



# *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 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

At The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr M Fitton, in the chair  
Cllr E Banks  
Cllr R Banks  
Cllr. J. Dennis  
Cllr. F. Hawkins  
Cllr. W. Laurie  
Cllr R. MacCurrach  
Cllr. L. Rees  
Cllr. E. Rolls  
Cllr. R. Widdowson  
Cllr. Ian Wood-Johnson

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Liz Kelso – Clerk  
Mary Tolhurst – admin assistant  
Cllr. T. James – Ward Councillor  
2 members of the public  
1 member of the press

### **Agenda**

- | <b>Item</b> | <b>Minute</b> |   |
|-------------|---------------|---|
| <b>1</b>    | <b>001-18</b> | <b>APOLOGIES</b><br>Apologies were noted from Cllrs T. Bounds, C. Forrester and P. Prior<br>Mayor Fitton noted that Cllr Bounds had lost one of his daughters over the Christmas period.<br>Condolences were expressed to Cllr Bounds in his absence. Both Mayor Fitton and the Clerk<br>have written to Cllr Bounds; Mayor Fitton personally, and the Clerk on behalf of the Town<br>Council |
| <b>2</b>    | <b>002-18</b> | <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</b><br>There were no declarations of interest, nor any requests for dispensations   |
| <b>3</b>    | <b>003-18</b> | <b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017</b><br>Subject to the correction of a small typographical error, it was agreed that the Minutes of the<br>meeting held on 4 <sup>th</sup> December be approved and that the Chairman be authorised to sign the<br>Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.   |
| <b>4</b>    | <b>004-18</b> | <b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b>   |

**a) Police Report**

There was no report

**b) Ward Councillor Report**

Cllr. James advised members of the following:

The new Link Road in Hereford was now open between the Railway Station and Edgar St. The planned Urban Village as part of the ESG is now in doubt as one of the partner companies has pulled out.

Herefordshire Council is undergoing two current investigations over alleged financial irregularities with a further investigation over the Blueschool House overspend.

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

A member of the public complained about the lack of action in response to his emails to Kington Town Council on matters of flooding at the Recreation Ground and overhanging trees. He requested that a Committee be set up to meet with him and hear his case. This was agreed: the Clerk will make the necessary arrangements

**5 005-18 INFORMATION ITEM: TO RECEIVE THE MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor's verbal report on his activities since the last meeting was noted..

**6 006-18 INFORMATION ITEM: TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report which had been previously circulated and as attached to these Minutes was noted.

**7 007-18 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**a) Payments**

After clarification of a query on the Lengthman's payment, the Clerk presented the schedule of payments. These were agreed

**b) To agree budget for 2018-9**

Cllr Widdowson explained the proposed 2018/19 budget of £92k to members. Cllr Widdowson confirmed that this is lower than the 2017/18 budget and explained that this will be the result of two major savings: the Christmas Lights expenditure, which will be capped at £5,500, and a saving on the Churchyard expenditure, which will be capped at £3,500. It is planned that Kington Town Council will investigate shared/community involvement in the town's 2018 Christmas Lights.

It was proposed by Cllr Rolls and seconded by Cllr Hawkins that Kington Town Council accepted the budget for 2018/19, as attached to these Minutes. The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

**c) To agree precept request for 2018-9**

Following agreement of the budget at 007-18(b) above, Cllr. Widdowson proposed that a precept of £90,000 be requested to ensure minimum reserve levels are maintained in accordance with current guidelines for local authorities. This would result in a £5.70 p.a. increase for band D equivalent household, mainly as a result of withdrawal of the Council Tax Support Grant previously paid to the Town Council by Herefordshire Council (worth in the region of £13,000 some 3 years ago). Expenditure in excess of the precept will be funded from reserves.

It was proposed by Cllr. R. Banks and seconded by Cllr. Rolls that the precept for 2018-9 be set at £90,000.00. The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

**d) To agree renewal of Council insurance portfolio**

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting in the absence of the formal renewal invitation from Insurers.

**8 008-18 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Mayor Fitton updated members on this.

The draft Neighbourhood Development Plan was now ready to go to the consultant for checking and ultimately for independent examination under Regulation 16. Mayor Fitton anticipates that the Plan will be ready for referendum in June or July: this will depend on the Local Authority's workload.

Mayor Fitton thanked former councillor Roz Bradbury for all her invaluable work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

**9 009-18 TO AMEND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

It was agreed that Cllr Liane Rees be appointed to the Environment and Services Committees

**10 010-18 TO ACCEPT THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE WORK REQUIRED TO THE CHURCHYARD TREES**

Cllr MacCurrach explained the background to this. Several of the Churchyard trees require attention, some as a matter of urgency for safety reasons, while some can be left for a later date. Relevant quotes have been obtained.

After discussions, it was proposed by Cllr Atkinson and seconded by Cllr Hawkins that the Environment Committee's recommendations be accepted.

**RESOLVED**

That Kington Town Council accepts the recommendation that high priority work be carried out this financial year on the two lime trees, false acacia and the hawthorn and that contractor A as identified on the schedule presented to the meeting be awarded the contract for this work

**11 011-18 TO CONSIDER JOINING THE PILOT SCHEME FOR FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE**

The Clerk explained that the Local Access Forum propose to act as subcontractors for the maintenance/management of county footpaths, via the Community Payback Scheme, and are looking for a Pilot Scheme Area. This type of scheme had worked very well in the past under Mr Peter Newman and Councillors agreed that the Clerk should continue investigations into Kington becoming a Pilot Scheme.

The Clerk clarified that the costs are unknown at the present time, but could be partially offset by P3 funding. It was agreed that the Clerk be authorised to negotiate with the Local Access Forum with a view to bringing a full proposal back to the Council at a later date.

**12 012-18 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS AWARD**

Mayor Fitton commented that Kington Town Council can help promote this annual award by sending information out via our existing networks and by displaying any posters sent to us. Staff agreed to do this. Mayor Fitton also asked for any nominations from Councillors to be sent to him or to the Clerk.

**13 013-18 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

Minutes from the Services, Planning and Environment Committee meetings that had taken place since the last full council meeting were noted.

Cllr Widdowson drew members' attention to the Health Commission meeting taking place at the Old Police Station on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Councillors expressed disquiet and concern over the administration of the meetings.

**14 014-18 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

No meetings to report on

**15 015-18 FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The Clerk pointed out to members that several Full Council and Committee meetings would fall on Bank Holidays and she has changed dates accordingly, to the Monday following the Bank Holiday. The following dates were also agreed:

The Town Council Annual meeting would be on Monday May 14<sup>th</sup>

The Town Meeting would be on Monday April 30<sup>th</sup>

Recreation Ground Trust meetings would continue to be on the same Monday as Full Council meetings.

**16 016-18 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Items for the next Agenda included:

Pot holes in Greenfield (Cllr Wood-Johnson), The closure of the A&E / minor injuries unit (Cllr Elizabeth Banks).

**17 017-18 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington, commencing at 7.00 pm

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 20.50.

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Chairman  
08.01.2018