



# Kington Town Council

The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington HR5 3DP

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## Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. P. Sell - Chair  
Cllr. E. Banks  
Cllr. R. Banks  
Cllr. B. Bishop  
Cllr. N. Cornish  
Cllr. R. Widdowson  
Cllr. J. Gardner  
Cllr. M. Woolford  
Cllr. M. Fitton

### IN ATTENDANCE

Ruth Robinson – Assistant clerk  
  
1 member of the press  
2 members of the public  
Cllr. T. James, Ward Councillor, H.C.C.  
1 representative from West Mercia Police

### Agenda

- | Item | Minute |   |
|------|--------|---|
| 1    | 159-25 | <b>To note apologies for absence, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation</b><br>Apologies received from Cllr. T. Bounds.<br>For personal reasons Cllr. E. Rolls has asked for a leave of absence until after Christmas. Councillors unanimously agreed.<br>Cllr. N Cornish and Cllr P. Sell declared an interest in agenda item 6c. |
| 2    | 160-25 | <b>Minutes</b><br>The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025, which had been previously circulated, were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.  |

**3      161-25    Public Participation**

**a)      Police Matters**

PC Rawlinson reported two incidents in the town since the last meeting: a driver was arrested for excess alcohol following a driving into a house. No further injuries to other people as a result of the collision; and an assault on Bridge Street which is a live investigation. He also reported that West Mercia Police are working with retailers in an initiative to reduce knife crime including a knife amnesty. There is a new PCSO, Steve Thomas, joining the neighbourhood team.

**b)      Ward Councillor Report**

Ward Councillor Terry James' verbal report was noted including update to Kington bus stops: Mill Street bus stop is to be digitalised and the Bridge Street bus stop is to be rebuilt. He also reported that he has made representation to have missing WW1 names put on Kington War Memorial.

**c)      Matters raised by members of the public in attendance**

Chamber of Trade reported that Ellie Chowns MP will be holding her surgery at Lady Hawkins School on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025 between 6.30pm and 8.00pm

**4      162-25    Mayor's Report**

The Mayor's report, as attached, was noted.

**5      163-25    Clerk's Report**

Clerk's report, as attached, was noted.

**6      164-25    Financial Matters**

**a)      Payments**

Payments totalling £4,784.94 (inclusive of VAT where applicable) as attached to these Minutes, were approved.

**b)      Receipts since the last meeting**

None to report.

**c)      To consider applications for community grants**

Having declared an interest in this agenda item, Cllrs. N. Cornish & P. Sell abstained from voting on this agenda item.

The Community Grant Awards as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee as attached to these Minutes, were unanimously agreed by Councillors.

**d) To consider request for grant from Kington Museum towards cost of building repair.**

Councillors noted request for grant but requested more information regarding how damage was caused and questioned liability regarding damage if a result of a vehicle collision.

**e) To note budget setting timetable for 2026-27.**

Members noted the budget timetable as advised by the Clerk. It was agreed that projects or items for the budget be submitted for consideration to the Finance, Personnel & General Purposes Committee to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**7 165-25 Planning Matters**

**Ref: 252782**

**Site: Market hall, Mill Street, Kington**

**Dev: Proposed works to Market Hall and associated works**

Cllr. M. Woolford proposed support for the application. Councillors unanimously agreed.

**8 166-25 Update on Public Realm Funding opportunity.**

Cllr. M Woolford reported on recommendations from the Planning and Environment Committee on list of projects for consideration. Councillors unanimously agreed to recommendations.

**9 167-25 To consider correspondence from Herefordshire Council on play area investment opportunities.**

Councillors unanimously agreed not to submit an expression of interest in this instance.

**10 168-25 To note Herefordshire Council proposals for upgrading bus shelters.**

See 161-25 b) above.

Cllr. T James also reported that a working party was unnecessary as the decision regarding upgrading had been made by Herefordshire Council.

11. 169-25 **Update on proposal for 20mph limit for the town.**  
It was noted that Cllr R Widdowson and Cllr M. Woolford will produce a paper for consideration at the next full council meeting.
12. 170-25 **To note closure of Air Ambulance base locally.**  
It was noted that Air Ambulance coverage is to be changed. Coverage for Kington will be from the North Wales coast station. There is some discussion regarding response vehicles.
13. 171-25 **Update on Christmas Light Switch-on event.**  
It was noted that lights will be installed on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November with minimal disruption to the High Street expected.  
Andy and Karen Compton have been invited to switch on lights at the event.  
There will be Santa's Grotto, food, drinks and entertainment.  
Councillors expressed thanks to the Chamber of Trade for organising the event.
14. 172-25 **To consider response to proposal for road closure for Radnor and West Herefordshire Boxing Day Hunt.**  
On consideration of this proposal, members voted to support this proposal with 4 votes for and one against.
15. 173-25 **Update on proposals for Armed Forces Day**  
Cllr. P. sell updated members on proposals. Upon due consideration a budget of £2,000 was agreed. This figure to be built into the 2026/7 budget. Councillors noted that a planning group will be convened in January to carry forward proposals.
16. 174-25 **To note reports from committees**  
Minutes from the Finance and General Purposes committee meeting and Planning and Environment Committee meetings, both held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 were noted.
17. 175-25 **Reports from Councillors**  
Cllr. E. Banks reported that the QR codes on the town map in Place de Marines are still not working.
18. 176-25 **Date and Time of next meeting and items for agenda.**  
The next meeting will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 6pm in the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street. There were no items requested for the agenda for that meeting.

## KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### Agenda item 4: Mayor's Report

#### Mayor's Report: November 2025

##### Activities since my last report: 20th October

**22<sup>nd</sup> October:** The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Widdowson and myself met with HC Officers to discuss the 'wish list' created in relation to the £200, 000 funds available for **public realm developments** with the town. The list, previously discussed with Council, was explored as we walked to various sites around the town. HC Officers advised on various options/approaches to projects and went away to come up with indicative costings for work under consideration.

**9<sup>th</sup> November:** I attended the **Remembrance Sunday** Service held at Kington Baptist Church, led by Rev Richard Ross. The service was well attended. We then marched up the hill the War Memorial by the Act of Remembrance. It was good to see many members of Council Present at this important event in the Town's calendar.

**11<sup>th</sup> November:** I attended the LHS School **Remembrance Day** service held at the school war memorial, The Senior Pupils played a large part in leading the service, which was very moving and dignified. The students were very respectful and fully engaged in the event. A great credit to all involved.

After the service, I had a brief discussion with the HT, some staff and pupils about replicating such an event at the start of our **Town's Armed Forces Day Celebrations**. This was given full support.

**12<sup>th</sup> November:** I attended the **Annual Shrieval Lecture** at the Town Hall in Hereford. This year, Lord Sumption explored the subject of Free Speech- what it means here and abroad, how it is defined and the laws around protection and violation. All very important considerations in today's climate.

#### Communications and news

- I wrote, as requested, to Stacey and Luke to thank them for the care and attention they have given to keeping the war memorial and the plans around it looking so good.

- It is very exciting to learn the Kington Walks have been awarded the Kings Award for Voluntary Service. This a excellent news and well deserved by all involved. There will be a celebratory event on 29<sup>th</sup> November at the Market Hall (between 10.30am-2pm)
- We extend our best wishes to our Clerk, currently recovering from surgery. Flowers and a card have been sent on behalf of the Council.

**Philip J G Sell. Mayor of Kington**

## **KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

### **Agenda item 5: Clerk's Report - amended**

This report identifies activities of the Clerk since the last meeting other than those addressed elsewhere on the agenda or addressed by other Members as part of their report and includes some items which are for information only.

#### **1. Councillor Vacancies**

Councillors are reminded that we still have several vacancies that can now be filled by co-option. Please ask anyone who might be interested in serving their community to contact the Town Clerk for information on what the role entails. Co-options must be an agenda item so it is important that the Clerk is made aware of any proposed co-options prior to a meeting of full council.

#### **2. Parish Summit**

Members may recall that Herefordshire Council held a Parish Summit on 7<sup>th</sup> October. A recording of that meeting is now available. If anyone wishes to receive a copy of the recording, please let the Clerk know.

#### **3. Staff Absence**

With grateful thanks to the assistant clerk for covering for the Clerk's absence following surgery. Whilst service is not quite back to normal, everyone's patience is much appreciated.

#### **4. Defibrillator supplies**

Replacement pads for both defibrillators have had to be ordered in recent weeks with the unit on the Masonic Hall proving particularly difficult to obtain but replacements are now on their way.

#### **5. Road conditions**

There have been a number of complaints by members of the public about leaves on pavements leading to wet surfaces which are hazardous for pedestrians. These have been reported to Herefordshire Council Highways Department and their agents, Balfour Beatty, who have reported that they do not consider the risk sufficient to warrant any action on their part.

## **6. Kington Walks**

Very many congratulations to Kington Walks for being awarded The Kings Award for Voluntary Service. This award is the highest award for voluntary groups in the UK and is the equivalent to an MBE, recognising and celebrating the exceptional contribution of volunteers to their local community. Members of the town council are invited to join Kington Walks for a celebratory event at the Market Hall on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November from 10.30am-2.00pm.

**KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Agenda item 6(a): Payment Schedule**

# Kingston Town Council

## Schedule of payments to be approved on 17th November 2025

Voucher #	Payee	Payment type:	Detail	Minute Ref.	Net	VAT	Total Payment
Payments made since last meeting							
122	Unity Bank	DD - 30.9.2025	Bank charges		£ 7.95		£ 7.95
123	Unity Bank	DD - 31.10.2025	Bank Charges		£ 9.00		£ 9.00
124	HMRC	BACS - 16.11.25	Tax & NI on October salaries		£ 1,117.60		£ 1,117.60
125	EE.Com	DD - 12.10.2025	Mobile phone charges		£ 22.96	£ 4.59	£ 27.55
135	E-on Next	DD - 23.9.2025	Rec Grant - utilities		£ 111.52	£ 5.58	£ 117.10
Payments now due							
126	Border Office Supplies	BACS	Copying service charge		£ 0.14	£ 0.03	£ 0.17
127	Gareth Evans	BACS	Churchyard grass cutting		£ 170.00		£ 170.00
128	J&P Turner	BACS	Planter maintenance - October		£ 600.00	£ 120.00	£ 720.00
129	Herefordshire Council	BACS	Office Rental - December		£ 190.00		£ 190.00
130	Bees Knees Cookshop	BACS	Christmas Lights Switchon		£ 1,614.89		£ 1,614.89
131	Lloyds Bank	DD - 17.11.2025	Credit card charges - fees, ink, wreath		£ 53.48		£ 53.48
132	EE.Com	DD - 12.11.2025	Mobile phone charges		£ 22.96	£ 4.59	£ 27.55
133	Countrywide	BACS	Rec Grant - Grass cutting - October		£ 529.71	£ 105.94	£ 635.65
134	Allan Mills	BACS	Rec Grant - repairs to Rec Cottage		£ 94.00		£ 94.00
			Total payments this month excl. salaries		£ 4,544.21	£ 240.73	£ 4,784.94

### FOR INFORMATION

Total of payments made through grants received:							
Total of payments made as a grant							
	Rec Grant				£ 735.23	£ 111.52	£ 846.75
							£ -
Total paid as salaries (net) - October 2025							£ 3,577.37

**KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
**Agenda item 6(c): Community Grant Awards**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Marches Makers Festival	£200.00
Kington Hockey Club	£360.00
Kington Cricket Club	£0
Kington Walks	£500.00
Kington Football Club	£500.00
Kington Choir	£200.00
Kington Christmas Lunch Event	£200.00
St. Mary's PCC	£150.00
Kington Youth Hub	£500.00