

**Minutes of the Kingsteignton Town Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 5 June 2024 at 7:00pm
The Community Hall, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton**

Present:

Mayor:	R Peart
Councillors:	J Scagell (Deputy Mayor), T Dempster, M Field, D Ripping, K Jones, J Gordon, M Eggarr, B Thorne, S Danks, A Tillson-Hawke
Acting Clerk/Deputy Officer:	Mrs K Ford (CiLCA)
Asst to the Clerk/Events Officer:	Miss B Hooper

Council not in formal session

Public Participation: Prayers by Reverend Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley

Police Report: See attached appendix 1

County Councillor Report: Cllr R Peart

Eco- schemes have twin aims in fight against global warming. The Tackling Climate Change - Flood Prevention Project {TCC}, pioneered by Climate Vision and involving residents, farmers, businesses, and government authorities has reached a significant milestone combining climate resilience with sustainable agriculture.

Luci Isaacson, director of Climate Vision, said Soil testing has revealed this innovative trial project has sequestered 17.84 tonnes of carbon in one year [13%] a significant leap from the [0.5%] increase that was expected in year one, providing ground – breaking insights into a net zero future, while tackling flooding, soil health and sustainable farming, practices. The Government recognise how private investment can help fund a range of what is known as ecosystem services such as flood management and providing for bees – here we can provide evidence and data to support that pathway, while inspiring local firms to actively work on reducing their environmental footprint.

Tregoad Holiday Park, near Looe, invested £2,500 to sow herbal ley seeds at Higher Kestle Farm, St Ewe, which germinated in the drought of 2022. Herbal ley with its deep roots, brings numerous benefits – mitigating flooding by holding rainfall in its growth while enhancing soil and animal health.

The project has been supported by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. With climate change forecast to bring warmer, wetter, winters, along with an increased risk of localised intense summer rainfall, this project aims to demonstrate how a whole catchment based approach can support community resilience.

Farmers are already committed to supporting the scheme to help ensure land management practices reduce run- off.



District Councillors Report:

Cllr B Thorne:

It is currently the busiest time I have ever known at TDC with a massive push on trying to reduce the budget shortfall, manage delivery of a redesign of the service, some very large normal projects, extensive training for members, creating a new Council strategy and pushing to be as transparent as possible by the senior leadership team at TDC.

Modern 25 is the project by which the council will coordinate and manage significant savings towards reducing the budget shortfall identified as £4 million by 2026/27 but could rise even higher should Government housing grants be upset by any unexpected change of Government. TDC will have used all its cash reserves by that time and means if the cost saving exercises have not been implemented by then the Section 114 notice detailing the budget shortfall for the regulators will have to be produced. So, these are serious times and great diligence must be taken to get things right for the effective survival of the Council in its current shape.

I have the Chair of the Medium Term Financial Plan task and finish cross party group which is scrutinising all the ideas of how to save money and prepare an effective and sustainable Council capable of delivering the services necessary to serve Teignbridge Residents. We are delving deep into the running of various services and asking questions about the finances resulting, hopefully, in reporting a suitable level of adjustment to satisfy the financial savings required.

We have been reviewing major issues over the last 8 months and as you would expect those savings that can be realised earlier have already been put into operation and money saved but there is a long way to go to reach £4m!

In other avenues of the Council's operations, we have heard the delivery of the road bridge in Dawlish is proceeding well and usefully on budget.

I will mention an event, which involved me, when the opposition walked out over the recent arrangements in each Committee so far, brought to a head in the Overview and Scrutiny committee, where both the Chair and Deputy Chair have been elected from the Liberal Democrat benches without recognising the recent peer review carried out by an independent Local Government Association group which recommended it is best practice to choose Chairs and Deputy Chairs across the parties to ensure 'marking your own homework' is not prevalent. It was not sour grapes or a personal matter against the councillors elected, but why request useful and accepted feedback about the Council and then ignore it! Hopefully, some sort of working relationship will resume quickly.

I have been nominated as the TDC representative for the Stover Park upgrade board so now I represent KTC and TDC.

Cllr R Peart:

No report received

Cllr K Gearon:



I have recently attended the mandatory Planning training at TDC whereby the officers advised they are offering planning training to Town and Parish Councils'. I am unsure if this message has filtered through to Kingsteignton, but wanted to ensure you are all aware.

Councillor Peart and I have been invited to meet with Phil Shears, Chief Executive Teignbridge DC, on Friday 21 June at 10.30-13.00 who will visit Kingsteignton to discuss ongoing issues and concerns residents may be experiencing. Could you please let me know if you have any particular issues you would like us to raise with Phil by emailing : keeley.gearon@teignbridge.gov.uk . This is a great opportunity to get our views across to the Senior Leadership Team at TDC ensuring our residents voices are heard.

Despite businesses and residents campaigning against the part pedestrianisation of Queen Street, sadly the works have forged ahead. We can only hope the completion of the works enhance the town. Residents are encouraged to show their support to local businesses by visiting the town whilst the project takes place (if you can find a parking space!).

As ever, I have been helping residents with planning queries and other community issues.

Cllr D Rollason:

No report received

Council in formal session

FC60/2024 Apologies

To receive, note and where requested approve and accept any apologies for absence.

Resolved: Apologies received and accepted from:

Cllr L Goodall (Work Commitments)

Cllr J Gregson (Annual Leave)

FC61/2024 To receive any declarations of interest:

- a) in accordance with Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 members to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on this agenda:
- b) Clerk to report any written request for dispensation in respect of items on this agenda, made in advance of the meeting.

None declared.

FC62/2024 To receive the Mayor's Report: Mayor, Cllr R Peart

On Friday 17th May Kingsteignton Town Council held their Annual Town meeting. This event was a chance for residents of the town to catch up on achievements and work that councillors and staff have carried out during the last 12 months.



Presentations to the public explaining what has happened over the past year I started the presentation with an overview of events including King Charles III Coronation event on 6th May held in the grounds of the town council building and main hall.

I covered many other events that had taken place and work our outside staff had done keeping the town looking well kept. It was then the turn of other councillors to explain what they do at the committees they chair.

It was then time to give out Kingsteignton Town Council annual grants to the successful clubs and organisations who applied. Each one received a cheque for their projects this will benefit their members and the community of Kingsteignton.

My next duty was to award Kingsteignton Citizenship Award. This year I presented the award to Jeanne Langridge who was nominated by a former Girl Guide. Jeanne has volunteered for over 37 years with Kingsteignton Girl Guides. It was a great pleasure to give Jeanne her framed certificate and flowers. Our final part of the evening was an ideal opportunity for residents to raise local concerns or queries and this led to some actions for councillors to look into. The evening ended with refreshments.

June and I were invited to attend Kingsteignton Ram Roasting Fair this took place at the towns Oakford Lawn on the 27th May. Town Crier Jackie Edwards officially opened the fair, and despite the occasional shower visitors flocked to this annual charity event.

The next event was to crown the May Queen I was happy to crown the May Queen as mayor of Kingsteignton, crowds were entertained by traditional maypole dancing from local youngsters. The day offered many attractions and I would like thank everyone involved in organising this event on behalf of the town council.

Our final event for this report was Kingsteignton very first town crier competition. Criers from across the country attended this competition Organised by Kingsteignton Town Council. June and I had a great day along with members of the public I would like to thank our town crier Jackie Edwards and all the other town criers who travelled to take part in this event and all involved.

FC63/2024 Full Council Draft Minutes:

To receive and approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 3rd April 2024 and the minutes of the Annual meeting of the Town Council held on 1st May 2024.

Cllr Peart presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd April 2024 & the Annual Meeting held on the 1st May 2024.

Proposed: Cllr Peart

Seconded: Cllr Thorne

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that these both minutes be adopted and signed by the Chair.

FC64/2024 To receive the Acting Clerk's Report:



In accordance with the recently updated KTC Scheme of Delegation, officers including Phil, Bex and me are picking up emails/communications intended for Michelle and where possible responding and/or instigating appropriate actions.

There has been a public consultation from TDC regarding polling station locations, however this did not propose any changes to station in Kingsteignton. No response required.

Also from TDC there is a public consultation on proposed amendments to the planning application advisory documentation. This shall appear on the agenda of the Works, Services, & Planning Committee.

To assist officers in the TDC democratic services department they have published a new dedicated email address for the Register of Interests of Town & Parish Councillors. Please ensure you keep your record up to date, it is a councillor's own responsibility to do so. When changes are required please use the following email:

townandparishROI@teignbridge.gov.uk

Latest developments in the Combined County Authority - Devon County Council and Torbay Council are inviting business experts to be part of a newly formed Devon and Torbay Business Advisory Group, which have a role to play in developing, implementing and monitoring the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority. Further information can be read here: [Business advisory group recruitment - Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal \(devontorbaydeal.org.uk\)](https://devontorbaydeal.org.uk)

DALC are calling for councillors to share their experience of becoming a local councillor at/since the May 23 elections, to discover where there are gaps in support for members, by answering a short online survey. Take part here: [Support for new councillors \(office.com\)](https://office.com)

Office Carpets – In accordance with KTC resolution made 01.05.24 under minute ref 056/2024 a carpet supplier has been appointed. Carpet tiles have been chosen and the fitting is booked for Friday 2nd August. The office will need to be closed to members of the public this day and staff will work from home.

Booking for all rooms in the Community Hall is steady. Well managed and invoiced by Caroline Lowe.

Communications Officer, Shirley Simmons is working towards the next issue of the KTC Newsletter with a publication date of 1st July with deliveries in the following fortnight. She is constantly monitoring and updating social media channels including responding to public comments and enquiries and sharing all news of public interest such as Traffic Orders which affect the town. Same regular reviews and updates for the KTC website.

Events Officer Bex Hooper is working on the upcoming coffee mornings, Town Criers Competition, preparations for the Kingsteignton in Bloom, and the Summer Festival. Also managing agendas for the committees and any additional work created by Michelle's absence.

Responsible Financial Officer, Phil Banner has had a very busy few months with the 2023-24 Annual Accounts, Internal Audit and preparation of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return. This is on top of regular tasks and responsibilities for KTC financial responsibilities such as setting up 2024-25 for income & expenditure and bank reconciliation to keep Finance Committee members up to date, administering grant payments, and the management of the Facilities Maintenance Officers/Team.



FMOs/ Maintenance team work since 1 May 2024 (last full council meeting)

- Maintenance of Community Hall – weeding, trimming shrubs, grass cutting, pressure washing, cleaning plaques, cut down and remove dead tree etc
- Dismantle tree cages at OL, weed, re bark and reassemble cages
- Litter picking
- Cleaning of Community Hall.
- Clearing history garden at Oakford Lawn and other maintenance work
- Hedge cutting Rydon Road and lane down to The Sandygate Inn
- Posters around Town
- Weeding and maintenance at The Fountain
- Trip to Plants Galore to purchase plants/hanging baskets for The Fountain and Community Hall
- General tidying of Oakford Lawn in readiness for The Ram Roast

FC65/2024 Committee Draft Minutes:

To receive and note the draft minutes of the following Committees (draft minutes to be ratified at the next meeting of said committee):

- a) Works, Services & Planning Committee meeting held 1st May 2024

Proposed: Cllr Peart

Seconded: Cllr Jones

Resolved: The minutes presented above were noted.

FC66/2024 To receive and note Representative Reports

a. Hackney Marshes

There have not been a lot of noteworthy changes on the Linden estate this month. A few of the newly planted trees on the orchard site have died, possibly due to weeks of heavy rain. Building work continues slowly on Tilia estate. The walk-through path to connect the two developments is not opened yet. The gravelled path that leads down to Hackney through the estate is being used by people going to town or by casual strollers with their dogs. It is a very useful addition to the new development.

In the reserve, the kingfishers have left, the swallows and swifts have returned, wading birds have mostly gone, and the warblers are back in full song. The wooden fox that sits on the bench near to the wicker panel hide has been stolen. In the past it has been damaged several times. This is the first time it has been taken. Wardens have looked around in the reeds and canal with no luck so far.

As you know, we have been informed that a field that lies adjacent to Hackney Marsh has been listed as a possible site for a housing development. This field is an important wildlife area that adds much to the wildlife that live or pass through Hackney. It doubles the size of the feeding, nesting and roosting areas available in the Hackney Reserve.



As the number of houses in Kingsteignton has increased so has the footfall on our small fragile Hackney Reserve. Extending the site would alleviate the pressure and provide a much-needed green site for local people. Also, it would link up with the green corridor thoughtfully provided by Linden.

Kingsteignton village lies alongside a green wildlife corridor; it runs on from the Teign Estuary through Hackney, across to Rackerhayes, Stover and on to breeding grounds on Dartmoor. Newton Abbot lies on the other side of the corridor, leaving a very narrow wildlife route through our urban developments.

FYI. I have added a map showing the field in question (shaded in pencil). The width of the corridor would be significantly reduced if this field were to be developed.

It is of utmost importance that we protect the green corridor, which also doubles as a dark corridor for bats, as recommended by Devon County Council. We should make sure that those involved in development planning have a full understanding of the importance of any wildlife corridors. Never let it be said that they did not know.

Following our council meeting, I was asked to investigate our options. First, I contacted Mark Payne who is head of the nature reserves in Teignbridge. He has not replied to my email yet. I also looked for advice from the RSPB. The advice given on their website is that the best way to protect our natural sites from uninformed developers is to build a town plan with details of where and why some sites should be protected and left to nature. It is also important to choose alternative places for urban development. Those two plans should go hand in hand.

We already have formed a town planning group, perhaps we should begin with green site protection in our village. There are guidelines for future planners/developers published by The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and English Nature, which can be found on the internet.

b. Police Advocates/PCC

The meeting was opened with a power point presentation identifying the number of crimes in the Newton Abbot, Kingskerswell and Kingsteignton area.

April saw 253 crimes reported, which included –
Violence without injury – 57 which was up 5.4% from 2023.
Kingskerswell – 37
Kingsteignton – 52 (Up 52.9%)
Newton Abbot East – 61
Newton Abbot Town – 103

Kingsteignton reports were:

Attended incidents - 70
A380 – 14 Incidents
Newton Road – 9
Anti Social Behaviour – Newton Road – 5.
Tesco – 1



The Newton Road in KTT East saw an increase of 400% this was reports of kids on bikes at the race course and behind the retail park. Chief Inspector Johnson witnessed the children behind the retail park who were riding their bikes attempting to do 'wee type tricks' they were not seen as being a nuisance nor was there any damage – but the young people do lack a defined safe space for this activity in Kingsteignton.

PC Jo Gilbrook of the team is leaving to join a Neighbourhood Police scheme, however there is now a vacancy and there are only 3 officers remaining to police the area.

Funding from central government has been given to Teignbridge possibly around 25K, for Tier 2 hotspot policing (this money cannot be spent directly on police employment, unlike Torbay which has Tier 1 status) however, the money will possibly be used to employ street wardens for the town centre, they will wear trackers to enable the police to know where they are at night.

Resources are needed through an increase in staffing and an active recruitment drive is currently on going. There appears to be ASB problems in Teignmouth which may need some assistance from the Tier 2 money while recognising that Newton Abbot does need the proposed marshals – CI Johnson will have a conversation with the police chiefs of the Teignmouth area and report back in the next meeting. The general feeling from the police is that it was felt that Newton Abbot and area 'Feels a lot safer'

c. Community Speedwatch

This report covers the period from 29th March to date. During this time the group has undertaken one session during which 3 drivers were reported for speeding in a 30mph limit on Broadway Road.

I have contacted volunteers to take part in further sessions, but nobody has been available due to other commitments.

I attended a Teams meeting run by the Devon and Cornwall Police CSW Team. The group co-ordinators were informed of some interesting technical updates that are in the pipeline. At time of writing, I have not heard any further updates on these. It is intended that we will have body-worn cameras and the ability to use our equipment for traffic passing in both directions.

In discussions with other group co-ordinators attending the meeting, many of whom were town or parish councillors, I discovered that some had succeeded in making new speed limits on local roads by accessing funding from the local, district or county council.

The area in Kingsteignton with the highest prevalence of speeding is the B3195 approaching and passing away from The Ten Tors. Arguably, one of the reasons for this is that traffic approaches the town into the 30mph limit from the offslip exit from the A380 at a limit of 60mph.

d. Kingsteignton Wild

Kingsteignton Wild attended the Ram Roast and despite the heavy showers had a great time talking to local people about the new Kingsteignton nature trail and handing out wildlife leaflets and spotter sheets. Also on the stall were activities for children including making a nature crown, making stickers using ink and stamps (butterflies, ladybirds etc), butterfly colouring and a nature scavenger hunt. There was a lot of



interest about our group and we also directed them to join our Facebook group which is 'Kingsteignton Wild*.'

FC67/2024 Community Gardens / Broadway Road Update

Short slide presentation by Cllr Thorne regarding project outputs, progress and what may be required from KTC in the future.

Cllr Thorne guided members present through a presentation regarding the Garden Community idea and its potential benefits to Kingsteignton. Councillors had opportunity to raise questions following this. Cllr Thorne requested the Council support the plan and facilitate public consultation akin to that recently held re traffic calming measures in Broadway Road.

Resolved: All Members were in favour of agreeing in principle to look into this further.

Proposed: Cllr Thorne

Seconded: Cllr Peart

FC68/2024 Staffing Matters

Consider possible solutions to the unprecedented current staffing shortfall and resolve any actions considered appropriate.

Councillors discussed the circulated paper from Mrs Ford, Acting Clerk.

Resolved: All were in favour of Mrs Ford and Mr Banner, Responsible Finance Officer, approaching DALC (Devon Associations of Local Councils) to investigate sourcing a temporary locum Clerk and checking feasibility of budget being available to finance any appointment. Finance Committee to consider allocating a budget for this purpose.

Proposed: Cllr Peart

Seconded: Cllr Field

FC69/2024 Kingsteignton Town Council Events

Verbal update from Events Officer, Miss Hooper. To include Community Coffee Mornings, Town Crier's Competition, Kingsteignton in Bloom and Community Festival.

Miss Hooper provided a concise update detailing the depth of work required to facilitate the introduction of the inaugural Town Crier's Competition; the dip in attendance numbers at Community Coffee Mornings attributed to the better weather drawing residents to not feel the need to attend/having other commitments; the progress made with the Community Festival and Kingsteignton in Bloom to date. Discussion took place on the photo format for this year's Kingsteignton in Bloom competition and it was noted that photography will be still be required on the judging days.

FC70/2024 Full Council Meeting Dates

To consider the following and resolve accordingly:



- a. **Postpone the Full Council meeting scheduled 3rd July 2024 to Wednesday 17th July.**
This allows for staff annual leave and ensures an agenda and associated papers are prepared and published within the statutory timeframe. It also means the time delay until the September meeting, due to the August recess, is reduced.

Resolved: All members were in favour of this scheduling change.
Proposed: Cllr Peart
Seconded: Cllr Scagell

- b. **Schedule an Extraordinary Full Council meeting to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 12th June:**
(prior to the scheduled Finance Committee Meeting). It is essential for the Full Council to approve, and for the Mayor to sign, the 2023-2024 Annual Governance & Accountability Return prior to submission to the external auditor. Unfortunately, the internal audit report was not returned in time for this matter to be included on the agenda for this full council meeting.

Resolved: All members were in favour of this additional meeting.
Proposed: Cllr Thorne
Seconded: Cllr Field

FC71/2024 Correspondence

- a. **Thank you from Jeanne Langridge**
Miss Hooper relayed the thanks received from this year's Volunteer Community Citizen of the Year Award recipient, Jeanne Langridge, for her award and gift.

Meeting closed at 8:07pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday 17th July 2024

Signed:

Dated: