are properties being built in the Town being purchased by local people. (Mr Shaw advised to this question he is able to supply data/figures.)

Once these have been received, they will be added to KTC website minute page for inclusion for public information.

## **Police Report January 2023**

### **February Police Report**

PC Charlie Haggerty and PCSO Sharon Pratt sent their apologies and were unable to attend the meeting.

Over the previous month (Feb 23), there have a total of 69 incidents in Kingsteignton (11 of these on the A380) and 25 crimes.

The vast majority of these incidents and crimes are domestic related (for example 5 crimes from 1 address). There are no series or emerging crime types that have developed.

Cllr Peart requested that for the future Police reports there is more in depth information regarding incidents in Kingsteignton and they are broken down into separate categories as to what the incidents and crimes involve.

Mrs Lewis-Clarke to advise Police of this requirement.

## **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

## **County Councillor R Peart's Report**

Cllr Peart advised the meeting on Highways Management.

This winter has posed challenges for the Highways and Traffic Management Service.

The mix of prolonged sub-zero temperatures and heavy rain led to a rapid deterioration in the condition of the network highlighting the fragility of the asset following decades of under investment.



Since April 2022 DCC inspection team have assessed over 27,000 reports of potholes from members of the public. Over 10,000 reports were assessed in January alone, they were receiving as many as 500 reports per day. The team have been working hard to get on top of backlog with a focus on the safety of the travelling public. Milestone DCC maintenance contractor have increased their resources which has seen weekend working and over forty gangs working across the county. At the beginning of the month there was 3,000 potholes waiting to be repaired, this has reduced to approximately 2,000.

Following a quiet November, DCC saw very little in the way of gritting treatment, the extended cold snaps in December and January has seen us use over 15,000 tonnes of salt across 2,094 runs the equivalent to 55 full, Countywide treatments on our Primary Salting Network. The average across the last four winters for the same period has been 8,919 tonnes and 1,597 runs.

This additional work has a knock-on effect with the planned improvement works. Gritter drivers are limited in how many hours they can work which often means planned improvement works have to be deferred. In addition, with safety of the network taking priority, a few the patching gangs have been redeployed on to potholes repairs. Again, this means planned improvements will have been deferred. Neighbourhood Officers will be in contact with Elected Members that have works impacted in their area.

The resolution of drainage assets referred for additional maintenance has slowed in the last few months to support the corporate financial challenged. However, over 10,000 defects have been addressed so far, this financial year which clearly demonstrates the benefits of funding a focused programme of drainage asset defect identification. DCC have over 14,000 outstanding drainage assets defects across the county and works are continuing to resolve them.

## **District Councillors' Reports**

### **Councillor B Austen**

Cllr Austen advised the meeting that:

Teignbridge District Council unanimously approved motions to take positive action to save Teignmouth Hospital from closure and to oppose the proposed changes to Wild Camping on Dartmoor.

For the first time empty homes in the district have fallen below 300.

TDC Council keeps Records of these properties as they are sometimes illegally occupied, not in a fit condition to sell or of concern to neighbouring properties. Their primary task is to make the properties available for residents.



Teignbridge District Council meetings are still being held at Buckland Athletic Football club as the work to make the Brunel Council Offices carbon free continues. It is expected that meetings will resume there in April.

The budget has been approved and the share of Teignbridge District Council Tax payable to Teignbridge now stands at £5.54 for the next year, an increase of 2.99% well below the rate of inflation.

TDC also decided that car parks will be free after 6pm for the next four years with a charge of £1 only on Sundays. Funds were also reserved for council housing, climate emergency, jobs initiative and Tidy Teignbridge. It also has to deal with a revenue deficit of £3.4 million which will require exploring ways of saving money.

### **Councillor R Peart**

Cllr Peart advised the meeting that empty Homes Week starts 27 February.

With a national shortage in housing and a housing crisis declared in districts across Devon. Teignbridge is working with owners to help bring some private sector houses back into use.

The number of empty homes in Teignbridge reported to the Government in October last year was 292, taking the number below 300 for the first time since our records began.

Empty properties are not only potentially wasted homes, but they also often blight areas, impact on neighbours and residents and attract anti- social behaviour.

When a property is identified as empty, TDC contact the owners to find out what is being done to bring them back into use. Often, they are already being marketed for sale or undergoing refurbishment. Sometimes owners have insufficient funds for refurbishment works or need advice or financial help to comply with property standards before letting, or need to clear a property so that they can move back in or sell it.

### **Councillor D Rollason**

No Report

### **Councillor B Thorne**

Cllr Thorne advised the meeting that:

I am pleased to report a balanced TDC budget has been agreed but sadly I cannot say I agree with everything in it, but I made my points in various Overview and Scrutiny meetings before I had to stop attending meetings due to my recovery from an operation.



The focus of the next administration will be trying to manage the huge shortfalls in forward planned budgets from next year now the reserves have largely been spent - a real challenge for all.

I have also been involved with trying to ensure suitable protection from excess traffic travelling from and to the 2 new industrial units at Sands Copse through Higher Sandygate. It is, as a result, expected that the same level of conditions will be operative for the new buildings as for the RD Johns building leading hopefully to some goodwill helping to keep domestic industrial site commuting traffic to the Claypits Way access route.

I have been trying to keep in touch with the various Cost of Living seminars and public meetings taking place supported by numerous organisations all designed either to train volunteers or the vulnerable residents suffering the most during these difficult times. There are additional opportunities for learning how to save energy and hopefully save yourself money happening across Teignbridge run once again by other organisations which, incidentally, have opportunities to make small grants to residents suffering the most. All I can do, currently, is to recommend residents check online for opportunities to suit their needs and a good place to start is the KingsCare website.

## **MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL, RYDON ROAD, KINGSTEIGNTON ON WEDNESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 AT 7.45 PM**

### **25/2023      Apologies**

**Resolved:** Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Jones, Gregson, Thorne, and Tillson-Hawke.

### **26/2023      To receive any declarations of interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **27/2022      To receive the Mayor's Report**

There was no Mayors report.

### **28/2023      To receive and approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023**

The mayor presented the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023

**Resolved:** Minutes adopted



## 29/2023 To receive and approve the Clerk's Report

### Clerk's Report March 2023

- As I reported in my February 2023 Clerks report I applied for funding through the Tidy Teignbridge scheme. I have now received confirmation that I have been successful with this bid and KTC will be awarded the sum of £1950. This will be used to fund chapter 8 training for our two new FMO. Purchase Equipment to enable litter pick and obviously appropriate PPE reflective/wet weather clothing. Screen works and material and promotional materials £300. Cost to cover staff to work extra hours to enhance the Leat area at Crossley Moor Road. (No more than £500). During warmer weather organise a community litter pick.
- Mr Banner and I have been working on KTC policies and now have a new Procurement Policy which is awaiting approval.
- Amendments and alterations have been added to our financial regulations. This is due to the change in roles for Clerk and RFO.
- Mrs Rees (Deputy Clerk) and I have completed a Managing Employees webinar and Preparing for Elections training which was hosted by DALC.
- Mrs Simmons and I have attended a Town Guide Meeting in association with the MDA as it is our intention to have a new guide. I will keep you updated on this progress.
- I am still awaiting a response from Fernbank bus shelters who have completed a site visit and I am awaiting their report. This is being regularly chased.
- We were unfortunately unsuccessful in the highway's maintenance grant.
- We have now had the planning permission granted for the History board and I am liaising with the designer on this matter. He is just awaiting a new quote for the board hangings.
- The free tree event was hugely successful, and I would like to thank staff/Cllrs/DWT and residents who made the event such a success.
- Our next newsletter has gone to print, and I will hopefully have a copy of it to produce at the FC meeting.
- We have unfortunately lost one of our newsletter deliverers. I have placed a notice on FB and as a result have had 8 expressions of interest for the delivery position.
- Both Mrs Rees and I have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to organise the Kings Coronation event and the Working party are regularly updated on progression. Unfortunately, we are still awaiting the official timings to be released from Buckingham Palace.
- I have not yet received the application packs reelections for Cllr from TDC. These will be forwarded to Cllrs upon receipt.
- Prior to Mrs Lakin's retirement she authorised the expenditure of items to make a kitchen area in the main office. These items have now been purchased. For years this has not been available to staff, and we have had no facilities to wash cups etc. Relying on using the main kitchen if not in use. Bearing in mind that it is in use daily. Our FMO will fit these, but a plumber will be needed to install a sink.
- I have met with Highways regarding the possibility of installing VARS within the Town. And I will update once I am able.



- We have purchased a window cleaning system as we no longer employ the services of a window cleaner to clean our windows and bus shelters.
- I have arranged up to date Fire extinguisher training for staff which will take place on the 4//423.
- On Saturday 18/2/23 I attended Newton Abbot District Civic Society meeting on their request. The Local Town Plan 2020-2040.
- The first Police Surgery has taken place. This was advertised on FB/Web site and MDA. Cllrs Austen and Ripping were in attendance and approx. 3 members of the Public attended.
- Our facilities maintenance staff have been busy around the town and during the month of February the following tasks have been completed:
  1. Further graffiti from bus shelters removed.
  2. Digger hired and the area at the back of the CH and to the Rydon room cleared. This will be made into a wild garden area and is looking amazing.
  3. The 3 spare boulders have been moved onto the raised area for rockery planters etc.
  4. The Rydon Room has been power washed and looking good as new.
  5. The steps into the Rydon Room have now been slabbed along with a ramp being made, making it more accessible.
  6. The railings around the steps are in the process of being painted and extended.
  7. Once they have been re installed it is my intention to place some nice baskets on the rails and then advertise it further to gain more revenue.
  8. New fence panels have been installed in the garden used /hired by Tiny Toes.
  9. A member of the public reported some metal work protruding from the ground at Oakford Lawn. This has now been removed and made safe.
  10. The path in front of the CH has been power washed.
  11. The area to the side of the CH alongside the MHS has now been cleared.
  12. New staff Probationary Reviews are also taking place this month.

### **30/2023 To receive the minutes of the following Committees.**

**Community Hall and Recreation** – Cllr Scagell presented the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023. **Approved**

**Works, Services and Planning Committee** - Cllr Peart presented the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023. **Approved.**

### **31/2023 Representative Reports**

**Parish Tree Warden** Cllr Thorne submitted the below:

There has been some damage to TDC Greenspaces whip planting in Sandygate Mill and Eagle Farm - Greenspaces have been informed and will investigate/ repair.



**KingsCare** Cllr Thorne submitted the below:

Other than we supported the sensory garden at the back of Fore St with a small crab apple whip (at the recent DWT tree giveaway) hopefully providing a pleasant view in years to come. Reports to recommence shortly.

**Oakford Trust.** Cllr Stacey advised the meeting that:

- He attended a trustees meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 23.
- The Ram Roast hut is to be painted.
- The Noticeboard will be renovated by KTC with the donation still forthcoming from the Trust.
- Father Mark Smith is now the Chairman of the trust.
- Mr John Stacey is the treasurer.
- It was agreed that the trust will plant a 'Lucombe' Oak tree on the lawn in commemoration of The Coronation of King Charles III. The tree will have an appropriate tree guard to protect it along with a plaque.
- Minutes of this meeting will be forwarded.

**32/2023 Kingsteignton in Bloom. To discuss and approve the budget to this event.**

**Resolved:** that a budget of £1500 be allocated to Kingsteignton in Bloom.

**33/2023 To review and approve the following policies: (Copies attached)**

- **Financial Regulations**
- **Contract Procedure Rules (New policy)**
- **Anti-Fraud Policy**
- **Breach Notification Policy**
- **Data-Protection Policy**
- **Training and Development Policy**
- **Work Related Stress Policy.**
- **GDPR.**

**Resolved:** that:

- **Financial Regulations**
- **Contract Procedure Rules (New policy)**
- **Anti-Fraud Policy**
- **Breach Notification Policy**
- **Data-Protection Policy**
- **Training and Development Policy**
- **Work Related Stress Policy.**
- **GDPR**



Were approved and accepted.

- **Financial Regulations**

Were approved and accepted. Additions and alterations were also agreed and accepted.

- **Contract Procedure Rules (New policy)**

This policy was approved and accepted with an alteration being made to the retentions, changing from 10% to 5%.

**34/2023 To discuss and consider:** submitting appropriate proposals for consideration of the Garden Community Board re project(s) within Kingsteignton that we wish to collaborate on as part of the Garden Community programme.

Mrs Lewis-Clarke advised the Committee that she had attended a Newton Abbot and Kingsteignton Garden and Community presentation. As a result Committee could consider requesting projects for Kingsteignton to collaborate on as part of the Community Garden Programme.

**Resolved:** that the following projects be asked to be considered:

- Allotment land in Kingsteignton (Connecting to nature)
- Play Park on green land at Sandygate, owned by TDC (community infrastructure)
- Footpath/cycle path to be considered on Broadway Road, Kingsteignton (Housing and brownfield development)
- Footpath from Sandygate to SandsCopse to be considered. (Housing and Brownfield development)

**35/2023 Correspondence**

Mrs Lewis-Clarke advised the meeting that an email had been received from Rev David Goddard with regards to the Councils decision not to allow a banner to be placed at the Fountain Kingsteignton. Rev Goddard was advising Council that this banner was to promote 'Supporting-You' a website for people suffering as a result of the cost-of-living crisis. Rev Goddard was present during this discussion and advised that the decision was made with regards to the Fountain. However as advised the banner could be placed on a rotational basis outside the Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.24pm

**Next meeting: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023**



Signed..... Dated: ...