



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 2nd March 2020

At The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. R. Widdowson (in the Chair)
Cllr. E. Banks
Cllr. R. Banks
Cllr. T. Bennett
Cllr. J. Cooke
Cllr. J. Dennis
Cllr. M. Fitton
Cllr. R. Griffiths
Cllr. F. Hawkins
Cllr. R. MacCurrach
Cllr. E. Rolls
Cllr. I. Spencer

IN ATTENDANCE

Liz Kelso – Clerk
Merrie Kent – Green Spaces Administrator

1 members of the public
Cllr. T. James, Ward Councillor Herefordshire Council
1 member of the press

Agenda

Item	Minute
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| 1 | 032-20 | Apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation.
Apologies were noted from Cllrs. T. Bounds and P. Edwards. There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation |
| 2 | 033-20 | Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2020
It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 rd February 2020 be approved and that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting. |
| 3 | 034-20 | Town Councillor Vacancy
The Clerk reported that there had been no request for an election to fill the vacancy created when Cllr. Prior left the Town Council so the Council is now free to co-opt a candidate. There were no candidates present at the meeting. |

4 035-20 Public Participation

a Police report

There was not report from the police.

b Ward Councillors Report

Members noted the verbal report from Cllr. James, including:

- Herefordshire Council has resolved to increase Council Tax by 3.9% for the forthcoming year
- A report on the impact of flooding in Herefordshire
- The drawing up of a phosphate alleviation scheme for the River Lugg and surrounding areas
- A report on the possible future of the Toll House

c Matters raised by members of the public in attendance

During the period for members of the public to raise matters of interest, questions were noted from the member of the public in attendance relating to the Neighbourhood Plan.

5 036-20 Mayor's Report

The report from the Mayor on attendance at meetings and civic events was noted. In addition, Cllr. Widdowson reported on the reported on a Tri Towns meeting he had attended when a co-ordinated approach to walking groups was discussed. Members also noted the forthcoming meeting of the Market Towns Forum and Herefordshire Council's civic service being held in Kington on 29th March. On 31st March some Herefordshire Council cabinet members will meet with cabinet members from Powys in Kington. Finally it was noted that the Chamber of Trade are organising a street party in the Market Hall and possible parade for VE Day with a church service planned for the following Sunday.

6 037-20 Clerk's Report

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

7 038-20 Financial Matters

a Payments

Payments as per the attached schedule totalling £2,321.69 (including VAT) were agreed.

b Grants

Noting that grant applications have exceeded available funds by some considerable amount this financial year, it was agreed to accept the recommendation of the grant panel to award grants as per the attached schedule with some payments deferred to the next financial year to ensure that community groups receive at or close to the amounts they have requested.

8 039-20 Staff Training

A request for staff training on website accessibility at a cost of £120.00 (+ VAT) was approved.

9 040-20 Community Asset Transfers

Members noted a report from the Mayor on an informal meeting held with Herefordshire Council's cabinet member for Commissioning, Procurement and Assets Cllr. Gemma Davies. The meeting was a positive one indicating that the current administration recognises the social benefit of assets.

The meeting also included discussions on the transfer of Crooked Well and a request that the transfer documentation be revised to reflect the current agreement with regard to the land to be transferred.

10 041-20 Lengthsman Scheme

The Clerk presented a report on the current opportunity to re-join the lengthsman scheme highlighting the potential benefit to the footpath scheme in doing so. It was agreed to authorise the Clerk to enter into discussions with Balfour Beatty on a no obligation basis.

11 042-20 Committee membership

It was agreed that Cllr. Ian Spencer be appointed to the Planning Committee and Environment Committee for the remainder of this Council year until May, when Committee memberships are re-confirmed.

12 043-20 Reports from Councillors

- Cllr. Rolls reported on a meeting of the Lady Hawkins Foundation that she had recently attended.
- Cllr. Cooke reported on a recent meeting of KLEEN and an agreement with Herefordshire Council to allocate a space within a car park which might be used for an electric vehicle charging point
- Cllr. Dennis reported on a meeting of Zero Carbon Kington
- Cllr. Hawkins reported on a meeting of HAND

13 044-20 Reports from Committees

Members noted that a recent meeting of the Services Committee had been cancelled due to flooding and a meeting of the Planning Committee had been postponed for the same reason. The rescheduled Planning Committee had been inquorate. Members were reminded of the need to tender apologies if unable to attend Committees in the same way as for Full Council.

14 045-20 Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 6th April at 7.00pm in the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington. There were no items requested for the next agenda.

15 046-20 Exclusion of the Public

It was agreed that due to the confidential nature of the business of the next agenda item, that members of the public be excluded from the following agenda item in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3)

16 047-20 Tenancy Arrangements – Old Police Station

Members noted a report from the Mayor and Clerk on the Town Council's tenancy of office 1 in the Old Police Station and resolved to enter into a tenancy at will on the terms and conditions contained within the draft agreement. It was confirmed that the rental is in accordance with the budget provision.

Possible future use of the Old Police Station as a Community Hub and development of use of the Market Hall was also noted and it was agreed that further discussions be held with Herefordshire Council on this.

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

Chairman: 6.4.2020

Appendix 1

Mayor's engagements

February 2020

13th February - Meeting called by KCoT to discuss VE Day plans.

16th February - Kington Tourist Group Annual Lunch

25th February - Tri-Towns meeting Knighton.

March 2020

6th March - Market Towns Forum

20th March - New High Sheriff ceremony

21st March - Installation of the new Bishop of Hereford.

24th March - Tri-towns meeting Presteigne.

29th March - Herefordshire Council Civic Service to be held in Kington

31st March - SSAFA AGM

25 February 2020

Appendix 2

Clerk's Report

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. Heartstart Course

A reminder that the Heartstart Course arranged in conjunction with Border Care will take place in the Old Police Station on Thursday 5th March at 7.00pm. The course is free of charge but donations are welcome. If you would like to attend, please see the poster on notice boards and book directly with Herefordshire Heartstart.

2. Sandbags

It was agreed at the last meeting that an item on the provision of sandbags would be included in this meeting. This will now be referred to the Environment Committee later this month.

3. County Plan

Herefordshire Council has now published the County Plan which outlines the ambitions of the county over the next four years and was formed from responses to the parish council summit in September last year plus further stakeholder consultation. The priorities as outlined in the plan cover the follow areas:

ENVIRONMENT - Protect and enhance our environment and keep Herefordshire a great place to live

COMMUNITY - Strengthen communities to ensure that everyone lives well and safely together

ECONOMY- Support an economy which builds on the county's strengths and resources

A copy of the plan has been sent to members and if there are any aspects that members would like to address further, please let the clerk know.

The next Parish Council summit will take place in April.

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FOR INFORMATION

Total of payments made through grants received:						
Total of payments made as a grant						
Recreation Ground Trust					£ 292.57	£ 48.52
Kington Town Council Grant Scheme						341.09

Appendix 4
Grant Panel Recommendations

Applicant	Activity	Amount Awarded	Notes
Kieran Joyce Memorial Fund	To support fundraising activity	£100.00	2019-20 budget
Kington Cricket Club	Purchase of new nets	£450.00	2019-20 budget
Kington Summer Food Festival	Children's activities	£0	
Kington Festival Association	Purchase of new bunting	£500.00	2019-20 budget
Kington and District Museum	Purchase of conservation equipment and materials	£500.00	2020-2021 budget
Kington Walks	To support footpath maintenance	£500.00	2020-2021 budget
Kington Vintage	Children's activities	£0	
Kington Tourist Group	Website upgrade	£200.00	2019-20 budget
Cruse Bereavement Support	Room hire and training for volunteers	£0	

Summary

Total funds available 2019-2020	£5,000.00
Less: paid to date	£3,753.00
Recommendation as above:	£1,250.00
Total spend:	£5,003.00

Total funds available 2020-2021	£5,000.00
Recommendation as above	£1,000.00
Remaining for 2020-2021	£4,000.00