



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 7th January 2019

At The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr M Fitton - Chair
Cllr. J. Atkinson
Cllr. E. Banks
Cllr. R Banks
Cllr T Bounds
Cllr. J Dennis
Cllr. F Hawkins
Cllr. R MacCurrach
Cllr P Prior
Cllr. E Rolls
Cllr. R Widdowson
Cllr. I. Wood Johnson

IN ATTENDANCE

Ward Councillor T. James
1 police representative
1 member of press
2 members of the public

Liz Kelso – Clerk
Mary Tolhurst – admin assistant

Agenda Item	Minute Ref
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| 1 | 001-19 | TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION
Apologies were noted from Cllr C Forrester Cllr M Fitton declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 7– Financial Matters. There were no requests for dispensation. |
| 2 | 002-19 | TO DECLARE A CASUAL VACANCY FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR. L. REES
The Clerk declared the Casual Vacancy created by Cllr Rees’ resignation. If there are no request for an election to fill this vacancy, there is no requirement for the Town Council to co-opt a new Councillor unless it wishes to do so as the vacancy falls within six months of the next full council elections. |

Cllr. Rees was thanked for all her work on behalf of the Town.

3 003-19 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2018

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting of 3rd December be approved, and that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.

4 004-19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

a Police report

CPSO Emma Dunne reported on recent Kington incidents including:

- Antisocial behavior and broken glass at the Recreation Ground – foot patrols have been increased.
- Damage to a vehicle – investigation put on file
- Theft from Nisa - investigation put on file

CPSO Dunne advised that the Police are now holding regular PACT Surgeries, every five weeks, at Border Bean. The next will on Thursday 7th February at 10.30 am and all members of the community are welcome to join her there if they have any concerns.

In response to questions CPSO Dunne advised the following: that the Police have stepped up their patrols at the Recreation Ground and have been undertaking speed watches locally.

Councillors reported speeding cars with noisy exhausts – CPSO Dunne advised that members should attempt to record registration plates if possible and report this to the Police.

There are plans to set up a community group to look at traffic issues within the Town.

b Ward Councillors report

Ward Councillor James updated members on recent events and decisions at Herefordshire Council, including his concerns over the recent court judgement on Herefordshire Children’s Services and his concerns over the poor standards in housing and housing services provided by local Housing Associations to their tenants.

After some discussion it was agreed that a meeting be set up between the Ward Councillor, Cllr. Widdowson and others and a representative from the housing association to discuss housing services in Kington.

c Matters raised by members of the public

A member of the public and chamber of Trade raised the issue of a recent inflammatory article in the Hereford Times concerning the future of Kington Post Office. Mr Sudhir Ghelani, current manager of the Post Office, was present and explained the inaccuracies in the article. Mr Ghelani’s contract will expire in May and he plans to retire.

It was agreed that given the importance of the post office to the people of Kington, a working party be set up to monitor the situation and raise this again with the Town Council if appropriate.

5 **005-19 MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor gave a verbal report updating members on his recent work including:

- Progress with the Derbyshire Environmental Trust grant on behalf of the Recreation Ground Trust
- The relaunched Kington Chronicle which will contain two pages of editorial from the Town Council
- The Annual Town Meeting
- Local Elections
- The Christmas Lights and their forthcoming removal
- Mr Alan Stoyel of Kington, who was honoured with an MBE for his services to Water Mill Heritage. It was agreed that Kington Town Council would write to congratulate Mr Stoyel.

6 **006-19 CLERK'S REPORT**

The report from the Clerk, as attached to these Minutes, was noted.

In addition, Members noted that the Christmas Lights would be taken down and stored soon, and agreed that the combined work of Town Council, Chamber of Trade and private individual has served the town well this Christmas.

Cllr Elizabeth Banks thanks the Clerk for all her work on the Christmas lights and additional hours she had put in over the Christmas and New Year break.

7 **007-19 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a **Payments**

Cllr Fitton left the room and Cllr Elizabeth Banks took the Chair at 19:40 hours.

Payments as per the attached schedule totalling £14,769.34 were **agreed**. Cllr Fitton returned and resumed that Chair at 19:43 hours.

b **To agree renewal of the Town Council's insurance policy for the forthcoming year**

The Clerk had read through the policy and explained the minor changes.

It was proposed by Cllr Elizabeth Banks and seconded by Cllr Hawkins that recommended that the Insurance Policy be renewed for the coming year. The resolution was passed unanimously.

c **To consider the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to accept the budget proposals for financial year 2019-2020**

Cllr Widdowson presented the proposed budget for the financial year 2019-20 as attached to these Minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr Elizabeth Banks and seconded by Cllr Dennis that Kington Town Council accepts the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to approve the budget for financial year 2019-20 as presented to the meeting, representing planned expenditure of £104,525.00. The resolution was carried.

- d **To consider the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to request a precept for financial year 2019-2020**

It was proposed by Cllr Richard Banks and seconded by Cllr Dennis that Kington Town Council requests a precept of £103,000 for financial year 2019-2020. The resolution was carried.

8 008-19 TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF THE POST OFFICE IN KINGTON

This had already been covered earlier, at item 4c.

It was further agreed that the Working Party would meet and the matter be referred to the Services Committee for further discussion.

9 009-19 TO AGREE A DATE AND FORMAT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Clerk reminded members that the Annual Town Meeting is a meeting of electors and not a Council Meeting, though it was generally organised by the Town Council.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk investigate an alternative venue from the Old Police Station. It was further agreed to include the Christmas Lights and forthcoming elections as items for the agenda. The Clerk will report back to the next meeting.

010-19 TO APPOINT A WORKING PARTY TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR 2019

In order to facilitate a more cohesive approach to Christmas lights for 2019, it was agreed that a working party be set up to include representatives from the Town Council and the Chamber of Trade to look at options for 2019. Representatives from the Town Council will include Cllrs. E. Banks, T. Bounds, Widdowson and Wood-Johnson.

Particular thanks were extended to Mr. Baxter for his contribution to the lights this year.

11 011-19 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR NEW GRIT BIN IN KINGSWOOD ROAD

This was deferred to the February meeting.

12 012-19 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS: UPDATE

This refers to the proposed transfer of the buildings, not open spaces: there had been no further movement on this. A further report will be made to the next meeting.

13 013-19 UPDATE ON REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN SPEED LIMIT WITHIN THE TOWN CENTRE

Cllr Widdowson reported strong support for this, especially in the High St and Church Street areas. He will provide an update for the next edition of the Kington Chronicle and will start exploratory talks with Herefordshire Council shortly.

14 014-19 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

There was nothing to report under this agenda item.

15 015-19 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Planning Committee:

Cllr Hawkins reported that at a meeting held on 17th December 2018 no objections had been made to planning applications 184071, 184236 and no objections to application 184460 but had suggested that any felled or removed trees be replaced.

At the date of the Town Council's Planning Committee Meeting, no decision had been made on the Headbrook Development Application as the Local Authority's Planning Committee had not met. Cllr Hawking updated members in that the development had been approved at the Planning Committee on December 18th despite much opposition and objection.

Services Committee

Cllr Widdowson reported that there had been issues with the public toilets in Place de Marines recently and that the cleaning and security were being monitored.

2019 is the Town Twinning Association's 40th anniversary and it was hoped that the Town Council would be able to join in the celebrations

Cllr Widdowson updated members that Kington Remembers had funded a memorial at Lady Hawkins School.

16 016-19 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

The future of Kington Post office

Grit Bin on Kingswood Road

Town Twinning Association's 40th Anniversary

Street Cleansing and road sweeps – referred to Environment Committee

Civic Award

17 017-19 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Monday 4th February 2019 at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington, commencing at 7.00 pm

The meeting was declared closed at 8.35pm.

Chairman
04.02.2019

KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting held on 7th January 2019

Appendix 1

Minute reference 006-10/Agenda item 6 - Clerk's Report

1. Casual Vacancy

As will have been noted earlier in the meeting, a second casual vacancy has arisen as a result of the resignation of Cllr. Rees. As at the date of writing, there have been no expressions of interest in the vacancy created as a result of Cllr. Laurie ceasing to be a Councillor.

3. Ambulance Response Times

A request was made to seek advice from the Ambulance Service on response times in Kington. This will now be addressed at a later meeting.

3. Market Operators Licence

The revised draft Market Operators Licence has not yet been received from Herefordshire Council for consideration.

4. Christmas Lights

The installation of the Christmas lights was completed on Wednesday 5th December. By taking some parts from other lights, the majority were able to be installed. Given that the installer was new to Kington and several of the fixtures were missing, overall the result was satisfactory. The combination of the lights, the window dressing competition and the Christmas trees gave the High Street a very festive look. Congratulations are due to all those taking part in making the town so attractive to shoppers and residents.

5. Grant Application

The application for funding for a project officer to support the Community Asset Transfers will be made shortly.

In the meantime, the Valuation Office Agency has requested details of the office rental. This is being dealt with by the Clerk.

Appendix 2
Agreed Payment Schedule
Minute ref: 007-19

Appendix 3
Agreed Budget 2019-20