

Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee Meeting

held on Monday 20th May 2024
at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

PRESENT

Cllr. B. Bishop
Cllr. M. Fitton – in the Chair
Cllr. E. Rolls
Cllr. P. Sell
Cllr. R. Warne
Cllr. R. Widdowson

IN ATTENDANCE

Liz Kelso – Town Clerk
Ruth Robinson – Assistant Clerk

Minute	Agenda item	
		In the absence of the previous Chair, Cllr. M. Fitton took the Chair for this meeting.
P&E 018-24	1	Election of Chair Having previously indicated a willingness to act, Cllr. M. Woolford was duly elected Chair of the Committee to hold office for the forthcoming year. In Cllr. Woolford's absence, Cllr. Fitton remained in the Chair for this meeting.
P&E 019-24	2	Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation Apologies were noted from Cllrs. E. Banks, N. Cornish & M. Woolford. Cllr. P. Sell declared an interest in agenda item 6(c) and 6(g) as a member of the allotments society and St. Mary's PCC. There were no requests for dispensation.
P&E 020-24	3	Election of Vice Chair Cllr. M. Fitton was duly elected Vice Chair of the Committee to hold office for the forthcoming year.
P&E 021-24	4	Minutes of the previous meetings Minutes of the meeting held on 18 th March 2024 were approved and the Chair was authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting

P&E 022-24

5 Planning & Licensing Matters

a) Applications now due for consideration

There were no planning applications for consideration.

b) Planning decisions by Herefordshire Council since the last meeting

None noted since the last meeting

c) Updates on developments in the planning system in England

Members noted a recent article regarding developments in the planning system and in particular the move by the government to relax requirements for planning consent and shorten the period for consultation on planning matters for applicants.

P&E 023-24

4 Environmental Matters

a) Town Centre

Members noted that a metal grid has been placed over the windows on the dilapidated building in Lower Cross. Although this still gives a poor impact on arrival in the High Street, this is some improvement from the previous window. It was suggested that a local artist might paint the front of the building although, being in a conservation area, planning consent would be required. The building is believed to be owned by a housing association.

b) Planters and floral displays

The contract for repairs to the planters and refilling and ongoing maintenance of them was approved at full council and work is now underway to plants these up for the coming summer season.

c) Allotments

It was reported that flooding barriers have been installed in some parts of the allotment site.

d) Footpath and Highway Maintenance

The Clerk reported that she has received a complaint from a property on the High Street which was damaged during the pavement refurbishment last year by Balfour Beatty. The complaint has been referred to Herefordshire Council.

e) War Memorial

There was nothing to report under this agenda item

f) Trees

There was nothing to report under this agenda item.

g) Churchyard matters

There was nothing to report under this agenda item.

h) Litter and pavement sweeping

There was nothing to report under this agenda item.

i) Ethical and Environmental Policy

At the last meeting it was agreed that this be referred to a meeting of the Town Council with a view to setting up a separate working party to take these issues further. This has not yet been presented and there was nothing further to add at this stage.

j) Biodiversity Policy

Members expressed some concern at the ability to deliver the aims within the draft Biodiversity Policy as produced to the meeting. It was agreed to defer this agenda item pending a discussion on the Ethical and Environmental Policy at Full Council.

P&E 024-24

5 Date and time of next meeting and items for the agenda.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 17th June 2024 at 6.00pm in the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington. As well as items noted above, it was agreed to include a proposal for painting a mural on the metal shutters on a property on the High Street.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.00pm