



Kington Town Council

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Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting

held via video conferencing on **15th March 2021**

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

PRESENT

In attendance

Cllr. J. Dennis - Chair

Cllr. E. Banks

Cllr. T. Bounds

Cllr. J. Cooke

Cllr. M. Fitton

Cllr. R. MacCurrach

Cllr. R. Widdowson

Liz Kelso - Clerk

Agenda item

- Env 007-21 1. **APOLOGIES, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**
There were no apologies or declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation.
- Env 008-21 2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th JANUARY 2020**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2021, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and the Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.
- Env 009-21 3 **UPDATE FROM THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING PARTY**
The working party has not met so no update was available. Members noted that Covid restrictions have reduced the Town Council's carbon footprint with people travelling less and it was suggested that measuring that reduction could be beneficial for future planning of post covid work patterns. Cllr. Cooke demonstrated information on Kington's carbon footprint, concluding that the town council has little opportunity for influencing carbon reduction. Members noted the work being undertaken by KLEEN in this regard.
- Env 010-21 4 **UPDATE ON THE PROPOSAL TO INSTALL CHARGING POINTS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES**
Cllr. Cooke reported nothing further to report on this to date and was still attempting to find a location for an electric charging point.

It was noted that there are electric charging points in Kington but those without access to the internet or a computer aren't able to find those points.

- Env 011-21** **5** **TAVERN ROUNDABOUT**
- It was reported that there have been complaints that the turf has been stripped off the roundabout at the Tavern. Members noted a group has chosen to work on the roundabout without obtaining authority from the Highways Authority. The Clerk reported that the Highways Authority will only grant a licence to work on the roundabout to the Town Council but the group had failed to respond with information in order for the Town Council to consider the request to apply for a licence. Given the nature of the site it was agreed that this situation should be regularised with an appropriate licence and that this be considered by the town council at the next full council meeting. To that end, it was noted that the group must provide the information required by the Highways Authority, should the town council wish to proceed on their behalf.
- Env 012-21** **6** **PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER FOR DOG CONTROL**
- Members noted the consultation by Herefordshire Council on the extension of the Public Spaces Protection Order for Dog Control and agreed to recommend to Full Council that the extension be supported by the Town Council. It was further agreed that if possible, the enclosed children's play area in the Recreation Ground and the enclosed children's play area in Crooked Well meadow be added to the list of areas where dogs are prohibited.
- Env 013-21** **7** **STANDING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
- 1) Health & Safety**
- There were no items raised under this agenda item.
- 2) Town Centre**
- The Mayor noted that a request had been received at the informal Town meeting for benches to be placed in the Place de Marines once shops and cafes reopen. It is currently not clear what the Government conditions are with regard to outside seating but any requirements will need to be incorporated into the planning.
- Comment on the need for litter picking in the Town Centre has been raised on social media and the point made at the town meeting was that shops generally clear the area outside of their shops which are currently closed. Once lockdown eases, KLEEN are likely to restart their usual litter picking activities.
- 3) Kington in Bloom**
- There was nothing of note to report with regard to Kington in Bloom but Members were invited to join the Kington in Bloom working group. It was suggested that plans as for last year be repeated in the current year. The Clerk noted that the risk assessment prepared last year will need to be reviewed and reconfirmed.
- 4) Allotments**
- There was nothing to report on this agenda item.
- 5) Recycling**
- There was nothing to report on this agenda item.
- 6) Churchyard**
- The Churchyard working party has not met as a result of the current lockdown restrictions. Community payback team have not been able to start work because of restrictions but it was hoped they may start shortly. It was hoped that the Churchyard working group would meet shortly.

It was agreed that the Churchyard working group should review the past survey and view what further work might be required.

7) **Community Energy**

There was nothing to report on this agenda item.

8) **Economic Development**

Herefordshire Council's Economic Development Plans for the Market Towns are progressing with consultants working with groups in Kington to produce the Kington plan. This will be reported to Full Council in due course.

9) **Lengthsman Scheme**

Members noted that following a resolution to join the lengthsman scheme by Full Council, the Clerk has started discussions with Kington Walks to put that into effect so that support from BBLP including materials can be accessed by those undertaking repairs on the footpath network. Responding to a reported issue requiring repair did generate a response from BBLP for the work to be carried out by them. It was agreed that a meeting be convened with Kington Walks to take this further.

10) **War Memorial**

The working group set up to consider this further has not yet met but will report to the next committee meeting.

11) **Trees**

There was nothing to report on this agenda item.

12) **KLEEN**

Cllr. Cooke reported on activities relating to KLEEN noting that covid restrictions continue to restrict activities.

Env 006-21

6. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 19th April at 6.30pm or on completion of the Planning Committee, whichever is later. There were no other items raised for the agenda.

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

Signed

Chair of Environment Committee

Date