

Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee Meeting

held on Monday 16th September 2024
at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

PRESENT

Cllr. M. Woolford - Chair
Cllr. E. Banks
Cllr. B. Bishop
Cllr. N. Cornish
Cllr. A. Dixon
Cllr. M. Fitton
Cllr. E. Rolls
Cllr. R. Widdowson

IN ATTENDANCE

Liz Kelso – Town Clerk

Ruth Robinson – Assistant Clerk

Minute	Agenda item	
P&E 035-24	1	Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation Apologies were noted from Cllrs. T. Bounds and P. Sell. There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation.
P&E 036-24	2	Minutes of the previous meetings Minutes of the meeting held on 15 th July 2024 were approved and the Chair was authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting
P&E 037-24	3	Planning & Licensing Matters
	a)	Applications now due for consideration None
	b)	Planning decisions by Herefordshire Council since the last meeting The following planning applications were noted as approved with conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 241599 & 241600 Site: Rear of St. Bedes Church, Bridge Street, Kington Dev: Retention of unauthorised works to boundary wall
P&E 038-24	4	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 the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960(3).

- P&E 039-24** **5** **Planning Enforcement matters**
Concern was expressed at a possible breach of agreed planning consent with regard to a development currently taking place in the Town. It was agreed that the Clerk refer this matter to the planning enforcement team at Herefordshire Council for investigation.
- P&E 040-24** **6** **Consultation on proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework**
After some discussion it was resolved not to respond directly to HM Governments proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework but members noted that any subsequent proposals by Herefordshire Council as the planning authority would need to be carefully considered in terms of the impact on Kington. It was further agreed that the Member of Parliament for North Herefordshire be invited to attend a Planning & Environment Committee meeting with a view to discussing how increased housing targets for Herefordshire might be addressed.
- P&E 041-24** **7** **Environmental Matters**
- a) Town Centre**
Following on from concerns raised regarding a property at Lower Cross, members noted the report provided at the full council meeting on 9th September regarding the future of the building, now scheduled for sale by auction at the end of the month.
- An update on repairs to the Market Hall building, damaged by an uninsured driver in December last year, is to be requested.
- It was also noted that permission has been given for the hoarding around the toilets in the Place de Marines to be used to display artwork although no organisation or individual has taken this on as a project. It was agreed to discuss this with the Chamber of Trade.
- b) Planters and floral displays**
Members noted that the displays are being well maintained by the contractor. In other areas, however, weeds are appearing in pavements and cracks and it was felt this needs addressing.
- c) Allotments**
There was no report under this agenda item.
- d) Footpath and Highway Maintenance**
It was noted that previously reported damage to the pavement by St. Bedes Church has still not been repaired by Balfour Beatty and is considered dangerous. Similarly, repairs to the footpath in the Recreation Ground are also still outstanding and have been for many months.
- There has been no response to a request for a pedestrian footway to be marked on the area adjacent to the garage on Headbrook to discourage drivers from parking across the pavement.
- On a positive note, a jointly submitted request for funding between the Town Council and the Footpaths Office through Kington Walks for equipment to improve or repair

public rights of way has been successful. The Footpaths Officer can now request equipment directly from Balfour Beatty for repairs to signs, gates and stiles.

e) War Memorial

It was noted that vegetation still needs to be cleared from the lights around the war memorial in places. This has been reported to the streetlighting team at Herefordshire Council as the lights form part of the street lighting asset.

f) Trees

There was nothing to report under this agenda item.

g) Churchyard matters

Members noted a report from the Clerk on the lime tree which dropped a branch in August resulting in the tree being identified as rotten and requiring felling. Appropriate approvals from Herefordshire Council under emergency health and safety measures were granted and work on the tree took place in recent days, leaving some wood behind for local residents to collect.

Damage to the Lych Gate has also been identified and a specialist contractor, recommended by the Diocesan Office, has provided a report and quotation for the necessary works. Approval for the contract was given by Full Council at a meeting held on 9th September, subject to the granting of a Faculty from the Diocesan Office which is now being applied for.

It was agreed that a quotation be requested from the contractor who currently cuts the grass in the churchyard to extend the work to include the cutting back of overgrown vegetation when required.

Finally it was agreed that a walk around of the churchyard would take place so that committee members can identify any further works required for the maintenance of this area. The date will be circulated by the assistant clerk.

h) Litter and pavement sweeping

As autumn approaches it was noted that fallen leaves are beginning to gather particularly along narrow paths within the town. It was noted last year that a separate pavement sweep has to be requested from Balfour Beatty so a sweep will be requested now.

i) Update from Environment Working Party

There was nothing to report under this agenda item. The working party, will meet shortly.

P&E 042-24

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

The next meeting will be held on Monday 7th October 2024 at 6.00pm in the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington. It was agreed that a discussion on dark skies be added to the next agenda.

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