**Kington Town Council**





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**Minutes of a Meeting of the**

**Environment Committee**

held on Monday 18th September 2017 at 7.00 pmin

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

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| **PRESENT** | **In attendance** |
| **Cllr. R. MacCurrach (Chair)** | **Liz Kelso - Clerk** |
| **Cllr. E. Banks** |  |
| **Cllr. M. Fitton** |  |
| **Cllr. W. Laurie** |  |
| **Cllr. I. Wood-Johnson** |  |
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|  | **Agenda item** |  |
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| **Env 024-17** | **1.** | **Apologies** |
|  |  | Apologies were noted from Cllrs. J. Dennis and C. Forrester |
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| **Env 024-17** | **2.** | **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation** |
|  |  | There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation. |
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| **Env 025-17** | **3.** | **Minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2017** |
|  |  | Subject to the correction of a typographical error on page 7, the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2017, which had been previously circulated, were accepted. The Chairman was authorised to sign these Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting. |
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| **Env 026-17** | **4.** | **Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 29th August 2017** |
|  |  | The Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 29th August 2017, which had been previously circulated, were accepted. The Chairman was authorised to sign these Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting. |
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| **Env 027-17** | **5.** | **Standing items** |
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|  |  | 1. **Neighbourhood Development Plan**   Cllr. Fitton provided an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan, explaining that the Regulation 14 consultation has now been completed and comments received were being reviewed. Some amendments to the plan were envisaged which would be brought to the full council in due course.  The next stage in the process would be the Regulation 16 submission to Herefordshire Council before the plan is sent to an independent examiner and finally the referendum which is likely to be next Spring/Summer. |
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|  |  | 1. **Health & Safety**   Three bridges have become slippery with leaves and require sweeping. One is within the Kington Rural boundary so will be reported to them for action. The remaining two will be reported to Balfour Beatty.  Maintenance of footpaths generally was also discussed and it was agreed to include this as an agenda item for the next meeting. |
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|  |  | 1. **Town Centre**   Children on scooters and skate boards are damaging the benches in Place de Marines and also in the Recreation Ground. Members were reminded that all such incidents should be reported to the police as this will help inform their resource planning. |
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|  |  | 1. **Kington in Bloom**   The Kington in Bloom competition was felt to be a great success and thanks were recorded to all the organisers, entrants and judges. However, the number of entries was disappointingly low and it was agreed that more could be done next year to encourage entries, particularly through earlier advertising. It was agreed that an initial planning meeting for next year be held before Christmas  The town planters were very well received this year and little damage or vandalism was reported although regular litter picking was needed. Cllr. Banks agreed to ask the Horticultural Society to help set up and maintain the planters next year. |
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|  |  | 1. **Allotments**   There was nothing to report under this agenda item. |
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|  |  | 1. **Recycling**   There was nothing to report under this agenda item. |
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|  |  | 1. **Churchyard**   The contractor awarded the contract for the repair to the churchyard wall has indicated that work can commence around week commencing 13th November.  A specialist conservationist will visit in October to give advice on the remainder of the wall.  A dead cherry tree has now been removed and the magnolia pruned but other trees do need attention. Cllr. MacCurrach is liaising with the Diocesan Office and a specification has been prepared by Cllr. Banks which can be used to obtain quotes from tree surgeons for the work. Planning permission is also likely to be required as the trees are in a conservation area. It was agreed that no tree would be removed or cut back unless it represents a health and safety hazard.  The lengthsman has been requested to cut back the ivy along the churchyard wall.   1. **Community Energy**   There was nothing to report under this agenda item. |
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|  |  | 1. **Economic Development**   There was nothing to report under this item. |
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|  |  | 1. **Lengthsman Scheme**   There was nothing to report under this item. |
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|  |  | 1. **War Memorial**   There was nothing to report under this item |
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|  |  | 1. **Quarry Liaison**   There was nothing to report under this item |
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|  |  | 1. **Tree Warden**   It was noted that trees along the edge of the Recreation Ground need cutting back as they impede the streetlight. |
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|  |  | 1. **KLEEN**   There was nothing to report under this item although the group was known to be very active. |
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| **Env 28-17** | **6** | **Road Safety and Traffic Calming**  Correspondence from two residents was noted indicating issues with traffic speeds on the approach roads to the town centre and complaining about parking on yellow lines on the High Street and Church Street.  With regard to parking, it was noted that although this had the effect of slowing traffic along those roads, where parking represents an obstruction or hazards, this should be reported to the police. In all other circumstances, this is a highways matter to be reported to Herefordshire Council.  It was generally felt that vehicles along all the approach roads to the town centre travel too fast and exceed the speed limit of 30 mph. A speed indicator device might be helpful but the first stage in requesting this from Balfour Beatty would be to obtain accurate data from a traffic monitoring exercise. The Clerk will approach Balfour Beatty to ascertain how this can be progressed. |
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| **Env 29-17** | **7** | **Footpath Maintenance**  Noting that the footpath maintenance scheme had folded when the organiser had moved to another area, members discussed the use of Community Payback and volunteers to help maintain the footpaths for residents and visitors to the area. After some debate about the responsibilities of Herefordshire Council and their agents Balfour Beatty, it was agreed that the Clerk research possible options for footpath maintenance for discussion at a later meeting. In the meantime, it was agreed that an article in the Kington Chronicle or Kington Chat could encourage residents to report where repairs and maintenance are required. |
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| **Env 30-17** | **8** | **Next Agenda**   * Dog Fouling * Footpath Maintenance |
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|  |  | There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed**.** |
|  |  | Signed …………………………………………  Chair of Environment CommitteeDate |