



Kington Recreation Ground Trust

Charity No. 520963.

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**Minutes of a meeting of Kington Recreation Trust Meeting held on
Monday 2nd September 2024 at The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street,
Kington.**

Present: Cllr. P. Sell - Chair
Cllr. E. Banks
Cllr. R. Banks
Cllr. B. Bishop
Cllr. A. Dixon
Cllr. E. Rolls
Cllr. R. Widdowson

In attendance: Liz Kelso, Clerk

046/24 Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

Apologies were noted from Cllrs. T. Bounds, N.Cornish, K. Greig, J. Gardner and M. Woolford.
There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation.

047/24 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June, which had been previously circulated, were accepted and the Chair was authorised to sign the minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.

048/24 **Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's report, as attached to these minutes, was noted.

049/24 **Acquisition of Crooked Well meadow**

a) Update on land acquisition

Solicitors acting on behalf of the Trust have not received any response to the request to Herefordshire Council regarding the alleged agreement by the Town Council to meet Herefordshire Council's legal costs in connection with the asset transfer. It was noted that Cllr. Terry James, as Ward Councillor, had agreed to arrange a meeting with Herefordshire Council's legal team to discuss this further although there has been no further information on this.

b) Herefordshire Council legal costs

Following on from (a) above, it was agreed that the Mayor request a report from the Ward Councillor on progress on this item. In the interests of progressing this item for the benefit of the town, it was further agreed that authority be delegated to the clerk to agree to meet costs up to a maximum of £2,000 subject to confirmation from the Ward Councillor that his negotiations had not been successful. It was further agreed that a request be submitted to the Town Council that a sum up to this amount be paid from the grant awarded to the Trust by the Town Council.

050/24 **Toilet Block Refurbishment**

(a) Ratification of amendment to specification for the refurbishment of the toilet block

Members noted that in accordance with a resolution of the Town Council on 20th May, the application submitted to Herefordshire Council for grant funding towards refurbishment of the toilet block had progressed to a full bid although the timescale for submission of the bid was too short to allow for quotations to be obtained for all agreed items. A full bid was therefore submitted for the replacement of the handwash units in the toilet block only. After due consideration, members agreed to ratify the decision to submit a bid for funding as noted. The clerk reported that this application had been successful and funding awarded of £8,977.00 towards the cost of this project.

(b) Proposed replacement of handwash units

Members agreed that following the successful bid for funding towards the cost of replacing the handwash units in the toilet block, that this project should proceed and the quotation from suppliers Wallgate be accepted at a total cost of £11,211.00 for the removal of existing handwash units and replacement of those units as per the quotation. It was noted that the estimated lead time should enable the project to be completed within the time specified by the funding awarded, i.e. by the end of this calendar year.

(c) Toilet blockage during Kington Vintage event

Members noted a report from the Clerk on an incident which occurred during the Kington Vintage event in the Recreation Ground when the toilets became blocked due to incontinence pads being flushed down the toilet. Staff were particularly upset when a handwritten sign appeared on the door of the toilet block stating that the town council had “refused” to deal with the problem after part time staff sent several hours attempting to resolve the issue. It was agreed:

- That the clerk write to Kington Vintage organisers regarding the contents of the note
- That signage be installed in the toilets advising against flushing inappropriate items, and
- That for future large events in the Recreation Ground consideration be given to closing the toilet block and requiring hirers to arrange their own toilet facilities.

It was further noted that if or when the toilet block is refurbished or rebuilt in full, that the pipework be replaced with larger capacity connections to the sewerage system.

051/24 Memorial Bench damage

The Clerk reported on damage to the Dick East memorial bench which, after comment on social media, had resulted in the individual coming forward to admit the bench had been damaged accidentally by a vehicle. In an agreement with the family, the bench was replaced with an identical bench albeit that a request that the replacement be installed by Recreation Ground staff so that the Recreation Ground insurance would cover any liability accruing from the installation had not been complied with. An initial review of the installation suggests that the bolts used to secure the bench may not meet the requirements for an installation in a public space and may need to be replaced. The groundsman will be asked to provide a report and the clerk will discuss the matter with the town council’s insurers.

The Clerk reminded members of the need to ensure that any items installed in a public place for public use must meet safety standards that are considerably more stringent than those appropriate within a private area.

052/24 Repair to swing base

Quotations for the repair to the base underneath the swing in the Recreation Ground was noted. It was resolved to accept the quotation from Active Gardens for replacement matting at a cost of £432.50 + VAT.

053/24 Refurbishment of metal benches

Members noted the quotation for the refurbishment of the metal benches in the recreation ground at a total estimated cost of £7,850.00. After due consideration it was agreed to defer this project until the next financial year so that appropriate provision can be made in the budget for this work.

054/24 Tree warden report

Members noted a report from the tree wardens regarding a case of suspected ash dieback on the Recreation Ground. It was agreed to keep a watching brief on the tree rather than take immediate action.

055/24 Unauthorised parking on the Recreation Ground

Whilst the Recreation Ground Trust has granted permission for some occasional use of the Recreation Ground for car parking, it has been noted that there have been several occasions this year when the gate has been found open and cars parked without permission being requested. In the light of potential health and safety issues arising from this unauthorised use, it was agreed that the padlock on the gate be changed to prevent this in future.

056/24 Correspondence from Kington Primary School pupils

Members received with thanks correspondence from pupils at Kington Primary School regarding their views on the Recreation Ground. Issues regarding graffiti on the skate park, the poor state of the path and the toilet block were noted. It was agreed that quotations be obtained to respond to some of the issues raised for consideration at a future meeting.

057/24 Exclusion of the public

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 provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960(3).

058/24 **Recreation Ground Cottage**

Members noted a report from the Clerk on progress with the cottage refurbishment. After due consideration it was resolved to authorise the Clerk to arrange for necessary EPC and electrical testing up to a maximum cost of £2000.00. The tenants will be notified with a request for access for these tests to take place.

The specification for further work was discussed and a general scope for the work was identified. The Clerk will also discuss insurance arrangements with insurers when they visit in the near future.

A further report will be made at the next meeting.

059/24 **Next meeting and Items for next agenda.**

The date for the next meeting is to be confirmed. There were no other items raised for the agenda other than those identified above.

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