



Kington Town Council

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Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting

held on 19th July 2021

at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

PRESENT

In attendance

Cllr. E. Banks
Cllr. J. Cooke
Cllr. J. Gardner
Cllr. R. MacCurrach
Cllr. D. Redmayne
Cllr. I. Spencer
Cllr. R. Widdowson

Liz Kelso - Clerk
Tanith Vaughan – Assistant Clerk/GSA

Agenda item

- Env 015-21 1 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE**
Cllr. Jon Cooke was elected Chair of the Committee to hold office for the forthcoming year.
- Env 016-21 2. APOLOGIES, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**
Apologies were noted from Cllrs. T. Bounds, J. Dennis, P. Edwards and M. Fitton. There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation.
- Env 017-21 3 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE**
Cllr. D. Redmayne was elected Vice Chair of the Committee to hold office for the forthcoming year.
- Env 018-21 4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th MARCH 2021**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 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 019-21 5 UPDATE FROM THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING PARTY**
The working party has not met so no update was available.
- Env 020-21 6 STANDING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
1) Health & Safety
The Clerk stressed the need for vigilance as the rate of Covid infections was still rising and despite the easing of lockdown restrictions, the Health and Safety Executive (and insurers) are still requiring risk assessments for activities to include Covid risks.

A query relating to river safety was raised and noted that Environment Agency and/or National Rivers Authority cover matters relating to river safety.

2) Town Centre

The Mayor noted that the Economic Development Plan by Herefordshire Council will be considered at Herefordshire's September Cabinet Meeting and contains proposals for support for the town centre.

Members noted appreciation for the litter pick undertaken by the Chamber of Trade, supported by KLEEN and others, in preparation for the re-opening of the High Street. The efforts of all volunteers who support the town should be noted and celebrated.

It was agreed to look into responsibility for pavement sweeps in particular at a later meeting.

3) Kington in Bloom

Members noted with thanks the efforts of the Kington on Bloom working group and commented on the success of the planting this year. A report from Cllr. Dennis was noted. The Clerk reminded members of the need to comply with financial regulations when undertaking any project..

4) Allotments

There was nothing to report on this agenda item.

5) Recycling

It was reported that the recycling centre continues to work well with prior booking still a requirement. The results of the recycling survey undertaken by Herefordshire Council have not yet been published but are due to be put to Herefordshire Council for consideration.

6) Churchyard

The Green Spaces Administrator reported that the Community Payback Team have now started work in the Churchyard undertaking some clearance work and cutting back of overgrown vegetation and removal of ivy from memorials and walls. At the request of the Church the compost bins are to be removed as they have become litter bins rather than compost bins. It was agreed to ask the allotments society if they wished to take the material from the bins for composting on the allotments.

Quotations are currently being sought to remove two dead trees from the churchyard.

7) Community Energy

There was nothing to report on this agenda item.

8) Economic Development

As noted previously Herefordshire Council's Economic Development Plans for the Market Towns are progressing and are to be considered by Herefordshire Council in September.

9) War Memorial

The working group set up to consider this further has not yet met but members noted that the area has been tidied by a member of the public.

10) Trees

It was noted that broken branches by the footpath adjacent to the Co-op car park have now been removed. Trees in the Mill Street Car Park are to be reported to Balfour Beatty/Herefordshire Council as the metal cages are cutting into the tree and should be removed.

11) KLEEN

It was reported that KLEEN are working with landowners with a view to establishing a community garden at Lower Cross with support from funding through the Prime Foundation.

The Car Share Club has not yet restarted.

Nothing further has been heard from Cllr. Harrington with regard to the request for additional bus services.

Env 021-21

6. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

The next meeting will take place on Monday 20th September at 6.30pm or on completion of the Planning Committee, whichever is later. The following items were raised for the agenda:

- Establishment of a working party to look at light pollution
- Flooding risks and ability to respond to flooding incidents
- Community Resilience

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 19.30.

Signed

Chair of Environment Committee

Date