



Kington Town Council

Email: clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Web site: www.kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Services Committee Meeting

held on Monday 17th July 2023

at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

PRESENT

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr. E. Banks
Cllr. R. Banks
Cllr. A. Dixon
Cllr. M. Fitton
Cllr. K. Greig
Cllr. P. Sell – Chair
Cllr. M. Widdowson

Liz Kelso – Town Clerk
Ruth Robinson – Assistant Clerk

Kate Watkins – Talk Community Hub
Chris Franks – Talking Point

Agenda item

Actions

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----|--|--|
| Ser 001-23 | 1 | Election of Chair
Cllr. P. Sell was elected Chair of the Committee to hold office until May 2024. | |
| Serv 002-23 | 2. | Apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation
There were no apologies, declarations of interest or requests for dispensation. | |
| Serv 003-23 | 3 | Election of Vice Chair
Cllr. R. Widdowson was duly elected Vice Chair of the Committee to hold office until May 2024. | |
| Serv 004-23 | 4. | Minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2021
It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 th October 2021 which had been previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a true record of proceedings at that meeting. | |
| Serv 005-23 | 5 | Collaborative working with Kington Medical Practice
This item was deferred to the next meeting. | |

6 **Agenda standing items**

a) **Buildings currently occupied by the Town Council and such other buildings that can be determined as Community Assets**

Members noted that a response is awaited from Herefordshire Council following the queries raised on the draft licence to occupy the Market Hall. The Clerk has discussed the situation with the Walking Festival and others so that they can approach Herefordshire Council directly regarding future activities planned for the building.

b) **Public Conveniences**

It was reported that on several occasions the toilets have been reported as blocked. Herefordshire Council have been informed and work carried out as required, although clearly an investment in the facilities would be welcomed.

c) **Provision for young people**

Members noted a report on the Youth club which has been operating from the Baptist Church for some weeks now and is being expanded to include older children. The Wednesday Youth Hub now has some 35 people registered with 15-20 attending regularly. The activities include a meal for those attending and there are planned activities for young people during the school holidays.

It was also reported that in due course Open Arms Kington hoped to offer activities for young people.

d) **Tourism and Tourist Information Centre**

The social media support for the Tourist Information Centre is to stop in July. Additional volunteers would be welcome at the Tourist Information Centre.

e) **Arts, Culture and Museum Provision**

Members noted a report on museum activity and that the plaque for Fly the Walking Dog of Kington is in hand.

f) **Social care, support services and information and advice provision**

Kate Watkins from the Talk Community Hub at the Lion Café gave a report on the work of the Talk Community Hub in Kington and in particular activities taking place at the Lion Café with limited external funding. Working alongside the foodbank provision, a community larder has been set up and is proving very popular with over £2,000 of food collected from businesses in Kington over the previous two weeks and distributed to those in need. Members expressed their thanks to the Lion Café for the work being undertaken for the people of the town.

A presentation was also noted from Chris Franks of Turning Point on the work of the charity which supports people with drug and alcohol

dependency issues. Working in part from the Lion Café but seeking to expand, the charity provides support, testing facilities and is keen to set up a needle exchange programme. When questioned, it was noted that the number of clients of Turning Point is relatively low compared with the other market towns in Herefordshire but this might not be representative of need.

Finally members considered a written report from the Citizens Advice Bureau on the range and scope of issues dealt with involving Kington residents noting in particular the number of debt related issues being dealt with. Members of the public can contact CAB directly for help or can be referred through other agencies such as the Talk Community Hub. Regular reports from the CAB should now be forthcoming.

g) **Health Provision and Care**

A representative from the Surgery had agreed to attend the meeting for this agenda item but did not do so. This item will be deferred to the next meeting.

h) **Leisure Centre**

There was nothing to report under this agenda item.

i) **LHS Foundation**

There was nothing to report under this agenda item.

j) **Educational provision**

It was noted that the head teacher at Lady Hawkins School is leaving and the current Deputy Head teacher will become acting Head Teacher until a replacement is in post.

k) **Markets**

Members noted that the number of stalls at the regular markets has dropped slightly.

Serv 007-23

7 **Date of next meeting and items for the next agenda**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 18th September at 6.30pm or on the rising of the Planning Committee, whichever is later. It was agreed to request an update from Turning Point at the next meeting and to request a representative from the Surgery.

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

Signed

Chair of Services Committee

Date