



Kington Town Council

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Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting

held on Monday 20th January 2020 in
The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, St, Kington.

PRESENT

In attendance

Cllr. J. Dennis (Chair)

Cllr. E. Banks

Cllr. J. Cooke

Cllr. R. Griffiths

Cllr. R. McCurrach

Cllr. R. Widdowson

Liz Kelso - Clerk

Agenda item

- Env 001-20 1. **APOLOGIES, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**
Apologies were noted from Cllrs. T. Bounds, P. Edwards, and M. Fitton. Cllr. R MacCurrach declared an interest as a member of the PCC in connection with discussions relating to the Churchyard. There were no requests for dispensation.
- Env 002-20 2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18th NOVEMBER 2019**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th November, 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 003-20 3 **REPORT FROM THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING PARTY**
An update on the work of the Climate Emergency Working Party was given by Cllr. Dennis. It was noted that members of the working party have been asked to visit Lady Hawkins School to assist with their environmental policy. Calculating the Town Council's base level carbon footprint will be the next element of the work of the working party.
- Env 004-20 4 **LITTER**
Comments from a member of the public on litter in the Co-op car park in particular were noted and it was also noted that there appears to have been some improvement in recent weeks. However, as a general concern it was noted that litter bins seem to be emptied sporadically rather than regularly and pavements appear to be no longer swept by Balfour Beatty. It was agreed to request that Balfour Beatty attend a meeting in Kington to explain what services are undertaken within Kington now and to express the importance of the town being kept clear of litter with the Festivals planned for the forthcoming year.

Members also noted that Kleen are to hold a Kleensweep on 29th March from 10.00 – 12.00

Env 005-20

5 MAINTENANCE OF GRASS VERGES

A proposal from Balfour Beatty to reduce the cutting of grass verges on C and U roads to promote biodiversity was noted. It was agreed to support this policy in principle provided visibility splays are retained for safety.

Env 006-20

6 STANDING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1) Health & Safety

Members noted an overflowing or potentially blocked or collapsed drain in Victoria Road which leaves water running across the road which freezes in cold weather, creating a hazard for both motorists and pedestrians..

2) Town Centre

There was nothing to report under this agenda item.

3) Kington in Bloom

- a) After some discussion, it was agreed not to run the Kington in Bloom competition again this year but to consider relaunching this in 2021.
- b) It was agreed that a working party be formed consisting of Cllrs. J. Dennis, R. Griffiths, and R. MacCurrach be formed to manage the planters, hanging baskets and similar which fall within the Kington in Bloom budget area, supported by the Green Spaces Administrator, and in accordance with the Environmental Policy.

4) Allotments

There was nothing to report on this agenda item.

5) Recycling

Cllr. Cooke confirmed that the visit to the recycling centre would take place on Monday 27th January in the afternoon.

As noted at the last meeting, Cllr. Cooke also confirmed that bioplastics are not accepted at the recycling centre as they are unable to process the material.

6) Churchyard

- a) It was noted that the working party set up to review options on tree management had not yet met but will provide a report in April. However, some concern was raised that additional trees are appearing in the Churchyard which may or may not be authorised, presumably as memorial trees. Noting that it is the Town Council's responsibility for the maintenance of the Churchyard, some concern was expressed that additional trees are being planted, some in inappropriate places or inappropriate species, without reference to the Town Council. This will be followed up by the tree working party.
- b) Members noted a report that a vehicle travelled through the churchyard and left the path after travelling through the lychgate and a request has been made by the PCC to consider erecting a fence to prevent this happening again. It was noted that this is outside the Town Council's area of responsibility and that Highways authority, Herefordshire Council, would not usually erect a fence alongside a road following a similar incident. However, the matter will be referred to the Highways department for their consideration.

7) **Community Energy**

There was nothing further to report on this agenda item.

8) **Economic Development**

There was nothing further to report on this agenda item.

9) **Footpaths Scheme**

Cllr. Dennis reported that the walking group were doing excellent work on footpaths locally, working with the Community Payback Scheme.

Within the town it was noted that there are several locations where shrubs and trees overhang footpaths and require cutting back. It was agreed that Balfour Beatty be asked to write to those responsible on behalf of the Highways Authority and that details of where this is required would be reported to them.

10) **War Memorial**

- a) A review of the previous proposals with regard to the war memorial was deferred to the next meeting.
- b) It was agreed that a working party consisting of the Mayor and Deputies be formed to seek funding for and identify the scope of work for the war memorial with a target of 2021 completion date.

11) **Quarry Liaison**

There was nothing to report on this agenda item.

12) **Trees**

There was nothing further to report on this agenda item although members noted that the current tree warden has indicated that he would like to step down from the role. A tree has also come down off the Tramway. This has been reported to Balfour Beatty.

13) **KLEEN**

Plans to purchase an electric vehicle for car sharing are progressing and KLEEN are currently discussing the possibility of securing a dedicated car space within a car park which might ultimately become a charging point.

Env 045.19

6. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 16th March 2020 at 6.15pm in the Old Police Station or on completion of the planning committee, whichever is later. The following items were agreed for the agenda:

- Establishing a Community Garden
- Using s106 monies for community gardens and similar projects

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

Signed
Chair of Environment Committee

Date