



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 12th March 2018

At The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Apologies
Cllr R Banks
Cllr E Banks
Cllr. C. Forrester

Agenda

Item	Minute
1	036-18

APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Cllrs E Banks, R Banks and C Forrester.

2	037-18
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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Cllr. T. Bounds and Cllr. I. Wood-Johnson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 – Financial Matters – in relation to payments to be proposed for payment. Cllr. Hawkins declared a non-disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 7(b) as a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

All Members present declared a non-disclosable interest in planning application ref. 180549 and Members of Kington Recreation Ground Trust with responsibility for the maintenance of the Recreation Ground.

It was agreed to grant a dispensation to each member of the Council in attendance at this meeting to remove the restrictions under section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 in connection with discussions on planning application ref. 180549 on the grounds that

the Kington Recreation Ground Trust has responsibility for the maintenance of the Recreation Ground. This dispensation is granted in order to permit the Town Council to fulfil the function of considering observations on planning applications. The dispensation applies solely to the application referenced above and will continue for each individual member until that member resigns as a Member of Kington Town Council or until the next election of the whole town council, whichever comes first.

3 038-18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH February 2018

It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th February be approved and that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.

4 039-18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a) Police Report

There was no Police Report this month. Mayor Fitton reported that CPSO David Boden was in the process of leaving the area to take up Police Constable training. CPSO Boden had offered his thanks, via the Mayor, to Kington Town Council for the help and support he had received over his years of office. On behalf of the Town Council, Mayor Fitton offered all Councillors joint thanks and best wishes to CPSO Boden for all his work. Mayor Fitton advised that one new CPSO would be starting work in the area this week, followed by two new officers in June.

b) Ward Councillor Report

Cllr. James noted that Cllr. Tony Johnson will retire as leader of Herefordshire Council shortly and will be replaced by Cllr. Jonathan Lester.

Cllr. James expressed concern over the handling of the consultation on the Hereford City By-Pass.

There was concern that Kington appears to be low down in priorities for Balfour Beatty during the recent snow.

c) Matters raised by members of the public

A member of the public complained about the trees overhanging the Recreation Ground Boundary and made reference to Pine trees in the grounds. The same member of the public enquired over the arrangements for a meeting of the complaints committee. Mayor Fitton confirmed that this matter would be dealt with as soon as possible but had been delayed due to pressure of work on other matters.

5 040-18 INFORMATION ITEM: TO RECEIVE THE MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fitton updated members on the planned Headbrook Road closure. This job is part of the Environment Agency's requirements on flood management and prevention: the bridge is to be dismantled and the existing culvert to be rebuilt with special water-resistant materials. This problem was first identified in 2010 but has not been scheduled until now. Pedestrian Access will be provided by a temporary walkway.

Councillors expressed concern over the lack of consultation with any Kington Town organisations, businesses or the emergency services and the potential impact on local businesses.

It was agreed that the Ward Councillor would confirm what road signage was proposed and in particular that “business as usual” signs would be in place. It was further agreed that the Chamber of Trade and bus company would be advised urgently and our anger at not being properly consulted be raised with Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty.

6 041-18 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.

7 042-18 FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments

Cllrs. Bounds and Wood-Johnson left the room for this agenda item. It was agreed that payments per the attached schedule be paid.

Cllrs. Bounds and Wood-Johnson then returned to the meeting.

b) Grant Panel Recommendations

Members noted the recommendations of the grant panel for the award of further grants within this financial year. Following a brief discussion, the following grant awards were agreed:

KADOS	£400.00
Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust (poppy appeal)	£100.00
Kington Walks	£400.00
Kington Festival	£500.00
Kington Bowling Club	£400.00
Kington Vintage	£500.00
Kington Chamber of Trade	£500.00

Cllr. Hawkins, having declared an interest in this agenda item, abstained from voting.

c) Internal Audit Appointment

It was agreed that Mr. Iain Selkirk be appointed internal auditor for the forthcoming financial year. The Clerk was instructed to issue the internal audit engagement letter.

- 8 **043-18** **NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**
Members noted a verbal report from the Mayor on the progress of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Amendments are being incorporated into the plan document as agreed for submission to Herefordshire Council under Regulation 16.
- 9 **044-18** **HEALTH COMISSION FINDINGS**
Members noted a report from the Mayor on the progress of the Health Commission. The date for the next meeting has been rescheduled as the deadline was found to be unattainable. It was not yet clear how joint working can be brought together in practice. Nor is it clear about the future of Kington Court which may mean that the deadlines would again be extended. Some groups feel they are less involved in the process than others. It is not clear at what stage the contract negotiations are as it would appear that an approach to the care homes has yet to be made.
- The final report is due in April but is not yet available. The next meeting will take place on 24th April.
- 10 **045-18** **THE FUTURE OF KINGTON IN BLOOM**
This item was deferred from the last meeting pending further consideration on the way forward under the proposal to transfer responsibility for Kington in Bloom to KLEEN. With no further proposals and noting that time is pressing, it was agreed that for the forthcoming year, responsibility for Kington in Bloom remains with the Town Council with the voluntary group comprising councillors and others continuing as in previous years. This was agreed and thanks were extended in particular to Cllr. Wood Johnson for the work he undertakes to co-ordinate the Kington in Bloom efforts.
- It was further agreed that a meeting of the voluntary group be convened so that a plan for this year can be drawn up and tasks assigned to those who wished to participate.
- 11 **046-18** **HEREFORDSHIRE GREAT PLACES INITIATIVE**
Members heard how the Herefordshire Great Places initiative has grown out of the Herefordshire Cultural Partnership bid for City of Culture and that the group has been successful in bidding for £750m to support heritage projects over the next two years. Although the initiative is arts based, the definition of potential projects appears wide and includes advice on asset transfers and the role these can play in the promotion of Herefordshire as a destination. This might be of particular relevance to Kington as a Centre for Walking and may link to the footpaths maintenance project being envisaged with the Community Payback team.
- It was agreed that the Town Council should play an active role in this initiative and act as a hub for interested parties and projects. It was further agreed that Cllr. Widdowson act as the Town Council representative to take this further.

- 12 047-18 RINGING OUT FOR PEACE**
The initiative for 11th November this year was noted and it was agreed that the Clerk pass this to local Churches.
- 13 048-18 PROPOSALS FROM THE DOG FOULING WORKING PARTY**
Cllrs. Dennis and Wood Johnson presented their report on progress of the working party aimed at reducing dog fouling, explaining that a group of dog owners would be set up to promote the initiative and a competition run amongst school children to design a poster aimed at educating irresponsible dog owners about the importance of picking up after their dog. Members were invited to suggest amendments to the proposed poster directly to Cllrs Dennis and Wood-Johnson as soon as possible.
- There was some confusion as to whether this is to be a Town Council initiative or a voluntary initiative but if a Town Council initiative, it was suggested that “supported by Kington Town Council” should be included on the proposed poster. A visit from the Herefordshire Council dog warden was also suggested.
- Finally Cllrs. Dennis and Wood Johnson were congratulated on their efforts to date and it was agreed that a proposal be put to the Finance and General Purposes committee to award a small budget for the purchase of additional signage and a small prize for the competition.
- 14 049-18 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING VENUE**
It was agreed that the Annual Town Meeting take place at the Old Police Station. The date, agreed at an earlier meeting, is to be Monday 30th April.
- 15 050-18 ‘STOP THE DROP’ LITTER PLEDGE**
As the deadline for this has now passed, no decision was taken on this agenda item.
- 16 051-18 APPOINTING A NEW TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO LADY HAWKINS’ SCHOOL FOUNDATION**
It was agreed to defer this to the May meeting of the Town Council.
- 17 052-18 UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATOR**
The Assistant Clerk reported that there are some issues with the defibrillator cabinet sticking but examination has shown that the battery and pads need replacing. It was agreed that these should be replaced immediately as part of our commitment to maintaining the defibrillator and a further report would be made to the next meeting.
- 18 053-18 PLANNING MATTERS**
- a) Application ref. 180549**
As this application refers to work on the trees on Kington Recreation Ground, owned by Kington Recreation Ground Trust for which the Town Council is sole trustee, it was agreed not to comment on this application.
- b) Application ref. 180431**
It was noted that this application refers to land just outside the Town boundary and the proposed development is in a dip so not visible from the Town. It was agreed to make no comment on this application.

- 19 054-18 **HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL REVIEW OF WEIGHT LIMITS FOR VEHICLES IN KINGTON**
It was noted with some concern that consultants engaged by Herefordshire Council to review whether to impose a weight limit on traffic passing through the centre of town were minded not to recommend such a weight limit. HGV vehicles accessing businesses in the town were travelling through the High Street and it was felt that better signage might alleviate this. It was further noted that an HGV strategy might lead to changes in road priorities for HGVs which might reduce the risk of heavier vehicles travelling through the Town. It was agreed that the Clerk raise these concerns with the consultants.
- 20 055-18 **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**
Members noted the draft Minutes from the Planning Committee and Services Committee. There were no further reports to add.
- 21 056-18 **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**
There were no reports under this agenda item.
- 22 057-18 **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**
There were no further items raised for the next meeting.
- 23 058-18 **NEXT MEETING**
The next meeting will take place on Monday 9th April 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 20.45.

Chairman
09.04.2018

Appendix 1
KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting held on 12th March 2018
Agenda item 6: Clerk's Report

This report identifies activities of the Clerk since the last meeting other than those addressed elsewhere on the agenda.

- **Office equipment**

The replacement laptop has not yet been purchased, due to time constraints.

- **Mill Furlong Lane**

There has been no response to the Clerk's request for clarification of the lighting on Mill Furlong Lane.

- **Potholes & blocked drains**

Balfour Beatty has announced that this week they will be commencing a Velocity Patching programme in response to this winter's escalation in pothole numbers. The Velocity Patcher is designed to fill potholes much faster than conventional methods and has been used in previous years.

The system uses high-volume air to remove all dust and debris from a pothole. A cold bitumen emulsion is then fired into every crack to seal the hole before aggregate is fired in at high speed. The process takes only a couple of minutes to repair each hole. There is no excavation, no waste material and the filled hole is ready to drive on immediately. However, it may be necessary to briefly close some roads to allow our crews to work safely.

The programme is scheduled to last two weeks, with the potential for extension following a review of progress against demand. The programme will start in the north of the County and work will be predominantly on C and U roads in areas with a high density of safety defects. Details of which repairs will be undertaken by this method, and when, has been requested by the Clerk.

- **Balfour Beatty Parish Briefings**

Balfour Beatty will be holding a Parish Briefing for Clerks and Councillors in April. The topics will include:

- Service performance including an update on delivery of Winter Maintenance
- The challenges of fixing defects (potholes)
- Annual Plan – details of next years' service including a provisional resurfacing programme and key projects such as Challenge Fund phase 2.

- Empowering and supporting local communities through the use of Lengthsman P3, locality working, engaging with landowners on their responsibilities to include an introduction to the Community Commissioning model - update.

Briefings will take place on 16th April at 2pm at the Thorn Depot in Hereford or on 10th April at the Kingsland Depot, also at 2pm. If any member wishes to attend either of the two sessions, please let the clerk know.

- **Churchyard Trees**

Work on the Churchyard trees has been completed.

- **Footpath Maintenance**

It was agreed in January that the Clerk continue discussions with the Local Access Forum, Herefordshire Council and the Community Payback Scheme regarding footpath maintenance. A meeting has now taken place and identified a possible co-ordination of activity between the Town Council, surrounding parishes, community payback scheme, local access forum and the Ramblers so that defects and work requirements are identified by the Ramblers and local people. With support from Balfour Beatty it is proposed that the Community Payback Scheme then use that data to undertake any work required with teams aiming to attend on a twice per month basis. A local co-ordinator will be required to bring these elements together and further discussions with local parishes, Balfour Beatty and other interested parties such as the walking festival will be needed before a final project proposal is put to the Town Council.

- **Road Closures**

The weekly report from Balfour Beatty on programmed highways work revealed a proposal to close Headbrook for a period of a month from 26th March until 27th April for work on Masonary Bridge. When questioned why no consultation had taken place over the closure of a main route into the Town, Balfour Beatty stated that an advertisement had been placed in the Hereford Times advising about the road closure in mid-February.

Liz Kelso
Updated 12.3.2018