

**Minutes of the Kingsteignton Town Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 7:00pm
The Community Hall, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton**

Present:

Mayor:	R Peart
Councillors:	J Scagell (Deputy Mayor), M Field, J Gordon, A Tillson-Hawke, D Ripping, J Gregson, B Thorne, M Eggar, S Danks & T Dempster
Locum Town Clerk:	Mrs R Avery (FSLCC)
Asst to the Clerk/Events Officer:	Miss B Hooper

Council not in formal session

Public Participation:

Prayers by Father Mark Smith

Cllr Keeley Gearon, Teignbridge District Council

PC Will Heather attended the meeting to enable members to raise any queries they had.

Jo Rice, Senior Case Worker for Martin Wrigley MP attended the meeting to provide an update following her meeting with Superintendent Linden regarding anti-social behaviour and retail crime.

Police Report:

Police Report – Kingsteignton, December 2024

- Report of a burglary, targeting an elderly female, where the suspect has been identified as an ex-employee. Enquiries are ongoing.
- Report received for a garden fence that was damaged.
- Report received of a burglary to a garden shed where three bicycles were stolen. Enquiries ongoing. Further reports of a garden shed being burgled, a garage being broken in to and a works vehicle being broken in to as well. These are currently believed to be linked and enquiries are ongoing.
- A report was received for a youth who was drunk and disorderly. They were subsequently arrested and taken to Custody.
- Three reports were received from Border Force for someone from a Kingsteignton address attempting to import controlled drugs. The drugs were seized and destroyed by Border Force.
- A motor vehicle was seized after a report from a member of the public, that a vehicle was being driven without insurance or tax. Officers attended the home address and witnessed the vehicle return. The driver has been reported for the driving offences.
- Report of an assault on a juvenile at Oakford Lawn. Enquiries ongoing.
- A fraudulent use of a bank card has been reported and is currently under investigation.
- Report of damage being caused to the Town Council Office building.

- Report received of a bilking at a petrol station, where a vehicle on false number plates has filled up with £40.00 off fuel and made off without payment. A further report has been made of a shoplifting and individuals left prior to Police arrival
- There has been a series of burglaries across South Devon, where entry has been gained to homes overnight and keys stolen to motor vehicles. There have been two confirmed thefts of motor vehicles in Kingsteignton this month, and another two attempts. This is actively under investigation by CID and have arrested three individuals involved with this. Residents are urged to ensure their properties are secure and keys are not left on display.

Current focussed work by PC 7201 Will Heather: ∞ Intelligence development surrounding drug supply and the impact on the local community. Any information can be submitted to the Police anonymously through CrimeStoppers.

County Councillor Report:

Cllr R Peart

Climate Change Environment.

Organisations such as Devon Wildlife Trust, National Trust, North Devon Biosphere, Plymouth City Council and Woodland Trust, will be running woodland walks and tree planting events in National Tree Week and throughout the winter. People can check the National Tree Week website and follow our partners on social media to find out what is going on near them.

Emergency Tree Fund.

Launched in 2021, the Emergency Tree Fund, granted by the Woodland Trust, has funded the planting of approximately 40,000 trees across Devon. The project comes to an end in December. Through the ETF funded staff to support the development and publication of the Devon Tree and Woodland Strategy by the Devon Local Nature Partnership. The ETF supported DCC in piloting carbon offsetting, providing resource to develop a new 10 – hectare woodland, designed to maximise biodiversity and carbon uptake. The ETF engaged over a thousand volunteers, through community events, including those from hard to reach, groups asylum seekers from groups such as Beyond Borders.

Free Trees Available Now

Schemes for this winter are typically highly oversubscribed, but communities wanting to make plans for next year should get in touch with organisations such as the Woodland Trust and Devon Wildlife Trust. To find funding and resources for tree planting try searching online for Devon LNP free tree planting.

Devon's average canopy cover is currently estimated at 14. 7% - a key target within the Devon Tree and Woodland Strategy is to bring this up to 16. 5% by 2050. This is an additional 3,000 hectares, or 2,000 football pitches.

DCC have also secured funding from the Forestry Commission's Local Authority Treescapes Fund and Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund, and Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest { Defra funded}. Using this resource, a further 27,000 trees will be planted before next March, which will take the total figure to approximately 77,000 trees planted since 2019 by Devon County Council, predominantly through community volunteering events.

District Councillors Report:

Cllr R Peart

The Government Community Match Funded Defibrillator Scheme.

This scheme run by the Department of Health and Social Care who are the chosen suppliers for the Mindray Defibrillators. This is an extension to a previous scheme and provides you with the opportunity of being able to obtain a Defibrillator and External Heated Cabinet with keypad lock for your local community for the cost of £750 plus VAT. VAT will only be applied if the purchaser is VAT registered.

There are only around 300 units remaining and once all have been claimed the scheme will close. Funding is provided on a first come first served basis and the funding is only confirmed once payments are received by ourselves as the suppliers.

The only requirements to qualify for the scheme are:

- You are based in England Installation on an external wall within 4 weeks of receipt of equipment. Must be available to the local community 24 hours a day.
- Once installed the Defibrillator must be registered with the ambulance service via The Circuit online registration.
- Following installation an email is to be sent to this address providing confirmation of installation address and photograph showing installed equipment.
- Responsible for ongoing maintenance simple routine visual checks, changing of battery after 5 years cost of approx. £235.00 exc VAT

Contact Jess Morris Subject: Government Community Match Funded Defibrillator Scheme.

Email: jess@londonhearts.org

Cllr B Thorne

Storms and Flooding in the Town.

After the appalling rain storms we have suffered of late I have received surprisingly few reports of dangerous/ damaging flooding on my ward except for the areas of Teigngrace, Old Exeter Road, Newton Road and Sandygate Lane which have been reported to the Highways and followed up subsequently. Should there be other areas of flooding that caused problems for you and you feel some remedial work is necessary which involves Highways please take the time to report it to Highways on the DCC web site and detail it as well as possible to me and I will try to inform the DCC or other authorities effectively.

TDC news, meetings and Business

I always draw attention to the TDC web site (Teignbridge.gov.uk) where a great deal of money has been spent collecting residents' views and then updating the site appropriately so please try it out and let me know if there are any further weaknesses. It does give a more sensible access to various topics and hopefully better for residents. With a number of items getting into the papers and TV of late some more information will be available on the web site.

My involvement at TDC recently.

Besides attending the normal meetings I have joined new Task and Finish groups under the Overview and Scrutiny Committee looking at the Leisure provision and the Planning delivery whilst maintaining the Chair of the Medium-Term Financial Plan group which has already submitted its recommendations for the now draft 25/26 budget at TDC.

The launch of the **Stover Park Restoration Project** has taken place with a very successful launch day event which was blessed with fabulous weather, many invited guests who had been involved with the project and were delighted by a wonderful set of presentations explaining the planning and delivery of the wonderful project itself. Please view the link for more information:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/celebrations-mark-completion-of-first-phase-of-restoring-stover-park-project/>

Should there be other issues you would like to bring to my attention from the West Ward of Kingsteignton please contact me on Bill.thorne@teignbridge.gov.uk.

Cllr K Gearon

No report received

Cllr D Rollason:

No report received

Council in formal session

FC127/2024 Apologies

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

Resolved: Apologies received and accepted from:
Cllr K Jones (Personal Reasons)
Cllr L Goodall (Work Commitments)

FC128/2024 To receive any declarations of interest and consider requests or Dispensation(s):

- 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.

FC129/2024 To receive the Mayor's Report

No report.

FC130/2024 To receive and approve the minutes of this following meetings, to be signed by this meeting Chair:

Full Council meeting held on 6th November 2024

Cllr Peart presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th November 2024.

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

Proposed: Cllr Scagell

Seconded: Cllr Thorne

Extra Ordinary Full Council meeting held on 20th November 2024

Cllr Peart presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th November 2024.

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

Proposed: Cllr Peart

Seconded: Cllr Thorne

FC131/2024 To receive and ratify the approved minutes of the following committees:

Works, Services & Planning held 6th November 2024 – Cllr Peart

Resolved: The approved minutes presented above were ratified.

Proposed: Cllr Peart

Seconded: Cllr Thorne

Finance held 9th October 2024 – Cllr Ripping

Resolved: The approved minutes presented above were ratified.

Proposed: Cllr Ripping

Seconded: Cllr Thorne

FC132/2024 To receive and note Representative Reports /Brief update

1. Stover Canal Trust – Cllr Ripping

On Tuesday 26th November, I attended a meeting of the Stover Canal Trust. The main focus of the meeting was, as expected, the flooding that occurred after the heavy rain over the previous weekend.

The amount of water sent down the River Teign created such pressure that the railway embankment was breached. This caused a flood of water to wash away the opposite bank of the Stover Canal. There is no longer any footpath for at least 60 yards on either side of the canal. Notices are in place to advise walkers and cyclists at each end of the routes from Newton Abbot to the Old Exeter Road.

Until the water subsides, neither the Canal Trust or Network Rail will be able to assess the full extent of the damage. It is anticipated that the paths will not be open for a long period.

FC133/2024 Appointment of Proper Officer

To formally approve the appointment of Rachel Avery as Proper Officer for this meeting.

Resolved: All were in favour.

Proposed: Cllr Peart

Seconded: Cllr Scagell

FC134/2024 Time Off In Lieu Policy

To review and adopt the policy.

Resolved: Members agreed to adopt the new Time Off In Lieu Policy.

Proposed: Cllr Peart

Seconded: Cllr Scagell

FC135/2024 Public Toilet Provision

To consider a corporate response to TDC regarding the future provision of public toilets.

Resolved: All were in favour of Kingsteignton Town Council not supporting any loss of provision of public toilets at The Fountain and were committed to safeguarding it for the future.

Proposed: Cllr Thorne

Seconded: Cllr Peart

FC136/2024 Hire Charges

To review Hire Charges for 2024/25 and approve any amendments.

Cllr Gregson proposed 50p per hour increase on Main Hall Booking rates and £1.00 per hour increase on all other booking rates. This was seconded by Cllr Thorne. The vote failed.

Cllr Scagell proposed 50p per hour increase on Main Hall booking rates only, seconded by Cllr Ripping. Seven Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Resolved: The Main Hall Booking rates increased by 50p an hour.

Proposed: Cllr Scagell

Seconded: Cllr Ripping

Cllr Thorne proposed retaining the hire time being available until 11pm. This was seconded by Cllr Gregson. The vote failed.

Cllr Scagell proposed reducing the hire time to only being available until 10pm, seconded by Cllr Tillson-Hawke. Six Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Resolved: All hire times reduced to 10pm.

Proposed: Cllr Scagell

Seconded: Cllr Tillson-Hawke

FC137/2024 Budget 2025/26

To receive and approve the budget for 2025/26, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Resolved: To approve the budget as detailed in Appendix F.

Proposed: Cllr Ripping

Seconded: Cllr Peart

FC138/2024 Precept 2025/26

To approve the precept for 2025/26, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Resolved: To approve a 4% precept increase. The total precept for 2025/26 requested from TDC will be £401,408.

Proposed: Cllr Ripping

Seconded: Cllr Peart

FC139/2024 Next Meeting Date:

To note the date of the next Full Council meeting – Wednesday 8th January 2025.

FC140/2024 Part II

To resolve that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as it involves the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information

Resolved: Members unanimously agreed to move into Part II.

Proposed: Cllr Thorne

Seconded: Cllr Danks

FC141/2024 Staffing

To receive and note correspondence from a member of staff and to agree any further action.

Resolved: The correspondence was received and the contents noted.

FC142/2024 Staffing

To receive the Town Clerk's report regarding staffing and to consider the recommendations there in.

Resolved: Following a robust debate, recommendations within the confidential report were not approved and a set of decisions were agreed verbally. Clarification on decisions would be provided to Councillors by email.

Meeting closed at 8:50pm.

Signed:

Dated: