



**Members of the Council you are  
hereby summoned to attend a meeting of**

## **Kington Town Council**

to be held on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.00 pm**  
at  
**The Oxford Arms, Duke Street, Kington**  
for the purpose of transacting the following business.

### **Agenda**

1. To receive apologies for absence, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation
2. Town Councillor Vacancy  
To note resignation of Cllr. John Dennis
3. Minutes:
  - a) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021
  - b) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021
4. Public Participation:
  - a) Police Report
  - b) Matters raised by members of the public in attendance
  - c) Ward Councillor report
5. Mayor's Report
6. Clerk's Report
7. Financial Matters  
To approve payments totalling £6,257.50 (+VAT) as per the payment schedule
8. To consider response to Herefordshire Council's budget consultation
9. Covid Memorial Benches Proposal:
  - a) To rescind resolution 141/21(a) regarding delivery date for second bench
  - b) To consider virement of the Mayor's Allowance of £1,000 for 2021/2022 to the Covid Budget
  - c) To agree acceptance of anonymous donation of £1,000 towards the cost of an additional bench
  - d) To commission a second bench of the type and design agreed for the Recreation Ground under resolution 141/21(b) at a cost of £3,000 per bench to be sited in St. Mary's Churchyard
10. To consider quotations for work on the trees in St. Mary's Churchyard
11. To note and agree request from Kington Recreation Ground Trust for purchase of goods and services from annual grant allocation
12. To note report from municipal gym task and finish group
13. To note report from working party to consider preparations for Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations for June 2022

### **Kington Town Council**

The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington HR5 3DP  
Tel: 01544 239 098 or mob: 07483 914 485 [www.kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk)

15. Reports from Committees:
  - a) Planning Committee held 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021
16. Items for the next agenda
17. Date and time of next meeting

Issued by: Liz Kelso PSLCC  
Clerk, Kington Town Council  
Email: [clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk) Tel: 01544 239 098 or 07483 914 485  
Issued: 31.8.2021

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## **KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL INFORMATION ON MEETINGS**

Kington Town Council are delighted to return to face to face meetings since 2020 following the easing of Coronavirus restrictions. However, we must be aware that although infection rates are slowing, we must still ensure the health and safety of all those attending our meetings.

1. Please note that the meeting will be held at the Oxford Arms as our usual meeting room is considered too small to allow social distancing for Members of the Council, staff and members of the public. The Oxford Arms will not be open for business on the day of the meeting.
2. We would ask you to observe social distancing and the wearing of masks – unless you have a medical exemption - when inside the meeting venue. We acknowledge that this may make it difficult to hear and be heard during the meeting but your safety and the safety of everyone attending is paramount.
3. Please use the sanitiser provided when entering the building. Please follow any directional signage to a vacant seat and do not move the chairs provided. Please do not walk around the room once seated and if you leave the room during or at the end of the meeting, please observe any one way system. Doors and windows will remain open during the meeting.
4. If you wish to refer to a copy of the agenda or meeting papers during the meeting please bring a copy with you as only limited supplies will be available. Do not share papers and take any papers home with you after the meeting.
5. Apologies, but we are currently unable to offer refreshments.
6. On entry you will be asked to give your name and details where you can be contacted over the next three weeks. Your details will be kept for track and trace purposes and may be handed over to the Public Health Department at Herefordshire Council if requested to do so. We will destroy your personal data if no such request is received after the 21 day period or as instructed by Herefordshire Council. By entering the meeting you will be deemed to have given permission for your personal data to be used for this purpose.
7. **Please do not attend this meeting if you or a member of your household has symptoms of Coronavirus such as a new continuous cough, fever or change to your sense of taste or smell, whether or not you have had a recent Coronavirus test.**
8. **Please do not attend the meeting if you or a member of your household has tested positive for Coronavirus within 14 days of the date of the meeting or you have been advised to self isolate as you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Coronavirus or have returned from a country where the UK government has indicated you should self isolate on return to the UK.**
9. Entry to the meeting room may be refused once the maximum capacity of the room has been reached.

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# Kington Town Council

The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington HR5 3DP

Telephone 01544 239098    Mobile: 07483 914 485

email: clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

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## Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 at the Oxford Arms, Duke Street, Kington

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. R. Widdowson - Chair  
Cllr. E. Banks  
Cllr. R. Banks  
Cllr. J. Gardner  
Cllr. F. Hawkins  
Cllr. B. Macleod-Needs  
Cllr. I Spencer

### IN ATTENDANCE

Liz Kelso - Clerk  
Tanith Vaughan – Asst. Clerk/GSA  
2 members of the press  
Cllr. T. James, Herefordshire Council Ward Member  
4 members of the public

### Agenda

Item	Minute
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- |          |               |   |
|----------|---------------|---|
| <b>1</b> | <b>124-21</b> | <b>To note apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation</b><br>Apologies were noted from Cllrs. T. Bounds, J. Cooke, J. Dennis, P. Edwards, M. Fitton, R. MacCurrach, D. Redmayne and E. Rolls. There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation. |
| <b>2</b> | <b>125-21</b> | <b>Minutes of Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b><br>The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2021, having been previously circulated, were agreed and the Chairman authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.                 |
| <b>3</b> | <b>126-21</b> | <b>Public Participation</b>   |
|          | <b>a)</b>     | <b>Matters raised by members of the public in attendance</b><br>A member of the public in attendance raised an issue relating to police incidents. This was discussed further under agenda item 3(c) below.   |

**b) Ward Councillor Report**

Members noted the verbal report from Cllr. James including an update on Herefordshire Council financial matters, highlighting the overspend on the link road in Hereford and financial issues arising out of the cancellation of the by pass project and from the court case relating to childrens services. It was noted that budget cuts within Herefordshire Council's budget can impact on town and parish councils when setting their own budgets for the forthcoming year.

Members noted that pollution of the River Lugg which has resulted in building work being unable to proceed within the catchment area has contributed to a 6.9 year housing land supply within Herefordshire. Proposals for a wetland project which will enable some house building in the North of the county were outlined.

**c) Police Report**

A member of West Mercia Police was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a report which was read out by the Clerk and highlighted the importance of reporting incidents to the police using the non emergency line. In view of the public interest in incidents in the town, a meeting will be convened by the police in the near future. The Clerk will liaise with the police to arrange this.

**4 127-21 Mayor's Report**

Members noted the Mayor's verbal report including information about Herefordshire Council's Civic Service which is being held at St. Mary's Church in Kington at 11.00am on 26<sup>th</sup> September. The memorial service for those who have been lost during the pandemic is provisionally scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> September, also at 11.00am.

**5 128-21 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's report, as attached, was noted.

**6 129-21 Financial Matters**

**a) Payments**

Payments totalling £2,560.92 (inclusive of VAT) as detailed on the attached schedule, were duly authorised.

**b) Request for donation from Victim Support**

Members noted the general request for a donation from the charity Victim Support and resolved to defer this to the next meeting pending confirmation from Victim Support on the work carried out or proposed in Kington.

**c) Annual Risk Review**

Members noted and agreed the recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the Annual Risk Review as circulated, be adopted.

**d) Annual Statement of Internal Control**

Members noted and agreed the recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the Annual Statement of Internal Control as circulated, be adopted.

**7 130-21 Planning Matters**

The following planning applications were considered:

- Ref: 212591  
Site: Flats 1-5 Bank House, 14 Church Street, Kington  
Dev: Replacement of windows and doors  
Members resolved to support this development
- Ref: 212670  
Site: 43 Hargest Road, Kington  
Dev: Retrospective change of use of the ground floor office into residential 1 bed flat  
Members resolved to offer no objections to the proposed development
- Ref: 212735  
Site: Church House, 11 Church Road, Kington  
Dev: Internal alterations to form ensuite bathroom  
Members resolved to offer no objections to the proposed development

Members noted that a shortage of planning officers within Herefordshire Council's planning department is impacting on the timescales for planning applications and resulting in it being difficult to request an extension to the time permitted for the town council to offer observations on planning applications.

**8 131-21 Covid Memorial Benches**

Members noted an update from the Working Party on progress. After some discussion on options, site locations and potential delivery dates, it was agreed to defer any decision to a special meeting to be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August to enable appropriate reports and recommendations to be sent to members prior to the meeting for consideration. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements for the additional meeting.

**9 132-21 Bus Survey**

Herefordshire Council has launched a survey into bus service provision throughout the County. It was agreed that members respond as individuals to the survey which is available as a paper copy and online. Cllr. Gardner reminded members of the results of the online survey she had personally conducted earlier in the year.



**10      133-21    Christmas Decorations**

Members noted the report and recommendations from the Christmas Decorations Working Group as circulated prior to the meeting. After due consideration, and noting in particular that the processes undertaken by the working group are in compliance with the Town Council Financial Regulations, it was agreed to accept the recommendations of the working group with regard to proposals for a three year rental agreement for Christmas lights and the installation of brackets on lampposts for non-illuminated banners at a budget cost of £15,000 per year. It was further agreed that the Clerk be hereby authorised to enter into contractual negotiations with the suppliers identified and recommended by the working group with a view to delivery of the project as outlined in the report for the 2021 Christmas period.

Cllr. Richard Banks was thanked for leading on this project in collaboration with the Chamber of Trade.

**11      134-21    Municipal Gym Equipment**

Members noted an update report from the task and finish group for this project which has now visited similar installations and is completing their recommendations for consideration at the September Council meeting.

**12 & 13    135-21    Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

This agenda item was taken at the same time as agenda item 13. Members noted that plans for celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee are now being published nationally covering the period Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June to include the lighting of beacons, church services, street parties and other community events and to include the planting of trees under the Queen's Green Canopy proposals. It was resolved to set up a working group to co-ordinate activities within Kington to include the Town Council, Chamber of Trade, Festival Association, Schools and other community groups.

**14      136-21    Reports from Committees**

Members noted reports from the following committee meetings:

- Finance & General Purposes Committee held 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021
- Planning Committee held 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021
- Environment Committee held 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021
- Personnel Committee held 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**15 & 16    137-21    Date and time of next meeting and Items for the agenda**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm, venue to be confirmed. The following items were identified for the next meeting in addition to those items noted within these minutes:

- Design of banners for use as part of the Christmas decorations

**17      138-21    Exclusion of the public and press**

It was resolved that due to the confidential nature of the business of the next agenda item, that members of the public be excluded from the following agenda item in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960(3)

**18      139-21    Staff Matters**

Members resolved to accept the recommendation of the Personnel Committee with regard to the confirmation of appointment of the Assistant Clerk/Green Spaces Administrator.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed.

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Chairman



**Appendix 1**  
**Meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021**  
**Agenda item 5 - Clerk's Report**

This report identifies activities of the Clerk since the last meeting other than those addressed elsewhere on the agenda or addressed by other Members as part of their report.

**1. Transport Strategy Meeting**

As noted at the last meeting, the Clerk has requested a meeting with Cllr. John Harrington to discuss a transport strategy for Kington and had received an apology from Cllr. Harrington saying that he was under the misapprehension that the town council were represented at a separate meeting. A meeting date has now been suggested and the Clerk is making the necessary arrangements.

**2. Cultivation Licence**

As agreed at the May meeting the clerk has begun work on applying for a cultivation licence from Herefordshire Council for the Tavern Roundabout and still awaits information from the group undertaking the work, as required by Herefordshire Council.

**3. Welcome Back Fund**

As noted at the last meeting Herefordshire Council are applying for government funding under the "Welcome Back Fund" to support return to the High Street. If successful, funds might be available to support the market towns encouraging visitors and shoppers back to the high street. We still await confirmation from Herefordshire Council on potential project opportunities for this revenue funding.

**4. Herefordshire Council Economic Investment Plan for Kington**

As noted at the last meeting Herefordshire Council has advised that the next stage of the Economic Investment Plan for Kington is for the draft plan to be presented to cabinet for discussion, which should take place in September. In the meantime, work is being undertaken on preparing a business case on the proposals identified during the consultation process.

**5. Herefordshire Council Chief Executive Visit to Kington**

Herefordshire Council's new Chief Executive Paul Walker will visit Kington on August 19<sup>th</sup>, accompanied by Ward Councillor Terry James.

**6. Parish Council Summit**

As noted at the last meeting, the Clerk is to attend a Parish Council reference group established by Herefordshire Council to take forward a request for consideration of drafting a new Charter between parish councils and Herefordshire Council. The first meeting of the group is being proposed for August.

**7. Defibrillator proposals**

At the last meeting it was agreed that the council would review the location and accessibility of defibrillators around the town, including those installed by and managed by private organisations, with a view to considering whether further equipment should be considered. That work is ongoing but not yet completed so will be presented to a later meeting of the town council.

8. **Proposal for additional bench at Crooked Well**

This proposal has been withdrawn by the proposer and will be put forward for inclusion in the budget for the next financial year.

9. **Churchyard**

As noted at the last meeting, Community Payback have started work in the Churchyard and so far this seems to be going well. We are seeking quotes for the removal of two dead trees and will bring these to the Council for consideration at the next meeting.

**Kington Town Council**

**FOR INFORMATION**

FOR INFORMATION				
Total of payments made through grants received:				
Total of payments made as a grant				
Recreation Ground Trust			£ 320.00	£ 64.00
Kington Town Council Grant Scheme				£ 384.00
				£ -





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## Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. R. Widdowson - Chair  
Cllr. E. Banks  
Cllr. R. Banks  
Cllr. J. Gardner  
Cllr. F. Hawkins  
Cllr. D. Redmayne  
Cllr. E. Rolls  
Cllr. I Spencer

### IN ATTENDANCE

Liz Kelso - Clerk

### Agenda

Item	Minute
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1	140-21
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### To note apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation

Apologies were noted from Cllrs. T. Bounds, J. Cooke, J. Dennis, P. Edwards, R. MacCurrach, and B. Macleod-Needs. There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation.

2	141-21
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### Covid Memorial Benches

#### To note update from working group and agree change to timescales for final delivery of the project

a)

Members noted the update on work that has taken place since the last update and in particular the group meeting that had taken place to consider proposals for the location of one bench in the Recreation Ground. Discussions on the location for the second bench required further input before a final decision could be made so it was agreed that delivery of the second bench may be delayed until next year as there is a current estimated lead time of some 13 months for this work.

**b) To consider and approve final designs**

The final design for the curved bench identified for the Recreation Ground was considered, including arrangements for installation into the ground. After due consideration, it was agreed to approve the design by Ambrose Burne, subject to contract, for a curved design bench as presented to the meeting. It was further agreed that a plaque or engraved stone might be installed nearby (subject to further consideration once costs etc. are identified) to identify the bench as a memorial for those who have died during the Coronavirus pandemic, whether through the virus or not. The design and potential location for the second bench was deferred pending further discussions between the designer and the proposed location(s).

**c) To consider location of the proposed bench(es)**

It was agreed that the curved bench designed by Ambrose Burne would be installed within the Recreation Ground at the location discussed by the working group and identified at the meeting.

A decision on the second bench was deferred pending further discussions.

**d) To agree a budget price for the proposed bench(es)**

It was agreed to accept a budget price of up to £3,700 for the design, manufacture, delivery and installation of the bench designed by Ambrose Burne to be installed in the Recreation Ground. It was noted that a deposit of 50% was required to secure the contract.

A decision on the second bench was deferred pending further discussions with the designer, manufacturer and potential location of the bench.

**e) To authorise the Clerk to enter into contractual negotiations for the delivery of agreed bench(es)**

It was agreed to authorise the Clerk to complete contractual details for the delivery of the agreed bench for the Recreation Ground.

**3**

**To confirm date and time of next meeting**

Members were reminded that the next Full Council meeting will take place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed.

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Chairman

## **KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**Meeting to be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

### **Clerk's Report**

This report identifies activities of the Clerk since the last meeting other than those addressed elsewhere on the agenda or addressed by other Members as part of their report.

#### **1. Transport Strategy Meeting**

As previously noted the Mayor, two deputies and Clerk met with Cllr. John Harrington to discuss a transport strategy for Kington. During that meeting Cllr. Harrington advised that Covid Recovery Funding is to be used to provide free bus transport on weekends shortly and this funding will be extended to provide a service for a limited period at weekends where currently there is no service, suggesting new, if temporary, bus provision for Kington at weekends. It was also noted that Herefordshire Council have commissioned consultants to review the county-wide bus provision and the consultants would approach the market towns as part of their consultation.

Discussions also included the implications of the Economic Development Plan proposals (to be considered by Herefordshire Council this month), car park provision within the town and how this relates to planning matters. The potential transfer of the car parks under a community asset transfer was also touched upon although no formal proposals were considered.

It was agreed that a further meeting would be arranged with Herefordshire Council officers to both co-ordinate activities arising out of the economic development plan and linking this with a transport strategy for the town.

#### **2. Cultivation Licence**

As agreed at the May meeting the clerk has begun work on applying for a cultivation licence from Herefordshire Council for the Tavern Roundabout and still awaits information from the group undertaking the work, as required by Herefordshire Council.

#### **3. Herefordshire Council Economic Investment Plan for Kington**

As noted at the last meeting Herefordshire Council has advised that the next stage of the Economic Investment Plan for Kington is for the draft plan to be presented to cabinet for discussion, which should take place in September. In the meantime, work is being undertaken on preparing a business case on the proposals identified during the consultation process.

#### **5. Community Asset Transfers**

The Mayor, deputies and clerk attended a remote meeting with Herefordshire Council aimed at re-establishing the potential for transferring assets to the town council under a Community Asset Transfer, subject of course to agreement. The initial meeting established that the town council may be willing to consider this subject (earlier discussions having been stalled in part through Covid) and a subsequent meeting was set up with the relevant



cabinet member and officers for 31<sup>st</sup> August. However, that meeting had to be rescheduled due to technical difficulties and will now take place on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

During the initial meeting Herefordshire Council were reminded that the Town Council had agreed to take responsibility for Crooked Well Meadow as a community asset prior to covid but the contract, when received, was incorrect so was returned to Herefordshire Council. We therefore await receipt of the corrected version to take this forward.

**6. Talk Community**

Prior to covid, a preliminary discussion was held to consider the setting up of a talk community hub in Kington but plans did not continue following the outbreak of the pandemic. Herefordshire Council would like to re-open the discussions on this and are proposing a visit to Kington to explain what Talk Community is all about. Members are welcome to join this and dates will be circulated in due course.

**Herefordshire Council Chief Executive Visit to Kington**

Herefordshire Council's new Chief Executive Paul Walker visited Kington on August 19<sup>th</sup>, accompanied by Ward Councillor Terry James and met briefly with the Mayor and deputies.

**6. Parish Council Reference Group**

As noted at the last meeting, the Clerk was to attend a Parish Council reference group established by Herefordshire Council to take forward a request for consideration of drafting a new Charter between parish councils and Herefordshire Council. The first meeting of the group took place in August but on a date when the Clerk was unable to attend. Notes from the meeting indicate that s106 agreements were discussed and draft terms of reference for the group drawn up. The next meeting is to take place in October.

**7. Defibrillator proposals**

At the July meeting it was agreed that the council would review the location and accessibility of defibrillators around the town, including those installed by and managed by private organisations, with a view to considering whether further equipment should be considered. That work is ongoing but not yet completed so will be presented to a later meeting of the town council.

**8. Insurance**

The Town Council has received a rebate of £90.41 from insurers as a no claims rebate.

**Kington Town Council**  
**Schedule of payments to be approved on 6.9.2021**

Voucher #	Payee	Payment type:	Detail	Minute Ref.	Net	VAT	Total Payment
51	Lloyds Bank	DD - 16.8.2021	Admin - office costs		£ 67.05	£ 2.98	£ 70.03
52	HMRC	BACS	Salaries - August 2021		£ 827.34		£ 827.34
53	Herefordshire Council	BACS	Office Rental - September		£ 190.00		£ 190.00
54	PEAC Finance	DD - 8.8.2021	Admin - Copier Rental		£ 163.40	£ 32.68	£ 196.08
55	BOSS	BACS	Admin - printing & copying charges		£ 10.79	£ 2.16	£ 12.95
56	Amazon EU	BACS	Admin - Copier paper		£ 23.74	£ 4.75	£ 28.49
57	Amazon EU	BACS	Admin - Copier paper		£ 23.74	£ 4.75	£ 28.49
58	KBS	BACS	Rec. Grant - consumables		£ 50.22	£ 10.05	£ 60.27
59	Lite Ltd.	BACS	Admin - Christmas Lights rental deposit	FC - 133-21	£ 3,643.79	£ 728.76	£ 4,372.55
60	J&P Turner	BACS	Admin - Kingston in Bloom	FC - 119-21	£ 289.16	£ 57.83	£ 346.99
61	Kenny Stephenson Tree Care	BACS	Rec. Grant - emergency tree work		£ 750.00		£ 750.00
62	Mrs. F. White	BACS	Rec. Grant - Annual safety inspection		£ 63.40		£ 63.40
63	Countrywide	BACS	Rec. Grant - Grass Cutting		£ 154.87	£ 30.97	£ 185.84
							£ -
							£ -
			Total payments this month excluding salaries		£ 6,257.50	£ 874.93	£ 7,132.43

**FOR INFORMATION**

Total of payments made through grants received:			
Total of payments made as a grant			
Recreation Ground Trust	£ 113.62	£ 10.05	£ 123.67
Kington Town Council Grant Scheme			£ -



## **Budget Consultation 2022/23 – Have Your Say**

### **Background information and questions for Zoom discussions**

The budget consultation 2022/23 is focused on supporting post-covid recovery in Herefordshire and informing the council's transformation journey to deliver our services and facilities in the most effective, affordable and environmentally friendly way.

What you tell us will help us to get the best value for every pound we spend, so we can continue to serve all residents according to their needs and support the most vulnerable in our community as we plan for the future.

All local authorities have faced significant funding cuts to budgets over recent years. This has been made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic which has left the council with large budget shortfalls as well as hitting businesses and families hard. Last year's budget consultation invited residents to consider which services they prioritised and where they felt savings could be made as the council looked to make around £11million of savings.

While the council budget remains constrained, this year the council is not facing such a significant funding gap. Therefore, the focus of this consultation is to look at how the council can support post-covid recovery and transform the way council services are delivered to ensure they are modern, effective, efficient and environmentally friendly.

This year's budget consultation builds on what residents told us last year about council priorities with a particular focus on these key areas:

- Raising additional revenue, through a community lottery scheme and a voluntary contribution scheme for example, for the purpose of raising funds to benefit the residents of Herefordshire
- Consideration of accessing the finance/borrowing available to councils for investment for social, environmental and economic benefit in the county
- Supporting low-income households and local businesses in need of support post-covid

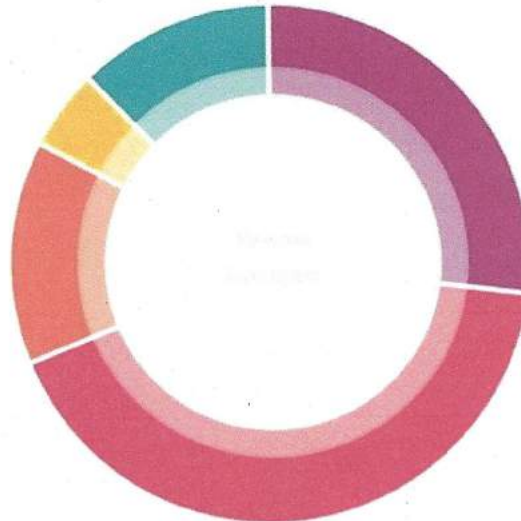


## How Herefordshire Council currently allocates its budget

### Revenue investment

- Adults & Communities £101.6m / 27%** Wide range of services supporting communities including many of the most vulnerable individuals in the county
- Childrens & Families £159.2m / 42%** Responsible for education services, safeguarding and family support
- Economy & Place £53.7m / 14%** Highways, regulatory services, waste and economic development
- Corporate £18.2m / 5%** Finance, human resources, legal, communications and strategic transformation and delivery
- Central, treasury management, capital financing & reserves £48.7m / 12%** Pension and financing costs

In 2021/22 the council has a gross revenue budget of £381.4 million to invest in the community. This is the money we use to pay for your day to day services - such as educating children, caring for vulnerable people and recycling and waste.



## What you told us last year

From last year's (2021/22) budget consultation we have taken into account what you said:

- You were dissatisfied with highways and roads more than any other service (72%)

The council is investigating large scale investment in highways and roads, which will require additional borrowing. We are seeking your views on increased borrowing within this year's budget consultation.

- You were dissatisfied with bus services

The council is seeking grant funding for significant investment in electric buses

- One of your highest priorities was to build publicly owned, sustainable and affordable houses

We aim to deliver 1,000 additional affordable homes by 2024. The council has brought in specialist expertise to help deliver new affordable housing more quickly.

- A large number of you raised concerns about the size of the proposed increases council tax

2021/2022 was an exceptional year financially for the council having to find just over £11million savings. Despite this we increased support to households in financial

difficulties, including reducing council tax to zero for those hardest hit during the covid pandemic.

Council tax increases are expected to be capped at inflation for the coming year.

We are seeking your views on the council tax reduction scheme for 2022/23 – please see link below under question 4.

- You were willing to consider potential schemes to raise additional revenue to support local good causes and projects to benefit local residents:
  - A Lottery Scheme
  - A Voluntary Additional Contribution Scheme

We are consulting on these two schemes in this year's budget consultation.

- 50% of you thought that the council did not provide value for money

The council has worked with its auditors to develop a new Value for Money Strategy and Value for Money Policy which will come to Cabinet shortly for approval. The strategy and policy tackle gaps and weaknesses in the council's approach to project management and service delivery. They will ensure we provide financial social, economic and environmental value and are able to show the positive impact our actions have on our residents and communities.

- You wanted us to make services more affordable to run, and your top two priorities are:
  - Making more efficient use of council assets such as land and buildings
  - Changing working practices to make better use of technology and more efficient ways of working

The new Chief Executive has initiated a two-year transformation programme for the council, led by experts. Feedback from last years and this year's budget consultations will help us shape this council-wide transformation programme.

## **Zoom Consultation Session**

The following questions will form the basis of the Zoom consultation session. Like last year there is a mixture of poll-based questions and open questions for discussion. Where appropriate, links to relevant strategy documents, or plans, have been included as further background information to enable people to have more informed discussions.

The on-line budget consultation will run until **Monday 4 October 2021** and can be accessed via this link: [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/budgetconsultation](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/budgetconsultation)

Please note this link goes live on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August**.

## **Consultation Questions**

### **Preventative Services**

1. In last year's budget consultation preventative services were identified as an area in need of more prioritisation. What preventative measures would you like to see in any of the following service areas? Or another service area? (Open discussion)
  - a. Children's services
  - b. Adult social care
  - c. Support for vulnerable people

For example, providing earlier intervention and help to children and their families to avoid children going into care, supporting adults to live independently and safely in their own homes, supporting people to be more active e.g. providing free leisure facilities such as swimming, support for vulnerable people e.g. cross-service prevention work with Health, partners and local and voluntary organisations to prevent homelessness and drug/substance misuse

### **Environmental measures - Net Zero & Nature Rich Herefordshire**

Since 2003, the council has been looking at ways to reduce its carbon footprint and also leading countywide carbon reduction. In recognition of this it declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019. The Council has set itself a target of reaching carbon neutrality by 2030 and are aiming for a 75% reduction by 2025/26. To achieve this the Council are undertaking a number of energy efficiency projects e.g. installation of solar panels on some Council owned building, hybrid and electric pool cars, use of renewable energy and initiatives to influence behaviour change.

Alongside these changes Herefordshire Council are also working with partners, businesses and residents on a journey to get the county to net zero and nature rich by 2030. Considerable findings will be required from a wide range of sources and some difficult decisions may have to be made on this journey. To succeed it will need the support of local residents and communities.



More information on the Council's plan can be found at  
<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/20530/carbon-management-plan-2020-21-to-2025-26>  
and the corresponding action plan:  
<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/22295/carbon-management-action-plan-2021>

A link to the county's Zero Net website can be found here:  
<https://zerocarbon.herefordshire.gov.uk/>

2. Do you agree that Herefordshire Council is doing enough towards achieving its ambition of a net zero and nature rich county? (Poll)

Yes, enough
No, not enough
Don't know
I don't agree with Herefordshire Council working towards this ambition

3. What are the key things you would like to see done differently in the county to help mitigate the climate emergency? (Open discussion)

#### **Pandemic Recovery**

4. Families on low incomes receive a discount on Council Tax (the council tax reduction scheme), however due to the pandemic low-income families currently receive an additional discount on their Council Tax. Do you think the Council should remove this additional discount? (Poll)

Yes
No
Not yet
No opinion

5. What would be the most effective way to help your community recovery from the pandemic? (Open discussion)

#### **Council Tax options for 2022/23 Proposed Council Tax increase**

Last year for 2021/22, due to the large-scale savings required amounting to £11.205million, council tax was increased by 4.99% (1.99% general council tax and 3.00% social care precept) which raised an additional £3.2 million. For next year, 2022/2023 savings of this magnitude are not anticipated, and the council would like your views on the level of Council Tax that the council should consider for 2022/2023. Further information about Herefordshire Council Tax can be found using this link  
<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/21942/your-council-tax-explained-2021-22>

*Please note: the council has no control over the Council Tax collected on behalf of the police, fire service, or parish and town councils. Each of these bodies will make their own independent decisions.*

Option A: To increase Council Tax in 2022/23 by 2.99% general Council Tax This would be an increase of £49.40 per year (or £4.12 per month) for a band D household. This would raise an additional £3.4 million.

Option B: To increase Council Tax in 2022/23 by 1.99% general Council Tax This would be an increase of £32.88 per year (or £2.74 per month) for a band D household. This would raise an additional £2.2 million.

Option C: To increase Council Tax in 2022/23 by 0.99% general Council Tax This would be an increase of £16.36 per year (or £1.36 per month) for a band D household. This would raise an additional £1.1 million.

6. Which of the following options would you prefer?

Option A: increase Council Tax by 2.99%
Option B: increase Council Tax by 1.99%
Option C: increase Council Tax by 0.99%
No preference
None of the above
Don't know

### Raising additional finance

Last year we consulted on two new ideas for raising money:

- Looking into the establishment of a **lottery scheme** for the council for the purpose of raising funds to support good causes, benefitting the residents of Herefordshire (through local consultation)
- Looking into the establishment of a **voluntary contribution scheme** for the council for the purpose of raising funds to support good causes, benefitting the residents of Herefordshire (through on-line consultation)

In general, participants were in support of the two schemes and officers have looked into the merits of these schemes. If these were actioned it would be useful to understand how residents would like to see that money spent?

7. If a Herefordshire Lottery Scheme or Herefordshire Voluntary Contribution Scheme was to go ahead, how would you like to see the money spent? (Poll followed by discussion)

Geographical priority areas
Thematic areas such as children, vulnerable adults, climate emergency
Specific charities or local groups

Allocated to Parish and Town Councils to decide with local residents for their area
Other

8. Local authorities have the opportunity to borrow money from central government and other sources, and currently Herefordshire Council has not borrowed as much as it is able to. Do you agree that Herefordshire Council should in principle borrow more money to achieve the wider aims of the Council? (Poll)

The County Plan can be accessed via this link;

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1500/county-plan-2020-24>

Yes
No
Don't know

9. If additional money was borrowed in which area/s would you like to see it spent? (Poll)

I don't support borrowing
Measures to address the climate emergency
Road maintenance
Adult social care e.g. care homes, day care services, mental health support
Children's services (not education) e.g. children in care, respite care, support for children with disabilities
Providing affordable housing
Other

## Public Realm

The public realm is commonly defined as any space that is free and open to everyone. Further information on how the Public Realm is managed by Herefordshire Council is available in the document below:

<https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/s50088921/Public%20realm%20service%20annual%20plan%20202122%20main%20report.pdf>

10. Where would you like greater control / influence over the public realm in your local area? (Open discussion question only for P&TC's).





**Kington Town Council**  
**Meeting to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
**Agenda item 9: Supplementary Information**

Item: Revised proposal for Covid memorial benches

1. Background: At its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> August the Council agreed to commissioning a Covid memorial bench to be sited at the Recreation Ground. A decision on a second bench of a different design and to be sited at the Garden of Remembrance at St Mary's was deferred pending discussions with St. Mary's representatives about siting and design.

It was noted that delivery of the second bench may be delayed until next year as there is a current estimated lead time of some 13 months for this work.

I have a personal commitment to this project as the idea arose out of community discussions held via Zoom during the lockdowns. Both the benches and the KINGTON GIVES THANKS event are a remembrance of people from the Kington area who have passed away since the beginning of the covid 19 pandemic.

The Council commitment to a design and manufacture by local makers is an important factor given the successful Marches Makers Festival held recently. In addition to commemorating the impact of Covid we are also making a public statement of the art and craft of the Kington area.

2. Discussions with St Mary's representatives: Cllrs Gardner, Redmayne and Widdowson met with Revd. Ben Griffiths and Kay Birchley who has been liaising with Ben, the surgery and ourselves on the benches and the proposed commemorative event at the church.

An area adjacent to the Garden of Remembrance had recently been cleared to make way for renovation work on the church providing a large triangular space that seemed designed to accommodate the larger bench similar or the same as that commissioned for the Recreation Ground.

Discussion then moved on to the Kington Gives Thanks Commemorative event which Ben and Kay hoped to hold at the time the bench was installed. It was felt that delaying this until 2022 was not feasible as it would be too distant from the events being commemorated. Commissioning two benches of the same design and with a delivery period of 6/8 weeks would allow for the event to be held in late autumn, traditionally a time of remembrance.

However, this would have budgetary implications that would need resolution.

3. Budget. Ambrose Burne has quoted a price of £3000 per bench, well below the actual cost of £3,618 as "contribution to the community".

Council has already agreed the price of up to £3,700 for the design, manufacture, delivery and installation of the bench designed by Ambrose Burne to be installed in the Recreation Ground.

4. Proposal

In recognition of the need to observe budgetary constraints I would propose that additional cost to the Council of purchasing a second bench within this financial year be limited to a maximum of £1000.

This would be achieved by:

- Virement of outstanding Mayor's Allowance of £1000 to Covid Budget
- Obtaining external funding (£1000 has already been offered)
- Responsibility for installation costs being borne by St.Mary's PCC.

**PROPOSAL**

- 1. Kington Town Council's resolution 141-21 (a) to defer a decision on the second bench be rescinded in the light of changing circumstances.**
- 2. That this council agrees to the virement of the Mayors allowance of £1,000 for 2021/22 to the Covid budget**
- 3. That this council accepts an anonymous donation of £1,000 towards the cost of the bench**
- 4. That Kington Town Council agrees to commission a second bench from Ambrose Burne of the design previously agreed under resolution 141/21(b) at a cost of £3,000 for each bench to be sited in St. Mary's churchyard**

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Cllr Bob Widdowson  
Mayor  
31 August 2021.



## **KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**Meeting to be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Agenda item 10 – St. Mary's Churchyard**

### **Background**

Kington Town Council is responsible for the maintenance of St. Mary's Churchyard. Two trees in the churchyard have died and need to be removed. In accordance with Financial Regulations, quotations have been sought from a total of 5 contractors who have also been asked to quote for work on the Crooked Well triangle. Contractors local to Kington have been approached at this stage.

In addition to the work required to remove the dead trees, the contractors who have been approached have been asked to quote separately for the removal of all arisings and the removal of ivy which has been pulled from walls and memorials by the Community Payback Team who are working on behalf of the Town Council in the Churchyard. A waste licence would be required for this.

The results of the tendering exercise are attached.

### **Proposal**

To date only one contractor has agreed to quote for the work in the Churchyard and this contractor does have a waste carrier licence. The total cost indicated as per the attached sheet amounts to:

Tree removal:	£550.00
Waste removal:	£150.00

It is proposed that the quotation from this contractor be accepted for this work.

## Green Spaces Quotations

September 2021

[illegible]



# Kington Town Council

Email: [clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk)

Web site: [www.kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting

held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021  
at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

### PRESENT

Cllr. F. Hawkins - Chair  
Cllr. E. Banks  
Cllr. E. Rolls  
Cllr. I. Spencer  
Cllr. R. Widdowson

### IN ATTENDANCE

Liz Kelso – Town Clerk

Minute	Agenda item
Plan-047-21	<b>1 Apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation</b> Apologies were noted from Cllrs T. Bounds, J. Cooke, and P Edwards. There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation.
Plan 048-21	<b>2 Minutes of the previous meeting</b> Minutes of the meeting held on 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 were approved and the Chair was authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.
Plan 049-21	<b>3. Planning Applications now due for comment</b> <b>Ref: 213044</b> Site: Arrowbank Lodge, Bridge Street, Kington Dev: Tree works including one replacement tree Obs. No objections were raised to the proposed development
Plan 050-21	<b>4 Applications under permitted development rights</b> None to note
Plan 051-21	<b>5. Planning decisions by Herefordshire Council since last meeting</b> None noted since the last meeting
Plan 052-21	<b>6 S106 Wishlist</b> This item was deferred pending further consideration. It was confirmed that the working party consist of Cllrs. Fitton, Spencer, Hawkins, Widdowson and Rolls and that the working party would meet informally on 23 <sup>rd</sup> August. It was further agreed that a note of any unspent s106 monies would be requested from Herefordshire Council.



**Items for the next agenda and date of next meeting**

There were no items raised for the next agenda other than as noted above. The next meeting will take place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 6.00pm

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6.30pm.

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Chairman