



# Kington Town Council

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## Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting

held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 6.30 pm in  
The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, St, Kington.

### PRESENT

### In attendance

Cllr J. Dennis – in the Chair

Cllr. P. Edwards

Cllr. R. Griffiths

Cllr. R. MacCurrach

Cllr. P. Prior

Cllr. R. Widdowson

Cllr. I. Wood-Johnson (agenda item 10 onwards)

Cllr. F. Hawkins

Liz Kelso - Clerk

### Agenda item

- |                   |           |  |
|-------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>Env 014.19</b> | <b>1.</b> | <b>ELECTION OF CHAIR</b><br>Cllr. J. Dennis was duly elected Chair of the Environment Committee to hold office for the forthcoming year.   |
| <b>Env 015.19</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR</b><br>This item was taken at the end of the meeting. After due consideration, Cllr. Wood Johnson was duly elected Vice Chair of the Environment Committee to hold office for the forthcoming year.  |
| <b>Env 016.19</b> | <b>3.</b> | <b>APOLOGIES</b><br>Apologies were noted from Cllrs. E. Banks and J. Cooke   |
| <b>Env 017.19</b> | <b>4</b>  | <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</b><br>There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation.  |
| <b>Env 018.19</b> | <b>5</b>  | <b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019</b><br>The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 <sup>th</sup> March, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed and the Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting. |

- Env 19.19**      **6**      **COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
It was noted that the Scrutiny Committee would be considering quorum requirements for all committees. Subject to any amendment recommended by Scrutiny, the terms of reference of the Committee were reviewed and no amendments were considered necessary.
- Env 020.19**      **7**      **CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING PARTY**  
Following the declaration of climate emergency in April, members now considered how to take this forward. It was agreed to recommend that this Council reviews its own systems and procedures to support a reduction in carbon footprint. A review of working practices, policies and procedures, financial procedures and responses to planning matters would be included. In addition, the working party would consider measures that might support these aims outside of the Town Council. To that end a working party consisting of Cllrs. J. Cooke, J. Dennis, R. Griffiths, M. Fitton and R. MacCurrach was agreed. This group would work with Zero Carbon Kington and report back to the next meeting with recommendations.
- Env 021.19**      **8**      **REQUEST FOR RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME**  
The Clerk reported on a request from a resident for a residents only parking scheme in Church Street. Members noted that this Town Council has no authority for parking schemes but having rejected a request to support such a scheme last year, felt unable to support this request. The Clerk was requested to notify the resident accordingly.
- Env 022.19**      **9**      **STREET CLEANING COMPLAINT**  
Members noted a complaint from a resident about noise from street sweeping equipment which is operated very early in the morning. The Clerk has confirmed that this is equipment operated by Balfour Beatty on behalf of Herefordshire Council. Balfour Beatty are unable to change the timing of the sweep but will reduce the number of sweeps from weekly to fortnightly as a result in a change of policy by Herefordshire Council.
- Env 020.19**      **10**      **STANDING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**  
**1) Health & Safety**
- It was noted that scaffolding around the Market Hall is being removed over the next few days in preparation for the Food Festival. If further repairs are needed to the Market Hall roof, these will be done at a later date.
  - A query was raised about the use of the defibrillator and the Clerk confirmed that the Ambulance Service have reported some use. Regular checks of the equipment are required and there is some difficulty in carrying this out. A request for volunteers was suggested, via Kington Chronicle.
  - Members noted a report that inconsiderate parking on pavements and double yellow lines is creating an unacceptable hazard for those with mobility or visual difficulties in particular. Although some enforcement action has taken place, a request for more frequent visits from the enforcement team is to be made. A campaign to raise awareness was also suggested and it was noted that inconsiderate parking deters cycling.
  - It was reported that dustbins have been left obstructing the footpath behind the Burton hotel. The contractor will be asked to put the bins back more responsibly.
  - There was some discussion on air quality throughout the town and the Clerk will investigate whether it is possible to ask for an air quality survey.

**2) Town Centre**

Members noted that although government funding is available to support and enhance high streets, this funding can only be accessed by principal authorities. It was agreed that the Ward Councillor be requested to encourage Herefordshire Council to apply for this funding to support the Market Towns.

Thanks were also expressed for the volunteer street sweepers seen in the town centre over the recent days

**3) Kington in Bloom**

- It was agreed that a working party consisting of Cllrs. Dennis, Griffiths and Wood-Johnson be formed to oversee Kington in Bloom arrangements for this year
- It was proposed that volunteers to help with the maintenance of the flower displays/boxes be encouraged through an “adopt-a-box” scheme for families or individuals. This was felt to be an excellent idea . The Clerk advised that any project would require appropriate risk assessments and due consideration of data protection in connection with any record keeping.
- Finally it was agreed that this be an agenda item for the next full council meeting to confirm the budget for this year.

**4) Allotments**

There was nothing to report on this agenda item.

**5) Recycling**

It was noted that the recycling centre is out-performing any other centre within the County.

**6) Churchyard**

- It was agreed to consider any further work required on the trees following last year’s tree report at the next meeting.
- It was suggested that some consideration be given to leaving some areas of the churchyard unmown if possible to encourage wildlife and in furtherance of the zero carbon aims
- A review of the Horse Chestnut in the Churchyard following the suggestion that it may be growing under the Lych Gate, has not suggested any apparent problems and the tree is some distance from the gate.

**7) Community Energy**

A report was noted from Cllr. MacCurrach on this.

**8) Economic Development**

There was nothing to report on this agenda item.

**9) Footpaths Scheme**

There was nothing further to report on this item although Cllr. Dennis reported that he would reconvene a meeting of interested parties shortly. In the meantime the Walking Hub had been awarded grant funding to support footpath maintenance activities.

**10) War Memorial**

There was nothing further to report on this agenda item.

**11) Quarry Liaison**

Despite several attempts to make contact with the Quarry, there has been no response so the Quarry Liaison representative has not been able to attend any meetings.

**12) Trees**

There was nothing further to report on this agenda item although members noted that there is evidence of Ash dieback throughout the town.

**Env 013.19**

**7. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

There were no other items raised for the next meeting which will take place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm in the Old Police Station.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.00pm

Signed .....

Chair of Environment Committee

Date