



Kington Town Council

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Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting

held on **20th September 2021**

at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

PRESENT

In attendance

Cllr. J. Cooke - Chair
Cllr. M. Fitton
Cllr. J. Gardner
Cllr. R. MacCurrach
Cllr. I Spencer

Liz Kelso – Town Clerk
Tanith Vaughan – Assistant Clerk/GSA

Agenda item

- Env 022-21** **1. APOLOGIES, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**
Apologies were noted from Cllrs. E. Banks, T. Bounds, P. Edwards and D. Redmayne2. There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation.
- Env 023-21** **2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19th JULY 2021**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 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 024-21** **3. UPDATE FROM THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING PARTY**
The working party has not met so no update was available. Members noted that since the working party was originally set up with a remit to consider actions that might be taken by the town council to carry forward the climate emergency declaration, several members have now ceased to be town councillors. Recommendations must be put to the committee for consideration before putting to full council in order to become policy decisions of the council. It was agreed that the group would meet with a view to putting forward recommendations for adoption.
- Env 025-21** **4. LIGHT POLLUTION**
It was agreed that a working party be formed consisting of Cllrs. J. Cooke, I. Spencer and R. Widdowson to consider the impact of light pollution and that the working party be empowered to co-opt members of the public. Draft terms of reference would be brought to the next Committee meeting for consideration.

Env 026-21

5

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Noting that a previous working party had been formed to consider community resilience and to draft an emergency plan to respond to issues such as flooding, it was agreed that the group would be reformed to review the previous work and to consider an emergency plan for the town. It was further agreed that the group would consist of Cllrs. J. Cooke, I. Spencer & R. Widdowson. Terms of reference would be drawn up for consideration at the next meeting.

Env 027-21

6

STANDING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1) Health & Safety

Members noted several requests for wasps nests to be destroyed or removed from the Recreation Ground and Churchyard. It was agreed to recommend to full council that as a matter of policy nests would only be destroyed where there was a clear health and safety threat such as where the nests are on or close to occupied buildings.

Members also noted concerns that parking or driving on pavements presents a risk to pedestrians. It was agreed that the parking enforcement officers from Herefordshire Council be consulted and asked to attend the town.

2) Town Centre

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

3) Kington in Bloom

It was noted that as several members of the Kington in Bloom group have now left the Town Council, consideration needs to be given to forward planning for next year. It was agreed to consider engaging a contractor to plant up and maintain the boxes next year and in preparation for this, Cllr. Gardner and Cllr. MacCurrach agreed to draw up a plan indicating the location of the planters and who is responsible for maintaining them so that a specification can be prepared for next year.

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. It was agreed to investigate whether a contractor who currently operates within other Market Towns for the collection of green waste might be encouraged to include Kington in their operations.

6) Churchyard

The Green Spaces Administrator reported on the work of the Community Payback Team in the Churchyard. In accordance with the resolution of Full Council, a contractor will remove the dead trees and waste from the Churchyard at the end of the month. A copy of the specification for this work will be provided to Cllrs. Cooke and MacCurrach so that they can review the work being undertaken.

The Clerk advised that the Churchyard working group had been formed last year to complete visual surveys of the Churchyard periodically but had not been able to do so because of lockdown. The Green Spaces Administrator has been documenting periodic

checks of memorials in the interim and some have been located that may need restoration work to make safe. Whilst ultimate responsibility for the safety of any memorial remains with the family, realistically many are unlikely to be traceable.

7) **Community Energy**

There was nothing to report on this agenda item.

8) **Economic Development**

As noted previously Herefordshire Council's draft Economic Development Plans for the Market Towns are to be considered by Herefordshire Council in October and a copy of the latest draft is now available. Consultation undertaken in preparation of the plan is likely to be useful in identifying projects that might benefit from Covid Recovery funding that has recently been announced and this will be considered at the next Full Council meeting.

9) **War Memorial**

There was nothing to report under this agenda item.

10) **Trees**

There was nothing to report under this agenda item

11) **KLEEN**

It was reported that KLEEN are working with Malvern to establish a car share club. Work is continuing to request an evening bus service to Hereford and KLEEN has committed to support marketing of the free bus service over the weekends currently available through Herefordshire Council funding.

Env 028-21

6. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

The next meeting will take place on Monday 15th November at 6.30pm or on completion of the Planning Committee, whichever is later. The following items were raised for the agenda:

- Light pollution
- Flooding risks and ability to respond to flooding incidents
- Kington in Bloom
- Community Resilience

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 20.10.

Signed

Chair of Environment Committee

Date