



Kington Town Council

The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington HR5 3DP
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Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Town Council Meeting held via video-conferencing on Monday 20th July 2020 at 7.00pm

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. R. Widdowson (in the Chair)
Cllr. E. Banks
Cllr. A. Bennett
Cllr. T. Bounds
Cllr. J. Cooke
Cllr. J. Dennis
Cllr. P. Edwards
Cllr. M. Fitton
Cllr. R. Griffiths
Cllr. F. Hawkins
Cllr. R. MacCurrach
Cllr. I. Spencer

IN ATTENDANCE

Liz Kelso – Clerk
Merrie Kent – Green Spaces Administrator
Cllr. T. James – Ward Councillor, Hfds Council
Cllr. J. Harrington – Herefordshire Council
M. Lane – Herefordshire Council

6 members of the public

Agenda

- | Item | Minute |
|------|---|
| 1 | 076-20 Apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation.
Apologies were noted from Cllr. R. Banks and Cllr.E. Rolls.

There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation. |
| 2 | 077-20 Emergency Active Travel Measures – Proposals for Kington High Street
The Mayor opened the meeting by explaining that although some people have described the meeting as an Emergency meeting, it is not but it is the first opportunity for the Town Council to meet to discuss the decision by Herefordshire Council with regard to the High Street proposals and in particular the first opportunity to consider what other measures might be possible for the Town Council to support residents and traders at this time. He stressed that the meeting is |

a meeting of Kington Town Council and not a public meeting but members of the public in attendance would be given an opportunity to make a statement if they wished. He also stressed that the decision with regard to the High Street has been made by Herefordshire Council as the highways authority, and not a decision of Kington Town Council. Comments have been received from members of the public and residents both in support and against the proposals. Finally he noted that the measures are being introduced as a public health measure as it is not possible to socially distance without stepping into the road when walking down the High Street as the pavements are too narrow.

Mairead Lane outlined the process undertaken by Herefordshire Council and the responses received to the consultation which were primarily from business concerned about access to their business. Cllr. Harrington confirmed that there was strong representation from the Fire Service that the proposals would impact on their response times to deal with an emergency within the closed area but also impact on the ability of retained firefighters to access the fire station within the specified time limit during the proposed closure period. As a result the agreed plan is for obstacles or signage to be placed into the road to slow traffic alerting drivers to there being pedestrians in the road and to clearly indicate a 20mph limit throughout. The flexibility of the proposals was stressed and the situation is to be monitored on a daily basis with changes made as and when necessary.

The Chamber of Trade confirmed that they had canvassed their members and by a narrow majority of one vote, it was been agreed to reject the proposal for the timed vehicle access restriction and support no traffic restrictions. There were no alternative proposals put forward for the safety of pedestrians who have to step off the pavement

The Mayor then invited comments from members of the public in attendance and the following points were made:

- The virus does not only transmit during the proposed period when vehicle access to the High Street will be restricted
- Concern was expressed at where traffic using the High Street would go when the High Street is closed, particularly if the by-pass is closed/blocked from fallen trees or an accident
- There was comment that many people would not have been aware of the consultation
- There was support expressed for being able to shop in a socially distanced manner for a period of the day
- It was confirmed that the location of Kington often means deliveries to shops are during the middle of the day rather than at the beginning or end of the business day
- A suggestion that the fire station be relocated temporarily
- A suggestion that the time when the High Street would be closed to traffic could be a different time to avoid the impact of delivery times
- In Ludlow temporary traffic speed bumps are used to slow traffic

Comments from town councillors included:

- It should be possible for emergency service vehicles to be able to access the high street during the period of vehicle restrictions
- Rather than deterring shoppers, it was felt that having a period of restricted traffic in the high street should encourage shoppers to the High Street as parking would continue to be available as it is now
- At busy times, the time taken to travel around the town on the by-pass was often quicker than through the town
- Support for the proposed 20mph speed limit throughout town
- Concern that the chicane proposals would create parking areas
- Suggestion that the High Street is restricted to 10pmh rather than 20 mph.
- A suggestion that the 20mph limit be extended to Hargest Road where the footpath is to the school or beyond
- It was felt important to stress that in using the word ‘closure’ this should be clear to mean that the proposal originally discussed represents a temporary closure to traffic during which the high street remains open to business and for pedestrians to shop safely.

It was confirmed that the current proposal for 20mph limit throughout the town is likely to go ahead shortly as the order for this has been implement. Any changes to that proposal, for example, if it were to be agreed that a closure could be implemented, would take upwards of 7 days to implement.

It was then proposed and seconded that this council supports the proposal that the High Street is temporarily closed to traffic to enable shoppers to shop safely in a socially distanced way and that the Mayor and Deputies be authorised to discuss these proposals with Herefordshire Council with a view to encouraging adoption of this proposal by Herefordshire Council. A named vote had been requested and votes were recorded as follows:

Councillor	For	Against
Cllr. E. Banks		X
Cllr. T. Bounds		X
Cllr. A. Bennett		X
Cllr. J. Cooke	X	
Cllr. J. Dennis		X
Cllr. P. Edwards	X	
Cllr M. Fitton	X	
Cllr. R. Griffiths		X
Cllr. F. Hawkins	X	
Cllr. R. MacCurrach	X	
Cllr. I. Spencer	X	
Cllr. R. Widdowson	X	

The resolution was declared carried with seven votes for and five against.

The Mayor thanked the representatives from Herefordshire Council for attending the meeting and their input and thanked members of the public for their views.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman: 3.8.2020