

**Minutes of the Kingsteignton Town Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 5th March 2025 at 7:00pm
The Community Hall, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton**

Present:

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

Council not in formal session

Public Participation:

Reverend Goddard – Kingsteignton Community Baptist Church – Opening Prayers.

Jo Rice – Senior Caseworker, Martin Wrigley MP – updated members on work ongoing to garner better support from the Rugby Football Union (RFU) regarding grass roots rugby in a backbench debate on 11th March 2025 following liaison with a Cornish MP, speaking on the same matter and Newton Abbot Rugby Club (based at Rackerhayes in Kingsteignton).

Liz Rollason – Chair, Oakford Lawn Trust – regarding agenda item FC177/2025 with specific concern regarding the unsuitability of Oakford Lawn in terms of lack of insufficient drainage especially.

Police Report:

A report was received for an arson occurring, where youths set alight to a bin in a retail car park.

- Report of a road rage incident occurring on Gestridge Road.
- Report of a hate crime, consisting of a public order offence in a public place. This is currently under investigation.
- There was a report of a child being bitten by a dog, causing puncture wounds.
- Report received of three shoplifting offences taking place at retail premises. Currently under investigation.
- Report of a public order offence where a youth was verbally abused following an altercation at a retail premises.
- A number of calls this month have been domestic related along with safeguarding enquiries created for the area. We have also had a number of missing person reports, they were all located in a short amount of time. Individuals concerned have had appropriate safeguarding referrals made and are being support through partner agencies.

Current focussed work by PC 7201 Will Heather:

- ❖ Ongoing complex housing and anti-social behaviour case within a local Kingsteignton estate. This is a multi-agency and multi-departmental response to a long-term issue and we are exploring various options to address the issues in the short, medium and long term. Through partnership working, this has led two a full Closure Order and a Partial Closure Order being granted at two properties in Mandarin Way.

County Councillor Report:

Cllr R Peart

Public Health

We have finally received confirmation of the ring-fenced public health grant for 25/26. Headlines are an additional £200million nationally to fund public health services and support national priority shifting from sickness to prevention.

For Devon, this represents a rather disappointing increase of £1.67million to £33.3million and moves us from £37.62 per head to £39.20 per head- still a lot less than Plymouth (£67.45 and Torbay (£81.96) . We have ask why such a difference and not yet had a satisfactory reply.

We will have to wait for the detail to come through to see if there are any additional expectations placed upon us for example picking up the full cost for NHS Agenda for change pay increases.

Waste Disposal

The Government has officially announced the implementation of a Deposit Return Scheme {DRS} for single – use plastic bottles and cans, set to launch in October 20/27.

Under the long -awaited scheme, consumers will pay a deposit when purchasing drinks in plastic or metal containers. Once the drink is finished, the containers can be returned to a collection point {such as your local supermarket } to reclaim the deposit.

This proven system, already in place in over 50 countries World Wide, has seen return rates averaging over 87% in European countries with such a scheme, in fact Germany is claiming 98%. Germany had such a scheme over 30 years ago, I can remember when I was a boy {yes I can go that far back] we used to go out to find empty pop bottles and take them back to the off-licence for a penny for six.

An estimated 6.5billion of these singe -use drinks bottles and cans go to the landfill or incinerated per year in the UK-that's over 17million every day. This means an unimaginably large amount of plastic, aluminium or steel is used once and then buried or burnt.

It's about time such a scheme was put in place.

District Councillors Report:

Cllr R Peart

Structural work have now started on the Grade 11 listed Market Hall in Newton Abbot.

The plan is to reinstate historic features which restore the building's original charm and transform it into a Welcoming and vibrant space.

The first phase of the ambitious £5million scheme involved the demolition of a section a section of the 1970s food hall to create a new pedestrian walkway from Market Street to the square. Teams working on the development were excited to uncover a view that had been hidden by the 1970s extension for nearly half a century.

The ongoing refurbishment of the historic Market Hall will create a thriving hub featuring a bar, street food vendors, Retail shops, café a fresh food hall, and event spaces.

Don't forget, you can still shop at the market while renovation work is ongoing. Traders have been relocated to a temporary indoor market in the Market Walk Shopping Centre. The main structural works are expected to be complete by the end of the year, with the Market Hall due to open in Spring 2026.

We are keen to hear from anyone who wishes to know more about the opportunity to manage the new Market Hall space as well as prospective new traders who want to know more about the retail space, the Food Hall or the street food stalls. Anyone interested in these opportunities can email economy@teignbridge.gov.uk.

Cllr B Thorne

No report received.

Cllr K Gearon

It's been a busy start to the year with lots of meetings.

At the recent Full Council meeting, Teignbridge's long-term strategy 'One Teignbridge' was approved by Councillors. Although this was voted through, a considerable debate took place between Councillors who were questioning the timing of the strategy and whether it should be temporarily paused. This is mainly due to the uncertainty of the potential devolution and Council Leaders and Chief Executives being asked to develop a proposal for local government reorganisation. Whilst it is recognised the priorities set out in the Strategy are much needed for Teignbridge residents: **Community, Economy, Environment, Homes, and, Infrastructure**, concerns were raised on the timing of the strategy and whether this approach is value for money for tax payers. We will wait and see.

To that end, the Government are recommending new unitary authorities through the devolution process. Local Councils are being asked to develop proposals for local government reorganisation with a timescale of the earliest 'go live' date in 2028. It will be interesting to see how this develops over the coming months/years for Teignbridge residents. All updates on the process can be found on Teignbridge's website.

Cllr D Rollason:

No report received.

Council in formal session

FC163/2024 Apologies

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

Resolved: Apologies were received and accepted from:
Cllr T Dempster (Personal Commitments)

FC164/2024 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.

FC165/2025 To receive the Mayor's Report

No report received.

FC166/2025 To receive and approve the minutes of the following meetings, to be signed by this meeting Chair:

Full Council meeting held on 29th January 2025

Cllr Peart presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 29th January 2025.

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

Proposed: Cllr Scagell

Seconded: Cllr Tillson-Hawke

Extra Ordinary Full Council meeting held on 19th February 2025

Cllr Peart presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th February 2025.

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

Proposed: Cllr Field

Seconded: Cllr Thorne

FC167/2025 To receive and ratify the approved minutes of the following committees:

Works, Services & Planning held on 22nd January 2025 – Cllr Peart

Resolved: The approved minutes presented above were ratified.

Proposed: Cllr Peart

Seconded: Cllr Ripping

Works, Services & Planning held on 05th February 2025 – Cllr Peart

Resolved: The approved minutes presented above were ratified.

Proposed: Cllr Peart

Seconded: Cllr Jones

FC168/2025 To receive and note Representative Reports/Brief update

None received.

FC169/2025 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 Thorne

FC170/2025 Appointment of Interim Responsible Finance Officer

To formally approve the appointment of Rachel Avery as Responsible Finance Officer until Wednesday 9th April 2025.

Resolved: All were in favour.
Proposed: Cllr Thorne
Seconded: Cllr Tillson-Hawke

FC171/2025 Terms of Reference

To review and approve the Terms of Reference for the HR Committee and Appeals Committee

Resolved: The Terms of Reference for the HR Committee and Appeals Sub-Committee were unanimously approved.
Proposed: Cllr Peart
Seconded: Cllr Thorne

FC172/2025 Appointments

To appoint Councillors to the HR Committee and Appeals Sub-Committee, subject to the approval of FC171/2025

Resolved: Cllrs Thorne, Eggar, Gordon, Ripping and Peart will form the membership of the HR Committee.
Proposed: Cllr Thorne
Seconded: Cllr Danks

Resolved: Cllrs Tillson-Hawke, Field and Jones will form the membership of the Appeals Sub-Committee.
Proposed: Cllr Peart
Seconded: Cllr Scagell

FC173/2025 Policies

To review and approve the following policies:
Grievance Policy

Resolved: To approve the amendment of the Grievance Policy following the establishment of the HR Committee and Appeals Sub-Committee with immediate effect.
Proposed: Cllr Field
Seconded: Cllr Thorne

FC174/2025 Internal Audit

To receive the interim Internal Audit and to resolve to delegate the following actions to the Finance Committee:

- Review and adoption of Statement of Internal Control
- Review and adoption of Model Publication Scheme
- Review of Financial Regulations, with recommendations being considered by Full Council at the April meeting

Resolved: To delegate the above three items listed in FC174/2025 to the next Finance Committee meeting. All were in favour of this resolution.

Proposed: Cllr Thorne

Seconded: Cllr Peart

FC175/2025 CIL Guidance Note:

To receive the Guidance Note from Teignbridge District Council (TDC) and to make any comments.

Councillors noted the CIL Guidance Note.

FC176/2025 CIL Reports

To receive the Town Clerk's report regarding CIL reports and to agree any recommendations therein.

Resolved: The Council will review the 2022/23 and 2023/24 CIL reports.

Proposed: Cllr Peart

Seconded: Cllr Thorne

Resolved: Kingsteignton Town Council will enter a discussion with TDC regarding some of the payments with a view to reducing the CIL 'repayment'.

Proposed: Cllr Scagell

Seconded: Cllr Eggar

Resolved: Kingsteignton Town Council agrees a maximum amount of £50,000.00 be taken from General Reserves to be placed in the CIL EMR (earmarked reserves).

Proposed: Cllr Peart

Seconded: Cllr Thorne

FC177/2025 Oakford Lawn:

To receive the email regarding use of Oakford Lawn for football training and to consider any further action.

Resolved: Councillors discussed the request to utilise Oakford Lawn for football training but due to the nature of the ground having insufficient drainage, lighting, public facilities and parking it was accepted this was not a viable request. All were in favour of declining the request.

Proposed: Cllr Scagell

Seconded: Cllr Ripping

FC178/2025 Community Citizenship Awards

To receive and agree the documentation regarding Community Citizenship Awards, and to note the amended timeline.

Resolved: To approve the altered wording on Guidance Notes 2025 document.

Proposed: Cllr Peart

Seconded: Cllr Scagell

Councillors noted the amended timeline and key dates within it.

Resolved: That Cllrs Eggar, Field, Thorne and Peart will comprise the Community Citizenship Awards confirmation of eligibility panel for 2025.

Proposed: Cllr Scagell

Seconded: Cllr Danks

FC179/2025 Councillor Vacancy

Members noted the timeline for the co-option of a new Councillor.

FC180/2025 Next Meeting Date:

To note the amended date of the next Full Council meeting – Wednesday 09th April 2025.

The meeting date was noted by all present.

FC181/2024 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 Peart

Seconded: Cllr Thorne

FC182/2025 RFO Vacancy

Resolved: To approve the job advert, job description and person specification; and to approve shortlisting and interview panels.

Proposed: Cllr Peart

Seconded: Cllr Thorne

FC183/2025 Staffing

Resolved: To receive the report by the Town Clerk and approve the recommendations therein.

Proposed: Cllr Peart

Seconded: Cllr Thorne

Meeting closed at 8:50pm.

Signed:

Dated: