



Kington Town Council

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Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting

held on Monday 16th March 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. M. Fitton

Cllr. R. Griffiths

Cllr. R. MacCurrach

Cllr. R. Widdowson

Liz Kelso - Clerk

Agenda item

- Env 008-20 1. **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.
- Env 009-20 2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th JANUARY 2020**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th January, 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 010-20 3 **UPDATE FROM THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING PARTY**
An update on the work of the Climate Emergency Working Party was given by Cllr. Dennis, explaining that the working party have prepared a report which is to be presented to full council which identifies proposals to reduce the carbon footprint of town council and other activities. The Town Clerk expressed surprise that the report had been prepared without discussions with any Town Council staff member. It was also noted that as the Town Council does not own its office premises, it was unable to change energy supplier as was indicated.

It was also noted that one area where other councils had undertaken research and advice and plans were available was in the sustainable management of green spaces. The group were urged to consider this as part of the final report.

- Env 011-20** **4** **STREET SWEEPING**
The Clerk explained that a schedule of street sweeps was available via the Herefordshire Council website but information about pavement sweeps was awaited. A report on the frequency of the emptying of litter bins was also requested.
- Env 012-20** **5** **COMMUNITY GARDEN**
It was noted that there appears to be support for a community garden in Kington and this could be considered once the green spaces come under the Town Council. There was, however, a potential issue with ongoing maintenance both in terms of voluntary effort and funding for such activities and it was suggested that similar efforts previously had not been sustainable. The potential for a community garden at Crooked Well was considered and this can be discussed with nearby properties once the land is transferred although it was suggested that the land might not be suitable for this use. It was agreed to consider this in more detail at a later meeting.
- Env 013-20** **6** **SANDBAGS**
It was noted that it has been six months since Full Council decided against the provision of sandbags to local residents and this was reviewed in the light of recent flooding. After some discussion it was agreed not to pursue this at this stage but to continue to monitor the situation in the future.
- Env 014-20** **7** **STANDING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
- 1) Health & Safety**
There was nothing further to note under this agenda item.
 - 2) Town Centre**
Members noted the potential huge impact of restrictions under Covid-19 regulations on local businesses and the possibility of cancellation of the various festivals and other events this summer. An informal meeting with the Chamber of Trade to which all councillors were invited is to take place on Wednesday 18th March.
 - 3) Kington in Bloom**
The Chairman outlined the proposal by the working party and noted the budget allocation for this year, explaining that some funding might be held back for perennials later in the year. The Clerk advised that purchasing procedures in accordance with the financial regulations must be adhered to and confirmed that the Green Spaces Administrator would provide administrative support and ensure that financial regulations are complied with.
 - 4) Allotments**
It was noted that these had been flooded again but no permanent damage had been caused.
 - 5) Recycling**
Cllr. Cooke advised that statistics for the recycling plant performance were good. He was planning to submit an article on recycling for the Mid Wales News.
 - 6) Churchyard**
There was nothing to report under this agenda item.

7) **Community Energy**

It was noted that discussions had taken place within Zero Carbon Kington on this subject and that a new roof on the Vets was suitable for solar panels. It was suggested that perhaps the Co-op could be persuaded to consider solar panels.

8) **Economic Development**

As noted previous, concern was expressed about the economic impact of Covid-19 on the Economic Development of the town.

9) **Footpaths Scheme**

It was noted that there is currently an opportunity for the town council to rejoin the lengthsman scheme which might provide funding for footpath maintenance in the future. The Clerk is to pursue this with Kington Walks and Balfour Beatty.

10) **War Memorial**

There was nothing to report under this agenda item.

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 remains in post. 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.

A litter pick is to take place on 29th March.

Env 015.19

6. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 18th May 2020 at 6.15pm in the Old Police Station or on completion of the planning committee, whichever is later. There were no items raised for the agenda.

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

Signed

Chair of Environment Committee

Date

DRAFT