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|  | **Kington Town Council**  Email: [clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk)  Web site: [www.kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk)    **Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee Meeting**  held on 12th May 2025  at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington |  |

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| **PRESENT** | **IN ATTENDANCE** |
| Cllr. M. Fitton – In the Chair |  |
| Cllr. E. Banks | Liz Kelso – Town Clerk |
| Cllr. N. Cornish | Ruth Robinson – Assistant Clerk |
| Cllr. M. Fitton | 1 member of the public |
| Cllr. E. Rolls |  |
| Cllr. R. Widdowson |  |

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| **Minute** | **Agenda item** |  |
| **P&E 21/25** | **1** | **Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation** |
|  |  | Apologies were noted from Cllrs. T. Bounds and M. Woolford. Cllr. P. Sell declared an interest in agenda items 4.1.3 (allotments) and 4.1.7 (churchyard). There were no requests for dispensation. |
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| **P&E 22/25** | **2** | **Minutes of the previous meetings** |
|  |  | Minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2025 were approved and the Chair was authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting |
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| **P&E 23/25** | **3** | **Planning & Licensing Matters** |
|  | **3.1** | **Applications now due for consideration** |
|  |  | * Ref: 250791   Site: Paddock near Kington Fire Station, 4 Churchill Road, Kington  Dev: Proposed tree works in conservation area  The applicant, in attendance at the meeting, confirmed that this application is to be withdrawn. There was no further discussion on this application and agreed no comment to be submitted.   * Ref: 251219   Site: Kington Recreation Ground  Dev: Tree works in conservation area  This application was submitted on behalf of Kington Recreation Ground Trust. It was agreed not to submit any comment/observation. |
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|  | **3.2** | **Planning decisions by Herefordshire Council since the last meeting** |
|  |  | Members noted planning decisions by Herefordshire Council since the last meeting and in particular refusal of application ref. 240759 in respect of land off Crabtree Road which would have implications for proposals under the Feasibility Study into the Kington Economic Development Plan. |
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|  | **3.3** | **Planning Enforcement activity by Herefordshire Council** |
|  |  | None noted. |
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| **P&E 24/25** | **4** | **Environmental matters** |
|  | **4.1** | **Standing agenda items** |
|  |  | **4.1.1 Town Centre**  Members noted that work on the repairs to the Market Hall building have not yet started. The Clerk will follow this up. |
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|  |  | **4.1.2 Planters and floral displays**  Now that the risk of frost has almost passed, work has commenced on the clearing, repairs and restocking of planters throughout the town. After some discussion, it was agreed that a quotation be sought in the autumn for the ongoing maintenance of the planters throughout the winter to include clearing the planters when the summer bedding has finished and restocking with bulbs for early spring colour. |
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|  |  | **4.1.3 Allotments**  It was reported that proposed electrical work at the allotments would now take place in the summer. In the meantime, all plots are now let. |
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|  |  | * + 1. **Footpath and Highway Matters**   The clerk provided an update on changes to the public rights of way team at Herefordshire Council and the introduction of the new handbook for footpaths officers working through parish councils. Members were encouraged to make any comments on the handbook to the Clerk.  It was also noted that the request to mark the footpath boundary on land adjacent to the filling station to discourage parking of vehicles across the footpath has been refused by Herefordshire Council on the grounds that the land is not part of the highway and they have found no evidence of inappropriate parking on that site. |
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|  |  | * + 1. **War Memorial**   Members noted with thanks that the area around the war memorial had been cleared of litter and weeds before the VE Day service on Sunday by volunteers. |
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|  |  | **4.1.6 Trees**  It was noted that trees along Church Road require cutting back. Leylandii trees along Gravel Hill are now considered very large and potentially hazardous. The Clerk explained that she has reported these to Herefordshire Council on several occasions and they have been found to be within acceptable safety standards but will do so again. Several branches were known to have fallen during storms in the Winter.  It was unclear whether work on the tree adjacent to the Garth Care Home has been completed. |
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|  |  | * + 1. **Churchyard**   It was confirmed that the tree safety survey is due to take place shortly and work on the Lychgate will commence in June.  It was also noted that reflector strips installed outside the Lychgate needed replacing. This will be reported to Highways as it is outside of the Churchyard. |
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|  |  | **4.1.8 Litter and pavement sweeping**  There was nothing further to report on this agenda item. |
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|  |  | * + 1. **Environment Working Party**   There was nothing to report under this agenda item. A meeting of the group is planned for June. |
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| **P&E 25/25** | **5** | **Date and time of next meeting and items for the agenda.** |
|  |  | The next scheduled meeting of the planning & environment committee will take place on Monday 2nd June at 6.00pm in the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street. There were no additional items raised for the agenda.  There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed. |