



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 1st October 2018

At The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. M. Fitton - Chairman
Cllr. J Atkinson
Cllr. E Banks
Cllr. R Banks
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

1 member of the press

Agenda Item	Minute Ref	
1	166-18	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION Apologies were noted from Cllrs C Forrester and T. Bounds. There were no Declarations of Interest and no requests for dispensation.
2	167-18	TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3rd September 2018 It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 3 rd September be approved, and that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.

3 168-18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

a Police report

There no Police report available. Members requested for a report to be sent to future meetings even if there could not be a Police presence.

b Ward Councillors report

Ward Councillor James was not present

c Matters raised by members of the public

There were no members of the public present.

4 169-18 MAYOR'S REPORT

Cllr Fitton gave a verbal report updating members on the Neighbourhood Plan which has now been accepted by the Local Authority under Regulation 16. The 6-week consultation period will begin soon and all future work on the Plan will be undertaken by the Local Authority.

5 170-18 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

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

The Clerk added the following:

- She had received a letter of thanks from the Kington Horse Show plus a brief report on what use the Grant had been put to.
- There will be a Casual Vacancy created after 9th October if Cllr. Laurie fails to attend a meeting of the Town Council before that date on the operation of the Local Government Act 1972 section 86. As the vacancy may occur within very close to the next full council elections in May 2019, the Clerk will seek advice from the Elections Office as to whether an election or co-option is necessary.
- The Clerk, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be meeting with Herefordshire Council in the near future to discuss the Council's tenancy of the Old Police station whilst negotiations for the asset transfer continue.

6 171-18 FINANCIAL MATTERS

a Payments

Payments as per the attached schedule totalling £2,346.58p were agreed.

b To note conclusion of external audit by PKF Littlejohn and their final report

Members noted the conclusion of audit by external auditors PKF Littlejohn and the comments in their final report. The Clerk explained that the matters referred to in the audit report occurred prior to her appointment and related to figures being reported in the wrong box on the Annual Return although the final figures did accurately reflect the financial position of the Town Council at the year end.

7 172-18 UPDATE ON COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS

Cllr Widdowson reported that he, the Mayor and the Clerk had met with Dave Tristram, Funding and Enterprise Officer for Herefordshire Council with a view to applying to Awards for All for funding to be used to fund an options assessment

relating to the proposed community asset transfer of buildings within Kington. The Clerk and Mr Tristram will now work on finalising the bid and it was proposed by Cllr. Widdowson, seconded by Cllr. Hawkins and agreed by those present that this Council supports a bid to Awards for All towards funding for an options assessment of the proposal to take the freehold of the specified buildings in Kington. It was further agreed that delegated authority be given to the working party to agree the final wording for that funding bid.

8 173-18 UPDATE ON REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN SPEED LIMIT WITHIN THE TOWN CENTRE

Cllr Widdowson reported that the project was now moving, with an article to go into the next edition of the Kington Chronicle and a short electronic survey details of which will be publicised via Kington chat. These will ascertain the level of local support for the project. Cllr Widdowson reminded members that there is a growing national awareness of '20 is plenty' and has been adopted in many towns and villages.

9 174-18 UPDATE FROM HEALTH COMMISSION

Cllr Fitton reported that discussions were moving on although there had been little further development, and, it had been necessary to postpone the meeting planned for October 2nd, to October 23rd. In the meantime attendance at the recent Healthwatch meeting had been good.

Cllr Dennis, as a representative of the Patient's Participation Group, expressed his concerns over the exclusive nature of some of the Health Commission's decisions, the closure of the Logan Jack Ward and the removal of the Minor Injuries unit to the Surgery as this will restrict the service to Surgery open hours only. Concern was also expressed over difficulties in accessing A&E during bad weather.

Cllr Widdowson reporting on a chance meeting with a Community Broker and advised that drop-in sessions would take place at the Library on well being related matters.

The new High Sheriff's interests (Social Care) were noted and it was suggested that he be invited to attend the next Health Commission meeting.

10 175-18 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Cllr Fitton reported that he had attended a Chamber of Trade meeting, where the Christmas Lights had been discussed and members were supportive of the need for joint working on this.

The anchor points for the lights are due for their 5-year test and this must be done before they can be used again. The Clerk has sought quotations for this work, albeit 33 with most companies approached being unable to undertake the work due to workload. A Brecon-based company has now been identified and the Mayor, Cllr. Bounds and the Clerk would meet with a representative shortly. The cost will

depend on whether or not any points will need replacing, but members noted that if all anchor points need replacing the potential cost could be in the region of £3,500.00, which represents a substantial portion of this year's budget for lights. Given that this work must take place before any lights are installed, the Clerk was given authority to accept the quotation for this work.

Given the budget limitations, proposals 2018 Christmas Lights are:

- If the budget permits, replace the older heavier white festoon lighting in the High Street with lighter strings of lights, possibly of lower voltage and containing some colour.
- The white lights on and around the Market Hall will be the same as last year.
- The Chamber of Trade have agreed to supply and install the small trees on the shop fronts again this year. Ward Councillor James has offered to supply the batteries and lights for the small trees.

The electrical connection at one point in the High Street is connected to a private dwelling which has recently changed hands. The new owner is not happy with this arrangement and has asked for the wiring to be removed.

11 176-18 KINGTON REMEMBERS

Cllr Widdowson updated members on the planned events, including the Poppy Festival at St Mary's Church, launching on 27th October. Tickets are required for some events which will be available through the Tourist Information Centre. Advertising for events will be through posters and Kington Chat. Council Staff have been asked to help with the preparation of the posters for this.

Kington Remembers will be match-funding the Grant given to St Mary's PCC for a further 'Tommy' sculpture.

12 177-18 PLANNING MATTERS

Ref: 183324

Site: The Coopers, 9 Prospect Place, Kington

Dev.: Works to trees in a conservation area

Members discussed this application and agreed there were no objections to this proposal.

13 178-18 UPDATE FROM FOOTPATHS SCHEME TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Cllr Dennis reported on a meeting of the Task and Finish Group held on 25th September where the following was discussed:

- It is proposed to extend the scheme to all footpaths to within two miles of the town clocktower. All these paths will be walked, and an audit of all styles, gates, furniture and their condition will be taken.
 - Kington Lions are keen to provide volunteer support.
- A further stakeholder meeting is planned for November 13th

Cllr Fitton reminded members that the original approach from the Local Access Forum included the surrounding parishes: he is keen to pursue this approach and asked if there was a way to link these two initiatives.

14 179-18 TO CONSIDER PROPOSED VISIT BY HIGH SHERIFF TO KINGTON

The High Sheriff, Nat Hone, is keen to visit Kington as part of his tenure. It was suggested that the Mayor invite him to attend and enjoy the winter Food Fair, after checking this with the organisers. It was also suggested he be invited to attend the next meeting of the Health Commission as he has a particular interest in social care issues.

15 180-18 TO NOTE ARRANGEMENTS FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Kington Remembrance Service this year will be held at St Mary's Church at 10.00am followed by a march to the War Memorial for the laying of wreaths. All members are requested to attend event.

A series of events is also planned for Hereford Cathedral and Cllr Forrester has volunteered to take part in the reading of fallen soldiers' names that week together with a reader from the High School.

16 181-18 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

There were no reports

17 182-18 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

a Planning Committee

Cllr Hawkins: Planning committee. Cllr Hawkins updated members on the latest Planning application results. He also updated members on the new National Policy Framework and its potential impact on Neighbourhood Plans.

b Environment Committee

Cllr Dennis: Environment Committee. Cllr Dennis updated members on the recent discussions within the Environment Committee

18 183-18 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None other than those items previously identified.

19 184-18 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Monday 5th November 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 20.35.

Chairman
05.11.2018

KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting held on 1st October 2018

This report identifies activities of the Clerk since the last meeting other than those addressed elsewhere on the agenda or addressed by other Members as part of their report

1. **Code of Conduct**

A reminder that all Councillors are required to complete a new Declaration of Financial Interests form following adoption at the last meeting of a revised Code of Conduct. Any changes in Financial Interests should be notified to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the Member becoming aware of any change.

2. **33 High Street**

This has been reported to Balfour Beatty yet again with a request that the guttering be removed under emergency powers and the cost billed to the owner of the premises.

4. **Street Lighting in Mill Furlong Lane and Bridge Street**

A response is awaited from Balfour Beatty's community commissioning team with regard to the provision of a quotation for additional street lighting in Mill Furlong Lane and on Bridge Street.

A question was raised at the last meeting regarding the standard distance between street lights in the UK. It is believed to be generally a distance not greater than 150ft but may be as much as 180ft.

5. **Kington Chronicle**

A meeting has now been arranged for 8th October for the task and finish group to discuss proposals for Kington Chronicle. This will be an agenda item for the next Full Council meeting.

6. **Get Online Week**

There are a number of initiatives aimed at getting people started with computers and the internet during Get Online Week which runs from 15th to 21st October, which includes a session on Introduction to the Internet which will take place at Kington Library on Tuesday 16th October from 10am to 12 noon. Places are limited so booking is essential. To book, call 01432 260600. Please pass this on to anyone who might be interested.

Appendix 2
Payment Schedule