



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 5th November 2018

At The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. E Banks – in the Chair
Cllr. J Atkinson
Cllr T Bounds
Cllr. R Banks
Cllr. J Dennis
Cllr. F Hawkins
Cllr. R MacCurrach
Cllr. E Rolls
Cllr. R Widdowson
Cllr. I. Wood Johnson

IN ATTENDANCE

Liz Kelso – Clerk
Mary Tolhurst – admin assistant
1 member of the press
5 members of the public

Agenda Item	Minute Ref
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1	187-18	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION
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Apologies were noted from Cllrs C Forrester, Cllr L Rees, Cllr M Fitton and Ward Councillor Terry James. There were no Declarations of Interest and no requests for dispensation.

2	188-18	TO DECLARE A CASUAL VACANCY
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Under the Local Government Act 1972 section 86, the Clerk reported a Casual Vacancy.

As the vacancy falls within the six-month period before the next full council elections in May 2019, the Clerk has sought advice from the Elections Office and can confirm that it will not be necessary to hold an election but the Council is free to co-opt if it so wishes.

- 3 **189-18 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1st October 2018**
Subject to a minor typographical correction, it was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting of 1st October be approved, and that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.
- 4 **190-18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**
- a **Police report**
 There no Police presence and no report available.
- b **Ward Councillors report**
 Ward Councillor James was not present as he is recovering from a minor operation. The Town Council wished him a speedy recovery
- c **Matters raised by members of the public**
 Members noted the following points raised by members of the public present:
- A query was raised regarding Herefordshire Council’s current consultation in connection with the Kington and Area Neighbourhood Development Plan under Regulation 16. The Clerk explained that this consultation was by Herefordshire Council and outside the control of the Town Council
 - A member of the public asked if the consultation was meaningful. Cllr. Widdowson responded that he understood that to be the case.
 - A request was made for the Christmas Lights to be non-flickering as this has a detrimental effect on the health of any residents who are sensitive to flickering lights.
- 5 **191-18 MAYOR’S REPORT**
The report from the Mayor, tabled at the meeting, was noted.
- 6 **192-18 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT**
The Clerk gave a verbal report reminding members of the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday.
She also updated members on a Parish Council Summit that she had attended with the Mayor and advices that the slides /PPP from this would be available for all once the Local Authority had sent them out.
The Clerk commented that she had found the recent training on Contracts to be very useful.
Cllr Widdowson commented on the Community Champions awards and asked if the Town Council did any promotion for this. The assistant Clerk confirmed that publicity materials would be sent out by the Hereford Mayor’s office and displayed as appropriate.
- 7 **193-18 FINANCIAL MATTERS**
- a **Payments**
 Payments as per the attached schedule totalling £6,954.14p were **agreed**.

- b **To consider request for grant of £500 towards costs of Kington Food Festival**
Cllrs Bounds and Hawkins declared non-pecuniary Interest in this matter as members of the Chamber of Trade and did not take part in the vote.
A member of the public, who is also a member of the Chamber of Trade, explained that the Food Festival was heavily subsidised by the Chamber so that it could be free for the public to attend.
Councillors expressed a willingness in general for the Chamber and the Town Council to work together to guard against future losses. After discussions it was proposed by Cllr Rolls and seconded by Cllr Wood-Johnson that the Grant of £500.00 be agreed. The resolution was **agreed**.

8 194-18 UPDATE ON COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS

- a **Report from Task & Finish Group on buildings transfer**
There was no progress to report under this agenda item.
- b **To consider application for a funding bid for Awards for All to fund a project officer to support Community Asset Transfers**
As the application had not been received in time to consider at this meeting, this was deferred to the meeting in December for full consideration

9 195-18 UPDATE ON REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN SPEED LIMIT WITHIN THE TOWN CENTRE

Cllr Widdowson updated members on progress.
A short survey to gauge public opinion will go live later in November. This survey will be advertised in the Kington Chronicle, online on social media and the Town Council website.
If the public are shown to be strongly in favour of the speed limit, this may reduce the need for expensive traffic reviews.
Cllr Widdowson was thanked for all of his work on this project.

10 196-18 KINGTON CHRONICLE

Cllr Richard Banks presented the paper which had been included in the meeting paperwork and answered relevant questions. Whilst members were generally in agreement with the proposal that the Chronicle become the responsibility of a volunteer, it was noted that the proposal implied a requirement to commit to the purchase of pages by the Town Council. It was therefore **agreed** to defer this agenda item to the next meeting for further consideration.

11 197-18 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS' INSTALLATION

Cllr Bounds confirmed that he had been able to test the Christmas lights and report all non-working issues back to the Clerk. Most of the lights are in reasonable working order. Cllr Bounds was thanked for all of his time and effort on the lights.
Members noted that the Chamber of Trade were planning on displaying Christmas trees at the Floodgates entrance into the town this year.
Wishes for closer involvement and cooperation between the Town Council and the

Chamber of Trade over the town's Christmas lights were expressed for 2019 and future years.

12 198-18 KINGTON REMEMBERS

Cllr Elizabeth Banks reminded members of the talk 'The Soul of Soldiering' by Major General Arthur Denaro CBE DL this Thursday.

Cllr Widdowson congratulated all the volunteers who had been involved in the Poppy Festival at St Mary's Church: the building was looking splendid and had attracted lots of visitors as it was remaining open for each day.

13 199-18 PLANNING MATTERS

a Ref: [183582](#)

Site: Lady Hawkins School, Park View, Kington

Dev: Construction of permanent music classroom block following removal of existing mobile classroom

Members considered this application and **agreed** to support it.

b Ref: [183586](#)

Site: Plot 3 at Newburn Farm, Kington

Dev: Approval of reserved matters for construction of self-build dwellings for plot 3 only

The Clerk explained that this was a resubmission of an earlier application to include a change to the external appearance of the building, in keeping with the other houses on the site. After due consideration, it was **agreed** to support this application.

14 200-18 TO CONSIDER PROPOSED VISIT BY HIGH SHERIFF TO KINGTON

Cllr. Banks provided an update into the visit to Kington by the High Sheriff in November.

15 201-18 TO NOTE ELECTIONS TIMETABLE FOR 2019 AND CONSIDER ACTIONS TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY POTENTIAL CANDIDATES AND ELECTORS

The Clerk reminded members that there will be local Council Elections in May 2019 when all councillors will retire and if they wish, seek re-election. Members were asked to consider how potential new members could be encouraged to stand and to consider ways of encouraging electors to take part in the election and vote.

It was **agreed** that an article on this should be included in the Spring edition of Kington Chronicle and that this subject be an agenda item for the January meeting of the Town Council

16 202-18 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

Kington Markets Group.

Cllr Widdowson updated members on a recent meeting with the Market group. He reported that after working tirelessly for several years, and undertaken the development of the Friday and Saturday markets the current members were hoping to be able to step down from their respective roles once suitable replacement volunteers had been found. Cllr Bounds proposed public thanks for all that the group had achieved since they started. All member **agreed** on this.

J AHL.

Cllr Widdowson updated members on the recent work of the J AHL group who are trying to have some influence on Herefordshire Council over the proposed outsourcing of the Libraries, Archives and Museums Services.

17 203-18 **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

- a **Planning Committee:** No report: most recent minutes noted.
- b **Services Committee:** No report as the meeting was inquorate.
- c **Finance & General Purposes Committee.** Cllr Widdowson reported on good progress made with the 2019-2010 budget, which will be ready to bring before the meeting of Full Council in January.

18 204-18 **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

These include:

- Kington Chronicle
- 20mph speed limit project
- Antisocial behaviour
- Ambulance response time;
- The booking procedure for the market hall / space;
- Use of the defibrillator

19 205-18 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 3rd December 2018 at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington, commencing at 7.00 pm

20 206-18 *To propose that pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public be excluded from the next two agenda items on the grounds that the items include matters of a commercially sensitive nature*

It was proposed by Cllr Hawkins and seconded by Cllr Rolls that members of the public be excluded for the following items. The resolution was **agreed** unanimously.

21 207-18 **TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL BY HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL FOR USE BY KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL OF THE MARKET HALL**

The Clerk reported on discussions held with Herefordshire Council on the use of the Market Hall and the terms of the Market licence. It was **agreed** that the Clerk be authorised to continue discussions with Herefordshire Council with a view to reporting back to the next Full Council meeting.

22 208-18 TO CONSIDER OCCUPANCY OF THE OLD POLICE STATION BY KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

The Clerk explained the background to the situation and proposals by Herefordshire Council for the ongoing use of areas within the Old Police Station by the Kington Town Council. Noting that Herefordshire Council, without discussion, have issued summonses for non-payment of items that form part of our good faith and active negotiations relating to The Old Police Station, Members wished to place on record that the unilateral, unexpected and aggressive nature of this action has significantly reduced our trust in Herefordshire Council's desire to reach an outcome beneficial for the people of Kington.

After considerable discussion, it was **agreed**:

- That this Council requires that summonses issued by Herefordshire Council for non payment of business rates on rooms unoccupied by Kington Town Council are immediately withdrawn
- That this Council accepts liability for Business Rates for Office 1 at the Old Police Station and that the Clerk immediately seek Small Business Rate Relief in respect of this occupancy
- That this Council proceeds with negotiations on Option 1 as proposed by Herefordshire Council with a view in particular to protect community facilities and
- A Task and Finish group be formed to further negotiations with Herefordshire Council on Option 1. This Task and Finish Group to be formed from Cllrs. M. Fitton, E. Banks, R. Widdowson, E. Rolls and R. Banks.

23 209-18 TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Recent correspondence with the Chamber of Trade was noted. The Clerk advised that she had provided information to the Chamber of Trade on the procedures to be followed if they wish to pursue the items raised in the letter.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 21.05.

Chairman
03.12.2018