



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 9th April 2018

At The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. M Fitton, in the chair
Cllr. R Banks
Cllr. F. Hawkins

Cllr. C. Forrester
Cllr. W Laurie
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 (arrived
19:10
1 member of the public
1 member of the press

Apologies
Cllr. J Atkinson
Cllr. E Banks
Cllr. T Bounds
Cllr. J Dennis

Agenda Item

- | Minute | |
|--------|---|
| 1 | 059-18 APOLOGIES
Apologies were noted from Cllrs J Atkinson, E Banks, T Bounds and J Dennis |
| 2 | 060-18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION
Cllr Forrester declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 – Financial Matters in relation to payments to be proposed. |
| 3 | 061-18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th March 2018
After the correction of minor typing errors, and the confirmation that Cllr Wood-Johnson had been present, it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 th March be approved and that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting. |

4 062-18 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

a) Police Report

There was no Police Report this month

b) Ward Councillor Report

Ward Cllr James commented on Balfour Beatty's performance over the winter period. Ward Cllr James expressed a wish for smaller, local divisions to undertake routine highway repairs.

Cllr. James also updated members on the recent judge's assessment of Hereford Council's Social Care team. In answer to questions Ward Cllr James and Cllr Rees clarified that there was generally a high turnover of staff within the Social Services which contributed to the on-going issues. Some concern over the quality of leadership was expressed by Members present.

c) Matters raised by members of the public

There were no questions raised.

5 063-18 **INFORMATION ITEM: TO RECEIVE THE MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Fitton gave a verbal report.

Crooked Well Meadow: Mayor Fitton reported that the owner of the small parcel of land at the end of Crooked Well Meadow is prepared to donate this piece of land to the community. Mayor Fitton will update members on this as appropriate and he thanks the owner of the land for his generosity.

Road closures in town: Mayor Fitton was pleased to report improvements in the communications between BBLP, the Town Council and the Chamber of Trade over signage during the road closure period.

Christmas Lights: Mayor Fitton was pleased to report improved communications between the Town Council and the Chamber of Trade over the plans for the 2018 Christmas lights and fittings & fixtures. It is hoped that the Chamber of Trade might be in a position to make a financial contribution to the lights.

6 064-18 **INFORMATION ITEM: TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report as attached to these Minutes was noted.

7 065-18 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) **Payments**

Payments, as attached, were approved.

b) **Request for payment from earmarked grant for Kington Recreation Ground Trust**

It was noted that a successful application for grant funding for work on the public open spaces, including the recreation ground included provision for a third party contribution of 10% of the total amount, i.e. £4,197.06. Kington Recreation Ground Trust has formally requested that this be paid by the Town Council from reserves earmarked for the Recreation Ground Trust. This was agreed unanimously.

8 066-18 **NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Members noted a verbal report from the Mayor on the progress of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Regulation 16 Document is very near to completion and the Plan should be ready for submission within the next two weeks. After this, there will be a further six-week consultation period, a referral to the External Examiner and a local referendum all of which will be Herefordshire Council's responsibility.

9 067-18 **HEALTH COMMISSION**

Mayor Fitton updated members on the Health Commission's work to date. The final report, on how the service's future might be mapped out, is due in April but is not yet available for comment. The next public meeting is planned for 24th April. Cllr Widdowson requested clarity on which contracts were to be terminated and which were to be renewed as this was unclear. Mayor Fitton confirmed that the Clinical Commissioning Group is behind target.

It was agreed that this should be considered further when the final report is available.

10 068-18 **PLANNING MATTERS**

Ref. [180730](#)

Site: 1 High Street, Kington

Development: Demolition of rear single storey extension and stable blocks to create private courtyard with onsite parking. Conversion of ground floor to community use space comprising artist studio and multimedia presentation space. Conversion of first and second floor level living accommodation to create 4 dwellings.

Comments: Councillors agreed to support this application but suggested that the building may include elements which are currently listed.

Ref. [181045](#)

Site: Land at Newburn Farm, adjacent to Kingswood Road, Kington

Development: Application for approval of reserved matters for plot 5 following outline approval 171775

Comments: Councillors had no object to this application.

- 11 069-18 REPORT FROM DOG FOULING WORKING PARTY**
Cllr Wood-Johnson and Mayor Fitton updated members on progress, noting in particular that there Herefordshire Council no longer has dog wardens in the county but that dog fouling is now part of the Environment Team's remit. This team is delegated to concentrate on one area at a time to address the issues there. It has been agreed that they will work in Kington sometime within the next 12 months, in agreement with the working party.
- Cllr Wood-Johnson brought Herefordshire Council's online Dog Poo Reporting System to everyone's attention.
- It was agreed that additional signs be purchased advising residents of the need to clean up after their dogs at a cost not to exceed £200.00, the size, type and location to be agreed by the working party. It was also agreed that the working party provide an update at the Annual Town Meeting, to include progress with the Schools poster competition.
- 12 070-18 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS**
The Clerk provide a brief update on the new General Data Protection Regulations which come into force on May 25th. In order to identify the steps needed to ensure compliance with the new regulations, it was agreed that a task and finish group be established, consisting of Cllrs. Widdowson, Forrester and Rolls and the Clerk to consider the way forward. A report will be provided at the next meeting.
- 13 071-18 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**
Arrangements for the Annual Town Meeting, which will take place on Monday 30th April at 7.00pm at The Old Police Station were noted.
- 14 072-18 UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATOR AND PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE NEW PADS**
The Assistant confirmed that she had been able to gain access to the defibrillator machine and that the pads had expired. The decision to purchase new pads was made last month, and this will be done as soon as possible.
The cost was confirmed as £30 each plus VAT and postage.
The defibrillator needs the location number and postcode replaced as these have worn off. This will be done as soon as possible.
- 15 073-18 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**
Members noted the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee meetings that had taken place during the month.

16 074-18 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr Forrester: updated members of the upcoming Marches Makers' Festival that she has been involved in setting up. Kington Town Council's recorded thanks to Cllr Forrester for all her hard work.

Cllr Widdowson: updated members on the Local Authority's recent 'Soft Market Testing' exercise on outsourcing the museums and libraries service, the work of the Library Group and of his attendance at the recent Cabinet Meeting.

Cllr Widdowson: updated members on the upcoming workshop being put on by the Kington Library Group.

Cllr Widdowson: updated members on the new Universal Credit that is soon to be rolled out in Herefordshire. Cllr Widdowson expressed his concern that Herefordshire Council is unprepared for the impact of this benefit change and requested that it be an agenda item for the May meeting of Full Council.

Cllr Widdowson: updated members on the Market Towns Forum. The MTF Clerk will be leaving the post shortly which will have an impact on the Forum. Meetings will be reduced to quarterly. The Forum is to consider offering a paid Clerk's position: if this is to go ahead, all market towns may be asked to make a small financial contribution towards costs.

17 075-18 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Health Commission / CCG - update

Dog Fouling group – update

Universal Credit and its impact in the County - discussion

18 076-18 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Monday 14th May 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
14.05.2018

KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting held on 9th April 2018
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.

- **Balfour Beatty Parish Briefings**

Balfour Beatty will be holding a Parish Briefing for Clerks and Councillors in April. The Clerk will attend the briefing in Hereford to be held on 16th April.

- **Footpath Maintenance**

There has been no further progress on this item since the last meeting but a meeting will be convened shortly to include representatives from the Walking Festival and neighbouring parishes.

Liz Kelso
Updated 4.4.2018