



Kington Town Council

The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington HR5 3DP
Telephone 01544 239098 **mail:** clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk



Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 9 January 2017

The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington at 19:00.

There was one Police representative present
There was one member of the press present
There were three members of the public present

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs E Banks (in the Chair)
Cllr Mr J Atkinson
Cllr Mr R Banks
Cllr Mr T Bounds
Cllr Mr J Dennis
Cllr Mr M Fitton
Cllr Mrs C. Forrester
Cllr Mr F Hawkins
Cllr Mr W Laurie
Cllr Mr R MacCurrach
Cllr Mrs E Rolls
Cllr Mr B Widdowson
Cllr Mr I Wood-Johnson

APOLOGY

Cllr Mrs P Prior

Ward Cllr T James

IN ATTENDANCE

Gwilym Rippon (Clerk)

Mary Tolhurst (minuting)

Item The Mayor welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 19.10 hours. **Actions**

- 1 001-17 APOLOGIES**
Apologies were received & accepted from Cllr Prior

- 2 002-17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Name of Councillor	Item	Personal	Prejudicial
Cllr Wood-Johnson	Finance 008-17	✓	✓
Cllr Fitton	(Library) 015-17	✓	✓

- 3 003-17 TO CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN DISPENSATIONS RECEIVED**
The Clerk confirmed that there were no new written dispensations to consider.

Cllr Widdowson has an extant dispensation.

4 004-17 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS AS A TRUE RECORD (previously circulated)

After minor errors had been corrected, it was proposed by Cllr Widdowson and seconded by Cllr Fitton, that the minutes of the meeting on Monday 5th December 2016 be accepted and signed as a true record.

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 5th December 2016 were accepted and signed as a true record.

It was proposed by Cllr Forrester and seconded by Cllr Widdowson that the minutes of the meeting on Monday 12th December 2016 be accepted and signed as a true record.

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 12th December 2016 were accepted and signed as a true record.

5 005-17 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

a To receive the Police report

CPSO Alford reported on the following:

The theft (and recovery) of a painted flower container from Oak Plock; damage to lights; a theft from a local shop with officers giving chase; criminal damage to two separate vehicles; theft with a community resolution; one ASBO.

CPSO Alford was also pleased to report the funding for the installation of a CCTV camera unit on the Library building had been successful: this will take place as soon as permission to install has been obtained. Installation of a CCTV camera unit on the Market Hall will follow once funding has been approved. CPSO Alford asked the clerk to assist in obtaining permission to fix a unit on the Library Building

CLERK

It was proposed by Cllr Richard Banks and seconded by Cllr Rolls that Kington Town Council approve the installation.

RESOLVED

Kington Town Council approved the installation of CCTV units on the Library Building.

b To receive the Ward Councillor's report

Ward Councillor James reported a quiet Christmas period.

Ward Councillor James voiced his concern over projected increases in Council Tax; this would be due to the pressures on the provision of Social Care, in turn caused by the reduction in Central Government funding.

c To receive questions from members of the public

A member of the public brought some missing street light bulbs and dimly-lit areas to the Council's attention. After discussion, the Mayor suggested that Kington Town Council consider developing a list of street lights that require attentions

The same member of the public also gave thanks for the new noticeboard which is in a much better place and easier to read, and for the revised plans for the War Memorial setting.

**6 006-17 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR
Engagements attended**

Saturday 3 Dec 'Turning on Christmas lights' at Food and Craft Fair.
 Tuesday 6 Dec Attended Herefordshire Mayors meeting
 Thursday 22 Dec Attended the Carol Service at Hereford Cathedral
 Meeting with councillors with HSBC on Monday 9 January at 6pm

Future Engagements

Applications will be required for the Champions of Herefordshire competition discussed at the Mayors meeting
 None for January 2017

Other

Correspondence concerning the closure of HSBC in Kington in February

Notes on Minutes of the meeting on Monday 3 October

263-19: Clerk to pursue sign to Recycling Centre and Pedestrian Access. TJ
 The Clerk confirmed BBLP's claim that installing the road signage was too expensive.
 Ward Councillor James offered to take this up with the Locality Steward
 247-16: Has the Conservation Area been brought to the attention of the Local Authority?
 There is no longer a Conservation officer at the Local Authority.
 This matter is now closed.

Notes on Minutes of the meeting on Monday 7 November

285-16: Letter to Mr and Mrs Phillips to thank for help over inserting information on the recycling centre inserts in the Parish Magazine.
 The Clerk confirmed that this had been done.
 294-16: Cllr Fitton to provide link to Open Spaces Society – this has been done. CF
 Cllr Forester to contact Museum about the awning – Cllr Wood-Johnson confirmed that his team would attend to this: Cllr Forrester will contact the Museum to inform them as a matter of courtesy.

Notes on Minutes of the meeting on Monday 5 December

310-16: Letter of thanks to Mrs Pamela Peek.
 The Clerk confirmed that this had been done.
 310-16: The Lengthsman asked to mow the churchyard again to break up the leaves?
 The Clerk confirmed that this had been done.
 304-16: 3 Members of the Chamber of Trade will attend the meeting with HSBC
 304-16: The owner of the Post Office has been requested to attend the meeting.

308-16: Wye and Usk Foundation proposal for the Back Brook. Cllr Wood-Johnson confirmed that this is in hand and the work will be carried out on 23rd January. I W-J, JD
 310-16: Response from BBLP re issues about the town.
 310-16: Christmas Lights: Confirmation that the company has performed as per the contract with KTC.
 This was included in the Clerk's report.
 In addition, the Mayor mentioned that two local residents had each received an OBE in the New Year's Honours list.
 The Mayor confirmed that the Town Meeting would be on Thursday May 4th and the Council's Annual Meeting would be on Monday May 8th. ALL

7 007-17 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CLERK

The clerk's report, having been circulated with the agenda, was noted: a copy of the report is held within the minute file.

In addition to his report, the Clerk confirmed the following:
The excess salt on pavements will not happen again as the salt spreader has been replaced
He will be absent from 25 – 30 January inclusive.

8 **008-17** **FINANCE**

- a To discuss the Precept demand
Cllr Widdowson updated members and proposed a precept of £85,000. This equated to a monthly increase of £1 on Band D properties.

RESOLVED

It was resolved that Kington Town Council Precept demand for the financial year 2017-18 would be £85,000

- b To agree invoices for payment, as per schedule of payments (*included*)
Councillor Wood-Johnson leaves the room at 20.22

payment to	reason for expenditure	Invoice number	Cost	Minute reference	recurring
Reimbursement / payment to Councillors					
I Wood-Johnson	Reimbursement (notice board)	201	52.32		
	Schedule of Payments				
HMR&C	Salary	192	804.35	Full 09/16	✓
Iain Selkirk	Internal Audit	193	275.00	Full 09/16	✓
Boss	Printing	194	50.21	Full 09/16	✓
Anthony Collins	Asset Transfer	195	585.60	Full 09/16	✓
Wye and Usk	Tree training	196	94.20	Full 09/16	
Blanchere	Christmas lights	197	3875.40	Full 09/16	✓
Mc Afee	Computer Virus protection	199	31.99	Full 09/16	✓
Boss	Printing	200	116.84	Full 09/16	✓
I Wood-Johnson	Reimbursement (notice board)	201	52.32	Full 09/16	
KFS	Grant to the Rec	203	108.84	Full 09/16	✓
Arrow Plant	Grant to the Rec	204	19.20	Full 09/16	✓
Countrywide	Grant to the Rec	205	171.36	Full 09/16	✓

<u>For information only</u>						
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	202		18.00	Full 09/16	✓
BT	Telephone and broadband	206		233.64	Full 09/16	✓
Lloyds Bank	Charge for charge card	198		3.00	Full 09/16	✓
<u>Recreation Ground Trust (for info)</u>						
HMRC	Salary			93.00		✓

After clarification of the Blachere invoice, it was proposed by Cllr Widdowson and seconded by Cllr Richard Banks that the payments be taken en bloc.

The Clerk was instructed to pay all invoices

Councillor Wood-Johnson returns at 20.25

9 **009-17** **UPDATE ON THE CLOSURE OF THE HSBC BANK**

Copies of correspondence had been previously circulated.

Mayor Mrs Elizabeth Banks updated members following the meeting held earlier that evening with Nicola Twigg, Mark Fern, Roy Lewis and Richard Phillips of HSBC. The matter was discussed at length with much disquiet expressed.

RESOLVED

It was resolved that:

There was to be a 'Post-Closure Clinic' run by HSBC.

Kington Town Council would invite HSBC officials to a further meeting as agreed, after three months.

CLERK/ RB

Invite members of the Chamber of Trade to attend the March meeting of Full Council and have the closure of HSBC bank as an agenda item for discussion.

CLERK

Alternative banking arrangements at the post office for HSBC customers have been arranged but may need additional items included.

It was suggested that Kington Town Council request HSBC to contact the local small clubs and societies which held accounts at the bank to appraise them of the situation.

CLERK

10 **010-17** **TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR THE WAR MEMORIAL**

Mayor Mrs Elizabeth Banks explained the revised plans for the new design for the setting. The design met with the approval of all.

It was proposed by Cllr Forrester and seconded by Cllr Widdowson that Kington Town Council investigates the costing for the refurbishment.

CLERK/ EB

After this, the Town Council would take the plans to the local community again for further comments.

Ward Councillor James advised Kington Town Council to be aware that the land was Highways property and it would require Highways, and Planning, Permissions.

11 011-17 TO DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GRANTS PANEL

The recommendations of the Grants Panel were discussed. It was proposed by Cllr Wood-Johnson and seconded by Cllr Forrester that Kington Town Council accept the recommendations.

RESOLVED

Kington Town Council accept the recommendations of the Grants Panel as follows

Kington Bowling Club	Purchase slabs of cement and kerb edgings to enhance the area	£200.00
St Mary's PCC Kington	To improve the exterior of the Parish House (ie repair windows)	£300.00
Kington Chamber of Trade	To assist with the running costs of the Food festival	£500.00
Kington Vintage Club	To assist with the costs of the main ring attraction	£500.00
Kington & District Operatic Society	To assist with the costs of rehearsals of the forthcoming Pantomime	£500.00

A further application was deemed not eligible for a Grant as it was from a Childminding business. However, the Panel had wanted to support the venture, so Cllr Wood-Johnson had visited the applicant to discuss how the Council could provide her with some practical support.

12 012-17 TO DISCUSS THE PROVISION OF THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2017/18

It was agreed that Kington Town Council had done as much as was possible in providing Christmas Lights over the past few years. Now was the time for further discussions and meetings with the Chamber of Trade to see how the matter could be taken forward.

EB /CLERK

13 013-17 UPDATE ON THE CHURCHYARD WALL REPAIRS

The Clerk confirmed that he had engaged McCartney's to carry out a survey at a cost of £1,250. Several Councillors were unhappy at this amount. After discussion and questions, it was confirmed that proper Council procedure was being followed and that McCartney's quote covered all matters.

It was proposed by Cllr MacCurrach and seconded by Cllr Widdowson that the spending of a further £700 would need to be sanctioned to meet the cost of McCartney's work,

RESOLVED

It was resolved that Kington Town Council would sanction the spending of this additional money.

CLERK

14 014-17 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS (minutes circulated previously)

There had been no meetings in the Christmas and New Year period.

15 015-17 TO NOTE ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS

(Cllr Fitton left the meeting at 20.35)

Cllrs Forrester and Widdowson: Library meeting with Natalia Silver who had requested a Strategy for Kington Library. Cllr Forrester tabled a draft strategy for discussion, stressing that this was a draft, for further development.

In summary

Cllr Forrester asked members to note the following points:

- i There is no recommendation that there should be an asset transfer of the building to Kington Town Council and the Asset Trust. It is suggested that this should **not** be considered.
- ii There is no suggestion that the operation of the library as such should be taken over by KTC or by another body. The library facility (the books) should remain as the core function and should continue to be run by HCC.
- iii This strategy therefore covers only ancillary activities to benefit the community that could be offered under the umbrella of “The Library”.
- iv A small working group will be necessary to develop the strategy and all its strands. Implementing the strategy will be dependent on the outcome of the public meeting

- 1 A public meeting will be arranged as soon as possible to update members of the public. Natalia Silver, Margaret Coldman and John Chedzoy of Herefordshire Libraries will also be invited. No date was set at the meeting. CF, STAFF
- 2 The formation of a Community Interest Company (CIC). This has been discussed before but no action taken. There is the possibility of converting the current Kington Area Regeneration Partnership to a CIC.
- 3 Liaison with Herefordshire Council needs formalising.
- 4 The meeting of neighbouring Parish Councils is to be arranged for Monday 27 February. All neighbouring Parish Clerks and a further representative to be invited. CLERK,
CF, EB
- 5 Funding will be needed: a variety of sources may be available.

16 016-17 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Wood-Johnson raised a number of issues on street lighting, white lines/ road markings and a wall in need of repair along Board School Lane
Cllr Hawkins reported a collapsed wall by the river in Bridge Street – this is the homeowner’s responsibility.

CLERK

In answer to a question from Cllr Bounds about sandbags, the Clerk confirmed that a decision from the Recreation Ground Trust was required.

CLERK

17 017-17 TO PRESENT ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA.

Closure of HSBC bank
Christmas Lights

The meeting ended at

Signed.....Mayor. Date