

Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee Meeting

held on Monday 13th January 2025
at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

PRESENT

Cllr. M. Woolford - Chair
Cllr. B. Bishop
Cllr. N. Cornish
Cllr. P. Sell
Cllr. R. Widdowson

IN ATTENDANCE

Liz Kelso – Town Clerk
Ruth Robinson – Assistant Clerk

Minute	Agenda item	
P&E 01/25	1	Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation Apologies were noted from Cllrs. E. Banks and E. Rolls. Cllr. P. Sell declared an interest in agenda item 4(f) in respect of Allotments and matters relating to the Churchyard.
P&E 02/25	2	Minutes of the previous meetings Minutes of the meeting held on 2 nd December 2024 were approved and the Chair was authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting
P&E 03/25	3	Planning & Licensing Matters
	a)	Applications now due for consideration Ref: 241348 Site: The Laburnams, 32a, High Street, Kington Dev: Garage with store area and a study above (retrospective) Members considered this application and resolved to offer no objections to the development
	b)	Planning decisions by Herefordshire Council since the last meeting Members noted the decision by Herefordshire Council to refuse the application in respect of Rock Cottage, Broken Bank (application reference 241573). Given that this is the last of multiple applications for this development, members requested an update on whether any enforcement action is proposed for the work that has already taken place at this location.
	c)	Planning enforcement activity since the last meeting None to note

d) Implications of the new National Planning Policy Framework and the potential impact on Kington

Members noted the advice from Herefordshire Council on the potential implications of the new National Planning Policy Framework, in particular where there is no neighbourhood plan in place. Herefordshire Council are now considering how the changes impact on the draft Local Plan and further advice is expected at a later date.

P&E 04/25

4 Environmental Matters

a) Proposed installation of Electric Charging points in Common Close, Kington.

Members noted the proposals for the installation of electric charging points in Common Close which would remove several parking bays for use by local residents/visitors in an area where parking provision was in very short supply. It was further noted that the new EVCPs would be quite close to The Garth and might represent a hazard.

b) Proposal to upgrade electrical sub-station by National Grid in Prospect Lane, Kington.

Members noted the proposal to upgrade the electrical sub-station in Prospect Lane which would result in the closure of the lane for some weeks while work takes place. The Mayor and Deputy have met with a representative from National Grid who has explained the programme of work, noting that parking spaces in Common Close would be used for equipment and material storage whilst work takes place. Again, this would restrict parking provision for local residents and visitors to the town.

It was also noted that the second phase of this work by National Grid would see electrical cables along the High Street replaced from March 2026 onwards, with the possibility of a closure of the High Street to vehicles for some months. It was considered very important that this work is managed and planned carefully as it will have a major impact on local businesses. This will be followed up with National Grid and Herefordshire Council.

c) Nature Recovery Mapping Webinar

It was agreed that Cllr. M. Fitton would attend this webinar on behalf of the Town council.

d) Appointment of lead councillors/working party members for current projects and confirmation of procedures going forward

Following on from previous discussions on processes to streamline how projects are brought forward for agreement by the town council, it was agreed to appoint working parties and a lead councillor to the following projects:

- Street cleaning & handyman: Working party consisting of Cllrs. M. Woolford, B. Bishop & N. Cornish to take this forward
- Dark Skies policy: Existing environmental working party with the addition of Cllr E. Banks to take this forward

It was agreed that the clerk and/or assistant clerk would be kept informed of all discussions by the working parties. Other projects to be assigned at a later date.

e) Biodiversity Policy.

The Environment Working Group presented a draft Biodiversity Policy which was duly considered. No changes were proposed and it was agreed that this be now put to full council for consideration at the February meeting.

f) Standing Items:

- **Town Centre**

Permission is still awaited from Herefordshire Council for the installation of a light above the defibrillator on the Market Hall building. The Assistant Clerk to follow this up.

It was also reported that the BT telephone box which appears to be still operational is in a poor state of repair. This has been reported to BT in the past but will be reported again.

- **Planters and Floral Displays**

Quotations for the repair and maintenance of the town centre planters received and will be presented for consideration at the next full council meeting but the Clerk confirmed that the current contractor has commented that adding spring bulbs to the planters in the autumn this year might be difficult if the planters still have growing plants in them. This will be investigated further.

- **Allotments**

It was reported that Western Power are due to attend to carry out works on the site in April.

- **Footpath and Highway matters**

It was noted that a request for street sweeping is being classified as “not a priority” by Herefordshire Council in several areas. This will be discussed in more detail a working party set up earlier on this agenda.

- **War Memorial**

A request has been lodged with Herefordshire Council to remove weeds etc. around the lights surrounding the war memorial to include repairs to the lights where required. Herefordshire Council has responded that it feels this is a low priority item so the work is unlikely to take place imminently.

- **Trees**

Quotations are being obtained for a tree safety survey for the churchyard and recreation ground and will be discussed further at a later meeting.

- **Churchyard**

It was agreed that a working party will be set up at the next Planning and Environment committee meeting to consider a management programme for the Churchyard.

As noted earlier, quotations are being sought for a tree safety survey of the churchyard following incidents of tree branches dropping.

There is no further progress on the application for a faculty to repair the guttering on the Lych Gate.

- **Litter and Pavement Sweeping**

It was noted that the footpath that runs from Bridge Street to High Street has still not been cleared of leaves by Herefordshire Council.

- **Update from Environment Working Party**

Members reported that one member of the working party had now resigned but they are working on the next phase of the project and will report at the next committee meeting.

P&E 05/25

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

It was agreed that the next programmed meeting of the Planning & Environment committee would be deferred as this meeting is later than originally scheduled because of the Christmas break. This means that the next meeting will be held on 3rd March 2025 at 6.00pm in the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington, unless there are any urgent planning applications to consider. There were no further items raised for the agenda.

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