**Kington Town Council**





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 **Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting**

 held on Monday 17th July 2017 at 6.30 pmin

 The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, St, Kington.

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| **PRESENT** | **In attendance** |
| **Cllr. J. Atkinson (7pm onwards)** | **Cllr. R. Widdowson** |
| **Cllr. T. Bounds** |  |
| **Cllr. J. Dennis** | **Liz. Kelso - Clerk** |
| **Cllr. M. Fitton** |  |
| **Cllr. W. Laurie** |  |
| **Cllr. R. MacCurrach** |  |
| **Cllr. I Wood Johnson**  |  |

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|  | **Agenda item** |  |
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| **Env 015-17** | **1.** | **ELECTION OF CHAIR** |
|  |  | Cllr. R. MacCurrach was duly elected as Chair of the Environment Committee for the forthcoming year.  |
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| **Env 016-17** | **2** | **APOLOGIES** |
|  |  | Apologies were noted from Cllr. E. Banks and Cllr. C. Forrester |
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| **Env 017-17** | **3.** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** |
|  |  | Cllr. R. MacCurrach declared a non-discloseable interest in agenda item 5.7, repair to the Churchyard Wall, being a member of the PCC. |
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| **Env 018-17** | **4.** | **REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION** |
|  |  | There were no requests for dispensation. |
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| **Env 019-17** | **5.** | **STANDING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION** |
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|  |  | 1. **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Cllr. Fitton provided an update on the Regulation 14 consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan, explaining that responses from statutory bodies were now being received. Members were encouraged to attend the public meeting at the Primary School on 27th July.It was noted that a further grant of £3,500 had now been received and would be used towards the costs of the Regulation 16 stage, independent examination and final referendum.Concern was expressed that some members of the public misunderstand the purpose and nature of the Neighbourhood Plan and believe building work is likely to commence on those sites identified as potential development areas. It is to be stressed at the public meeting that those sites identified for development might be sites for future development, if there is demand in the future.1. **Health & Safety**

There was no discussion under this agenda item.1. **Town Centre**

Concern was expressed at the future of the Town centre following news of two further shop closures in the near future. There was some discussion on possible reasons for the decline in the town centre such as the impact on the closure of banks and the impact of fire regulations on small businesses in historic buildings. Encouraging businesses to adopt contactless payment systems might encourage residents to use local shops more.It was agreed that this be an agenda item for Full Council in August but in the meantime Cllr. Widdowson would request an informal meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to seek their views and further research would be carried out into the Fire Regulations for listed buildings for further consideration at the next Committee meeting.Action: **RW/LK**1. **Kington in Bloom**

Entries to date have been slow with approximately four entries received so far. However, local businesses and volunteers have been watering the tubs around the town and with one exception, there has been little reported damage or vandalism of planted tubs. The assistant Clerk will be asked to provide an update on entries and how this has been advertised.Action: **IW-J/LK**1. **Allotments**

A field has been requested as a potential market garden but stoney. This will be investigated further.Action: **RM**1. **Recycling**

There was nothing to report on this item.1. **Churchyard**
* **Churchyard Wall Repair**

It was noted that three invitations had been sent to local companies inviting quotes for the Churchard wall repair in accordance with the specification drawn up by Donald McIntyre. To date only one quotation has been received. After some discussion, **it was agreed:*** + To seek further quotations from local companies with a view to considering these at an extraordinary meeting of the Environment Committee to be held on Tuesday 29th August. Cllr. Laurie agreed to provide a list of local businesses that might be interested in quoting for this work.
	+ To convene an extraordinary meeting of the Committee at 6.30pm on Tuesday 29th August 2017 at The Old Police Station to consider quotations received with a view to making a recommendation to the Full Council at the meeting to be held on 4th September, in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and
	+ To ask the business that has provided a quote to confirm their quotation and advise them of the retendering process.
* **Vicarage Wall**

It was noted that a small section of the vicarage garden wall also requires a minor repair. It was confirmed that this would need to be the subject of a separate quote/tender process and could not be combined with the churchyard wall repair discussed above.* **Churchyard Trees**

It was reported that a request has been received to reduce the height of the Horse Chestnut in the churchyard as this is impacting on the vicar’s Sky signal. After some discussion it was **agreed** that the cutting back of any tree would only be sanctioned for safety reasons. It was further **agreed** that consideration be given at a later date to a formal policy on tree management.1. **Community Energy**

There was no further discussion on this item other than noting that there was interest in establishing a Community Energy Scheme.1. **Economic Development**

There was nothing to report on this agenda item.1. **Lengthsman**

It was agreed that Cllr. Wood-Johnson ascertain the status of the request to the lengthsman to trim the ivy from the Churchyard wall. It was also noted that brambles need to be cleared rom Broad School Lane.The Clerk will check on the progress of the proposal by Balfour Beatty to add dropped curbs in several locations. Only one has been created to date.It was further agreed that the Clerk will clarify the road sweeping schedule and pavement sweep schedule with the Locality Steward.1. **War Memorial**

There was nothing to report on this agenda item.1. **Quarry Liaison**

Cllr. Atkinson reported that work on the treatment plant is not yet completed. Pollution incidents are still being reported, albeit rarely. Fishing returns below Kington are falling. Cllr. Atkinson will ascertain when the next Quarry Liaison group meeting is to be held.**Action: JA**1. **Tree Warden**

It was noted that Tree Week this year will be 25th November to 3rd December.1. **KLEEN**

An update was received from Cllr. R. Widdowson & Cllr. R. MacCurrach. |
| **Env 20-17** | **6** | **NEXT AGENDA ITEMS** |
|  |  | Follow up from this meetingRoad safety and traffic calming (including speed indicator devices) |
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|  |  | There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.05 hrs |
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|  |  | Signed ………………………………………… Chair of Environment CommitteeDate |