



Kington Town Council

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Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd 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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| 1 | 124-21 | To note apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation
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. |
| 2 | 125-21 | Minutes of Meeting held on 12th July 2021
The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 th 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. |
| 3 | 126-21 | Public Participation |
| | a) | Matters raised by members of the public in attendance
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 26th September. The memorial service for those who have been lost during the pandemic is provisionally scheduled for 4th 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 16th 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 2nd June to Sunday 5th 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 12th July 2021
- Planning Committee held 19th July 2021
- Environment Committee held 19th July 2021
- Personnel Committee held 26th 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 6th 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.

Chairman

Appendix 1

Meeting held on Monday 2nd 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 19th, 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

Schedule of payments to be approved on 2.8.2021

FOR INFORMATION

Total of payments made through grants received:Total of payments made as a grantRecreation Ground Trust

Kington Town Council Grant Scheme