



Kington Town Council

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Minutes of the Services Committee Meeting

held on Monday 19th February 2018 at
The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington HR5 3DP

PRESENT

Cllr. R. Widdowson (Chair)
Cllr. E. Banks
Cllr. C. Forrester
Cllr. F. Hawkins
Cllr. P. Prior
Cllr. L. Rees
Cllr. I Wood-Johnson

IN ATTENDANCE

Liz Kelso (Clerk)
Cllr. E. Rolls

| | <u>Agenda item</u> | | <u>Actions</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|--|----------------|
| Serv 001-18 | 1. | Apologies Apologies were noted from Cllr. T. Bounds, Cllr. J. Dennis and Cllr. M. Fitton | |
| Serv 002-18 | 2. | Minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2017 It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 th December 2017 which had been previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a true record of proceedings at that meeting. | |
| Serv 003-18 | 3. | Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation. | |
| Serv 004-18 | 4. | To review impact of snow and bad weather on Town Centre Some of the issues facing residents during the bad weather were discussed. It was noted that although the Chamber of Trade has a snow clearance machine for footpaths, the snowplough travelled through town depositing snow on the footpaths as it went. It was agreed to discuss this with Balfour Beatty with a view to resolving this. | |

It was further noted that although grit bins were largely full when the poor weather hit, there were reports of people driving up to the bins and taking the grit away or using on their private driveways rather than the public highway. One option might be for an annual leaflet to be produced reminding residents that the grit is for highway use, the provision and location of sandbags for flooding and perhaps emergency numbers when weather conditions are poor.

It was agreed that the Emergency Planning Group should review provisions for winter weather and report back to a later meeting. That review should include identification of the location of grit bins throughout the Town so that consideration can be given to the provision of additional bins if thought necessary.

Serv 005-18

5

Issues raised by Housing Association Tenants

Members discussed a number of complaints raised by residents who are tenants of a Housing Association including complaints about delays in repairing heating breakdowns, difficulties in contacting local officers, delays in providing support and equipment for those with disabilities and parking issues. It would also appear that some tenants have been allocated housing in Kington but need additional support services not available in the town. It was agreed that a representative from the Housing Association be asked to attend a meeting so these issues can be raised.

Serv 006-18

6.

Standing Items

- **Buildings currently occupied by the Town Council and such other buildings that can be determined as Community Assets**

It was reported that a light requires repair in the Market. The Clerk will raise this with Herefordshire Council.

- **Provision of public conveniences**

There was no further comment under this agenda item.

- **Provision for young people**

Nothing to report

- **Play area provision**

Cllr. Banks reported on a successful meeting held with Herefordshire Council on the Community Asset Transfer of public open spaces to Kington Recreation Ground Trust. She stressed the importance of everyone being familiar with the areas to be transferred as this is to be discussed at the next meeting of the Recreation Ground Trust

- **Tourism and Tourist Information Centre**

The next meeting of the Tourism Group is scheduled for early March.

- **Arts, culture and museum provision**

Cllr. Forrester reported that the Museum and History Society are to merge with the aim of improving volunteer retention.

Cllr. Widdowson reported on the launch of the Herefordshire Great Places initiative by the Herefordshire Cultural Partnership which has generated some £750,000 for Herefordshire. Working with young people, schools and the voluntary sector, this initiative offers opportunities for Kington and it was generally agreed that the Town Council should take an active role and work closely with the Chamber of Trade.

Plans for the Makers Festival are progressing and the Festival will take place during the first week in May. The website and facebook page are now live for this Festival.

Finally, following the library provision soft market testing carried out by Herefordshire Council, Cabinet will discuss the results and the way forward at a meeting in May. Four organisations have expressed an interest in tendering although details are not yet clear. A full report will be made to the meeting in June.

- **Health provision, Social care, Support Services and Information and Advice Services**

Cllr. Rolls and Cllr. Widdowson have met with Age UK following their request for funding to the Council. Age UK has been advised that their contract to deliver a day care service at Kington Court ends in February. If the service, which offers day care on three days per week, continues an annual rental payment of £18,000 will be required. Age UK are currently considering other options for the delivery of this service.

The next meeting of the Health Commission will take place in March when the draft report is to be tabled.

- **The leisure centre**

Nothing further to report on this subject.

- **LHS Foundation/Education provision**
LHS was congratulated their 'good' Ofsted report
- **Markets**
The Craft market will restart in April.

Serv 007-18

7.

Items for the next agenda

There were no further items raised for the next agenda.

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

Signed

Chair of Services Committee

Date