



Kington Town Council

The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington HR5 3DP

Telephone 01544 239098 Mobile: 07483 914 485

email: clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2023 at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. E. Banks – in the Chair
Cllr. R. Banks
Cllr. J. Cooke
Cllr. M. Fitton
Cllr. J. Gardner
Cllr. F. Hawkins
Cllr. E. Rolls
Cllr. P. Sell
Cllr. I. Spencer
Cllr. R. Warne
Cllr. R. Widdowson

IN ATTENDANCE

Liz Kelso – Town Clerk
Ruth Robinson – Assistant clerk
Cllr. T. James – Ward Cllr., Herefordshire Council
1 members of the public
PC Dean Wall – West Mercia Police
1 member of the press

Agenda

| Item | Minute |
|------|--------|
|------|--------|

- | | | |
|---|--------|---|
| 1 | 060-23 | To note apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation Apologies were noted from Cllrs. B. Macleod-Needs and Cllr. D. Redmayne. There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation. |
| 2 | 061-23 | Minutes a) Meeting held on 6th March 2023 The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 th March 2023, having been previously circulated, were adopted and the Chair authorised to sign on behalf of the Town Council as a true record of proceedings at that meeting. b) Meeting held 27th March 2023 The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 th March 2023, having been previously circulated, were adopted and the Chair authorised to sign on behalf of the Town Council as a true record of proceedings at that meeting. |

- 3 **062-23 Public Participation**
- a) **Police Report**
 PC Dean Wall, in attendance at the meeting, reported on complaints about parking on Old Eardisley Road which has been dealt with by dialogue with a nearby business owner. It was suggested that a traffic regulation order might be helpful at that location. There was one case of criminal damage to report and 1 case of speeding vehicles noted. It was also noted that a police surgery would be held at the Lion Care on 12th May from 6pm – 7pm.
- b) **Matters raised by members of the public in attendance**
 During the period set aside for members of the public to raise issues, it was noted that officers of the Chamber of Trade had been re-elected for a further term.
- c) **Ward Councillor Report**
 Members noted the report from the Ward Councillor the financial implications of the issues with Children's Services going forward.
- 4 **063-23 Mayor's Report**
 The Mayor's report as attached to these Minutes was noted. Cllr. Redmayne was unable to attend the meeting but members asked that their thanks to Cllr. Redmayne for his service be noted as he is not standing for re-election at the forthcoming elections.
- 5 **064-23 Clerk's Report**
 The Clerk's report as attached was noted.
- 6 **065-23 Financial Matters**
 Payments now due
 Payments totalling £1,916.69, (inclusive of VAT where payable) as attached to these Minutes were approved.
- 7 **066-23 Market Operators Licence**
 Members noted that following the issues raised at the last meeting, the Clerk, Mayor and Deputies had met with officers from Herefordshire Council with regard to the Market Operators Licence where it had been proposed by Herefordshire Council that the Town Council enters into a Licence to Occupy the Market Hall for the purpose of the weekly markets and other community events. Amendments to a draft licence circulated to members are expected and are likely to include provision for operating costs, as yet unquantified, to be included in addition to the proposed fee of £150.00. The final draft will be brought to Members for agreement once available but in the meantime there was an agreement in principle to the proposals.

- 8 067-23 **2013 Elections**
a) **Update on elections**
It was noted that the statement of persons nominated would be posted on notice boards and the website on April 5th and this would indicate whether an election would be held or whether those nominated would be elected uncontested. The Clerk noted that she was aware of some councillors who had chosen not to put themselves forward for re-election and thanked all councillors for their service.
- The first meeting of the Town Council after the elections will take place on Monday 15th May starting at 6.00pm and will include the election of the Town Mayor and Deputy, electing committee members and representatives on outside bodies and agreeing meeting dates etc. going forward. There will be no meeting of Kington Recreation Ground Trust until June.
- b) **Post-election induction session**
It was agreed to hold an informal induction session for new and returning councillors on Monday 22nd May at 6.00pm in the Old Police Station.
- 9 068-23 **Queen's Green Canopy**
Cllr. E. Banks confirmed that the oak trees planted in Lady Hawkins School were being put forward as additions to the Queen's Green Canopy. The proposed trees for Hergest Ridge had not been planted although there are plans to plant additional trees under the stewardship scheme later in the year.
- 10 069-23 **Activities to celebrate the King's Coronation**
There will be a service at St. Mary's Church at 11am on Sunday 7th May to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III and all are warmly invited. There will also be a family picnic in the Recreation Ground for all residents and their families on the Sunday afternoon, with further details to be circulated nearer the date.
- 11 070-23 **Market Towns Maintenance Fund**
Confirmation of the next works under the Market Towns Maintenance Fund are still awaited from Balfour Beatty although the Clerk confirmed that BBLP are to investigate whether any remaining s106 monies allocated to access works can be used for improvements to the pavements and road surfaces.
- 12 071-23 **Transport Matters**
a) **Kington Transport Study**
The Clerk confirmed that there has been no further contact from the consultants acting on behalf of Herefordshire Council with regard to the Transport Study consultation. Details of the consultation and how it is to be conducted are still awaited.
- b) **Car Park Charges**
The Clerk reported that after challenging the calculation of car park charges for season ticket holders proposed from 1st April, Herefordshire Council has agreed to

withhold the season ticket price rise until the results of the Transport Study are available.

13 072-23 Cost of living crisis

With prices continuing to rise there was concern about the impact of the cost of living crisis on residents particularly those in rural areas. It was reported that demand on the foodbank had increased and the service in Kington is being moved to the Baptist Church. The nature of goods requested of the food bank is changing and it was suggested that a box for donations could be placed in the supermarket.

Concern was also expressed about levels of debt in Kington and the extent to which requests for debt advice from the CAB had increased.

14 073-23 Reports from Committees

The following reports from Committees were noted:

- a) Planning Committee held on 20th March 2023
- b) Environment Committee held on 20th March
- c) The Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for 20th March had been inquorate so the meeting could not take place.

15 074-23 Reports from Councillors

The following was noted under this agenda item:

- The group Herefordshire Against Nighttime Disturbance has restarted meetings
- The standard of work on the High Street and pavements was considered good.

16 075-23 Next meeting

The next meeting of the Town Council will be the first meeting after the elections and take place on Monday 15th May 2023 at 6.00pm in the Old Police Station.

17 076-23 Exclusion of the public

It was agreed that due to the confidential nature of the next agenda item, that members of the public and press be excluded from the following agenda item in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960(3).

18 077-23 Civic Awards

The Clerk reported that under the new civic award scheme nominations had been received for the following awards:

- Young Persons Award – 1 nomination
- Community Award – 1 nomination
- Mayor's Special Award – 1 nomination

After due consideration, each of the nominations was agreed and will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

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

1. Fly The Dog

Some unforeseen logistical problems relating to the stone plinth for Fly, meant that the 'low-key' handover planned for Tuesday 21st March, did not go ahead.

At the time of writing, the stone is now in Arrow Hire's yard having been moved from the quarry with Arrow's kind help but no new date has been set for the ceremony.

2. An invite...

Councillors and Officers are invited to attend the concert in St Mary's Church on Saturday 22nd April at 7:30. This event has been made possible by a KTC Community Grant and will hopefully enable a good number of town residents to enjoy some live music at no cost.

I would very much welcome seeing you there – tickets are available from Border Bean or via Cllr Sell.

3. ..and a farewell

This will be my last full council meeting as your Chair and Mayor.

It has been an interesting 12 months and it has been an honour to serve. However, I have frequently felt that I have not done as much as I would have liked in the role and am certain that being Mayor is not commensurate with having a rather stressful full-time job.

I have met many people in Kington and its immediate environs who seem to share the view that Kington is unique among the Herefordshire Markets Towns and strive to put Kington and Kingtonians, first. I thank them for their support and friendship.

I could not have managed without the advice, support and friendship of the two deputy mayors – I have learned so much from them both – I hope we are able to remain connected and friends!

Our clerk and assistant have also been vital in their advice and support – I do not doubt for one minute that the clerk has prevented me from making any public faux pas...no mean feat!

So thank you for allowing me the privilege of being your Mayor and I wish my successor every possible success in leading the New Council.

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 and includes some items which are for information.

1. Code of Conduct Statement of Financial Interests

Members are reminded that any change in matters reported in the Statement of Financial Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the change. Failure to do so could, in some circumstances, incur criminal penalties. If you are unsure whether you need to include something on the form, please check with the Monitoring Officer or ask the Clerk. Copies of your existing form/declaration can be obtained from the Clerk.

2. Elections

Existing and prospective candidates for election as Town Councillors are reminded that the deadline for submitting nomination forms is 4pm on Tuesday 4th April. Completed nominations must be hand delivered to the Elections Office in Hereford.

The statement of persons nominated for election will be published on Wednesday 5th and will appear on notice boards and the website. As previously noted, 15 or fewer candidates will mean all those nominated will be considered elected and will formally take office on May 9th.

3. Local Council Audit Arrangements

As members may be aware, local councils with a turnover of over £25,000 are subject to two audits covering both financial matters and procedural matters each year. As agreed in February, new internal auditors, Mulberry & Co., will carry out the internal audit which takes place prior to the external audit by PKF Littlejohn. Internal auditors have now arranged to visit on Friday 5th May to complete their initial work covering the financial year to 31st March 2023.

4. Kington in Bloom

The new planters which were purchased using funding from the Welcome Back Fund last year required formal authority from Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty for those planters to be sited on the pavements primarily. Sites were notified to BBLP over a year ago and this week the formal licence to cultivate has been issued for those sites. Permission for the planters in the car parks and Place de Marines is still awaited.

Kington Town Council

Schedule of payments approved on 3rd April 2023

[illegible]

FOR INFORMATION

[illegible]