



# *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 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

At The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr M Fitton, in the chair  
Cllr J Atkinson  
Cllr E Banks  
Cllr R Banks  
Cllr T Bounds  
Cllr. J. Dennis  
Cllr. C. Forrester  
Cllr. F. Hawkins  
Cllr R. MacCurrach  
Cllr P Prior  
Cllr. L. Rees  
Cllr. E. Rolls  
Cllr. R. Widdowson

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

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

### **Agenda**

- | <b>Item</b> | <b>Minute</b> |   |
|-------------|---------------|---|
| <b>1</b>    | <b>018-18</b> | <b>APOLOGIES</b><br>Apologies were noted from Cllr Wood-Johnson   |
| <b>2</b>    | <b>019-18</b> | <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</b><br>Cllr MacCurrach declared an interest in items 9 (Kington in Bloom) as a member of KLEEN .<br>There were no requests for dispensation   |
| <b>3</b>    | <b>020-18</b> | <b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018</b><br>Subject to the correction of a small typographical error, and the confirmation that Cllr Richard Banks had indeed been present, it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 <sup>th</sup> January be approved and that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting. |

**4 021-18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**a) Police Report**

CPSO Richard Alford reported two crimes in the last month:

Theft of heating oil from an address in Hergest Road and theft of a copper planter

He also commented that PC Dean Wall had not yet been able to undergo training to use the Speed gun. However, the Safer Neighbourhoods team are aware of the traffic problems in Kington and are still on the case.

It was noted that CPSO Alford was soon to retire and that this would be his last appearance as a Police representative. He was thanked by the Mayor for all his efforts on behalf of the residents of Kington over very many years.

**b) Ward Councillor Report**

Cllr. James reported:

- Confirmation of a 4.9% increase in the precept.
- 76% of Herefordshire Council's budget is spent on Social Care, with the remaining 24% being shared between the rest of services.
- The Highways Department have objected to the retrospective planning application for the ATM in Church St. Consequently, the application is being referred to Herefordshire council's Planning Committee for consideration.
- A property being built in Temple Lane seems to be much larger than its original specification and Ward Councillor James will raise this at the next Planning Committee meeting.
- Tony Johnson, leader of /the Council will be retiring in March.

In response to questions Ward Councillor James confirmed the following:

- There is no full analysis of Council spending available, but all meeting minutes and appendices are available online for members of the public to read.
- Concern was expressed over the increasing financial pressures to come on the Local Authority and the Towns and Parishes once central Government funding ends after 2020/21 financial year.
- A request was made that this be an agenda item at the March meeting of the Full Council.

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

None raised

**5 022-18 INFORMATION ITEM: TO RECEIVE THE MAYOR'S REPORT**

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

This included:

Community Asset Transfer issues

Community Champions nominations from Kington Town Council

An update on the Neighbourhood Plan progress which is nearly ready for submission under Regulation 16.

**6 023-18 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. The Clerk added the following updates:

The tree work in the Churchyard has been approved and should begin this week.

The Clerk will meet with representatives from the Local Access Forum during the last week of the month to further discuss the footpaths.

**7 024-18 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**a. Payments**

It was agreed that payments per the attached schedule be paid.

**b. Insurance**

The Clerk presented the annual insurance renewal invitation and confirmed that she had met with insurers to clarify sums insured etc. The Council entered into a three year long term agreement last year and this renewal is in line with that agreement with a final premium indication of £3,872.93 for the year. It was resolved that the insurance policies be renewed as per the renewal documentation.

**c. Request from Kington Recreation Ground Trust to make payment from earmarked reserves**

Members noted a request from Kington Recreation Ground Trust to make a payment from earmarked reserves of approximately £524.00 for work to be carried out on trees on the Recreation Ground. This was agreed for payment once the work has been carried out.

**8 025-18 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

There was nothing further to add on this item.

**9 026-18 KINGTON IN BLOOM**

**a. Kington in Bloom competition for 2018**

Members noted and agreed the recommendation of the Environment Committee that the Kington in Bloom competition be suspended for 2018 in order to allow a review of the competition so that more volunteers and participants can be recruited for the future.

**b. Kington in Bloom**

Members noted the proposal that the Kington in Bloom activities, traditionally funded and managed by the Town Council, be transferred to a voluntary body under the general umbrella of KLEEN in order to engage more volunteers and possibly more grant funding. KLEEN could apply for grant funding from the Town Council and other bodies to undertake the work over the coming financial year.

After some discussion it was agreed that as the Kington in Bloom effort included contracts for some work as well as voluntary effort, further review would be needed before a decision can be made. It was further agreed that KLEEN be invited to put forward more detailed proposals about the nature of work envisaged and how the transfer of responsibility would enhance the scheme.

**c. Funding for Kington in Bloom**

This item was deferred.

**10 027-18 POTHOLES IN GREENFIELDS**

This area of Kington road has been patched up over several years, is in a very poor state and needs resurfacing. It was agreed that BBLP be approached again to reinforce the importance

of this area being repaired. It was further agreed to raise the matter of pothole repairs with the Market Town Forum and with the Ward Councillor.

**11 028-18 CLOSURE OF MINOR INJURIES UNIT**

Members noted that the Minor Injuries Unit at Kington Court had been closed at the start of the winter period by the CCG in order to use staff in Hereford in preparation for the winter period. Although residents are able to be treated at the surgery during normal surgery hours, many are unable to travel to Hereford or Llandrindod Wells out of hours. A review of out of hours provision for residents is urgently needed.

Some of the issues raised are expected to be addressed by the final report of the joint Health Commission of which the Town Council is a partner and Members stressed the importance of proposals for local residents being safe. The final report from the Health Commission is expected shortly and will be available for discussion by the Town Council as a whole once available.

**12 029-18 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

It was agreed that local groups and organisations be invited to attend the Annual Town Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April to present a report on their activities during the previous and forthcoming year. Other items for the agenda could include:

- Christmas lights
- Kington in Bloom
- Health Commission Report
- Open Spaces
- The Annual Report from the Town Council
- Presentation of the Civic Awards

A decision on the venue for this meeting would be taken at the next Full Council meeting.

**13 030-18 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

Committee minutes circulated with the meeting paperwork were noted.

**14 031-18 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Cllr Widdowson reported on a meeting with the Walking Festival's Chair where the 'Great Places' project was discussed. Cllr Widdowson will email all Councillors with an invitation to a presentation on the project on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Cllr Widdowson noted the results of the 'soft market testing' survey on Herefordshire Council's website and requested that Councillors look at it.

**15 032-18 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Kington in Bloom  
Annual Town Meeting  
Kington Health Commission Report

**16 033-18 NEXT MEETING**

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

**17 034-18 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

It was agreed that due to the confidential nature of the business of the next agenda item, that members of the public be excluded from the following agenda item in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3)

**18 035-18 AMENDMENT TO THE CLERK'S HOURS OF WORK**

Mayor Fitton explained the background to this request, the increased workload due to the Community Asset Transfer and the inclusion of the Recreation Ground position to the Clerk's job. The proposal is to increase the Clerk's working hours by an additional five (5) hours per week.

In discussing the financial implications of this proposal, it was noted that much of the additional workload arises out of work in relation to the Recreation Ground Trust for which the Town Council is sole trustee and it was agreed that the Town Council may wish to consider allocating some expenditure for this work from reserves earmarked for Recreation Ground project/expenses if necessary.

Finally it was proposed that the Clerk's hours of work be increased from 25 per week to 30 per week with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018, such additional hours to be work from home or such other place as is necessary to meet the needs of the job. The resolution was passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 20.45.

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Chairman  
05.03.2018