



Members of the Council you are
hereby summoned to attend a meeting of

Kington Town Council

to be held on **Monday 17th March 2025 at 6.00pm**

at The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington HR5 3DP
for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Agenda

1. Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation
2. Minutes:
To agree the minutes of the meeting held on [17th February 2025](#)
3. Public participation:
 - a) Police matters: To receive the police report
 - b) To receive the Ward Councillors Report
 - c) To receive matters raised by members of the public present
4. Mayor's Report
5. Clerk's Report
6. Financial Matters
 - a) To approve payments, as per payment schedule
 - b) To consider applications for community grants
7. To note update on VE Day celebration proposals and agree any further action
8. Update on proposal to host Armed Forces Day in 2026
9. Economic Development Plan for Kington:
 - a) Update on work of the consultants engaged by Herefordshire Council
 - b) To agree additional meeting to receive final report from consultants
10. Planning Matters
 - a) To consider responses to the following planning application:
 - a) Ref: [250429](#)
 - Site: 2 The Beeches, Victoria Road, Gravel Hill, Kington
 - Dev: Tree work in conservation area
 - b) To consider town council representative for Herefordshire Council's update meeting for the Local Plan
11. To note correspondence from Herefordshire Council monitoring officer and consider whether any further action is required
12. To consider correspondence recommending an Older People's Champion for Kington
13. To consider application for co-option to the Town Council
14. To note reports from Committees:
 - a) Planning & Environment Committee held on [3rd March 2025](#)

- 15 Information only item: Reports from councillors
16. Items for the next agenda and date and time of next meeting

Issued by:
Liz Kelso, Clerk, Kington Town Council
Tel: 01544 239098 or mobile: 07483914485
Email: clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
10.3.2025

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Town Council and may, at the discretion of the Chairman, speak on some agenda items. For further information on council procedures please speak to the clerk.

In the interests of the health and well being of councillors, staff and members of the public in attendance, please do not attend this meeting if you are unwell whether or not you have tested positive for covid or any other virus or infectious disease.



Kington Town Council

The Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington HR5 3DP

Telephone 01544 239098 Mobile: 07483 914 485

email: clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 17th February 2025 at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street, Kington

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. P. Sell - Chair
Cllr. R. Banks
Cllr. N. Cornish
Cllr. J. Gardner
Cllr. E. Rolls
Cllr. R. Widdowson
Cllr. M. Woolford

IN ATTENDANCE

Liz Kelso – Town Clerk
Ruth Robinson – Assistant Clerk
2 members of the public
1 representative – West Mercia Police
1 member of the press

Agenda

- | Item | Minute |
|------|--|
| 1 | 019-25 To note apologies for absence, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation
Apologies were noted from Cllrs T. Bounds and E. Banks. Cllr. Sell declared an interest in agenda item 12 (a) and (b) as an employee of the Church. There were no requests for dispensation. Members also noted apologies from Ward Councillor Terry James, Herefordshire Council. |
| 2 | 020-25 Minutes
a) Meeting held 20th January 2025
The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 th January 2025, which had been previously circulated, were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.

b) Meeting held 12th February 2025
The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 th February 2025 were approved and the Chairman authorised to sign as a true record of proceedings at that meeting. |

3 021-25 Public Participation

a) Police Matters

PC Emma Turberfield, in attendance in the meeting reported on incidents since the last meeting including reports of missing persons (now located), domestic incidents, reports of drug dealing and a drink drive incident where the driver was arrested. In response to a query about a previous report, was unable to give further information whilst the matter is ongoing. An incident reported on social media had not been reported to the police.

b) Ward Councillor Report

There was no report from the Ward Councillor who was unable to attend the meeting.

c) Matters raised by members of the public in attendance

A member of the public reported that efforts to encourage a banking hub in Kington had not been successful which was disappointing, given the number of residents in surrounding villages who would access the town if facilities had been available. The wider catchment area for rural areas appears not to be taken into account when calculating the potential customers of a banking hub. HSBC continue to support a pop up banking facility when available in the town.

A report was also noted on the refurbishment work at Lower Cross.

4 022-25 Mayor's Report

The Mayor's report, as attached to these Minutes, was noted. In response to a query about work to be undertaken by National Grid next year, it was noted that the start date has not yet been indicated.

5 023-25 Clerk's Report

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

6 024-25 Financial Matters

a) Payments

Payments totalling £1,003.70 (inclusive of VAT where applicable) as attached to these Minutes, were approved.

b) Cyber Insurance

The clerk reported that following the acceptance of the quotation for the provision of Cyber insurance at the last meeting, insurance brokers had indicated that the quotation had lapsed and a revised quote of £564.00 received. As this is significantly different from the original approval, Members were asked to reconsider the resolution made (ref. 005/2025 – f). After due consideration, it was agreed to

rescind the previous resolution and not to accept the revised quotation. The risk assessment provided by insurers would be considered further with a view to revisiting this next year at the renewal of the general insurance policies.

7 026-25 VE Day

The Mayor reported that he had convened a meeting with community groups in Kington regarding the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on 8th May. A number of organisations had agreed to hold events to celebrate the anniversary to include street parties, a tea dance, film shows and a service at the war memorial. Community groups would be responsible for their own activities. After due consideration, it was agreed that the actions of the Mayor be ratified and a working party consisting of Cllrs. P. Sell and J. Gardner be authorised to take this forward. The Clerk was instructed to discuss insurance implications with the town council insurers in accordance with the town council role of co-ordinator of the activities. Finally it was noted that although no budget had been set for this activity, community groups could apply for community grants when these are considered next month.

8 027-25 Armed Forces Day 2026

Members noted that whilst the subject of hosting Armed Forces Day had been considered some years ago, it has now been proposed by Herefordshire Council that Kington should host this event in 2026. Where the Market Towns have hosted this event previously, the format generally includes a march through the town prior to an inspection of cadets and veterans by the Lord Lieutenant. Other forces-related activities in the week leading up to this were also arranged in the Market Towns.

It was agreed that the Mayor and Clerk be authorised to enter into discussions with Herefordshire Council and the Lord Lieutenant's representative for an event in 2026 although it was also pointed out that planned work by National Grid in the High Street might impact on these proposals.

9 028-25 MidBorder News

It was agreed that the Town Council would continue to submit a quarterly two page report to MidBorder News for the forthcoming year at a revised cost of £1,000 for the year, payable in advance. The current editor, Annie Vickerstaff, is to retire and Members thanked her for producing this publication for the past few years.

10 029-25 Biodiversity Policy

Cllr. Widdowson presented the draft Biodiversity Policy which has been drafted by a working group set up by the Planning & Environment Committee in accordance with the duty under the 2021 Environment Act. After due consideration it was agreed to adopt the draft policy, as attached to these Minutes.

- 11 030-25 Economic Development Plan for Kington**
- a) Update on proposals regarding feasibility study**
Cllr. Banks reported that he and Cllr. Fitton took part in the selection of consultants by Herefordshire Council for the feasibility study into the three selected projects from the Economic Development Plan for Kington. The consultants will now consult with various parties to complete the study.
- b) Steering Group appointments**
At the request of Herefordshire Council it was agreed that Cllrs. R. Banks and M. Fitton be authorised to act on behalf of the town council on the Steering Group being formed by Herefordshire Council and their consultants to further the aims of the feasibility study for selected projects from the Economic Development Plan for Kington.
- 12 031-25 Tree work**
- a) Tree safety survey**
Following recent storms leading to tree damage, it was agreed to commission a tree safety survey of the Recreation Ground and Churchyard. Quotations have been sought but only one submitted at a total cost of £1,200.00 for both areas. After due consideration, it was agreed that the quotation be accepted.
- b) Additional tree work in the Churchyard**
A recent storm has resulted in a large branch coming off a tree in the Churchyard which is too large to be removed without cutting up. Quotations having been obtained from several tree surgeons to cut up and remove the branch and these ere considered by Members. After due consideration it was agreed to accept the quotation from Acer Tree Services at a cost of £525.00.
- Cllr. Sell, having declared an interest in this agenda item as a member of staff of the church, abstained from both votes under this agenda item.
- 13 032-25 Staffing Review**
Members considered the recommendation of the Finance, Personnel and General Purposes Committee that a staffing review be carried out to consider the appropriate staffing levels, staff job descriptions and job titles in line with future plans of the town council. The Finance, Personnel and General Purposes Committee, having reviewed several proposals by different staffing and HR consultants recommended Local Council Consultancy at a cost of £1,340.00. After due consideration this was agreed unanimously.

- 14 033-25 Festivals brochure**
Members noted that at the last meeting it had been agreed to begin work on a Festivals brochure for 2025 (ref 009-25), with Cllrs. Sell, Bishop and Gardner appointed to a working party to progress this. Notwithstanding that the working party had not yet met, it was noted that as a result of funding being available through the Herefordshire BID for a similar publication, a group consisting of the Tourist Information Office and Chamber of Trade have applied for this funding for an “Eat, Sleep & Play” promotion. In view of the change of circumstances, it was agreed that resolution 009-25 be rescinded.
- It was further agreed that in the event that the anticipated funding is not available, this would be reconsidered for the current year.
- 15 034-25 Update on proposed banking hub for Kington**
This matter was dealt with under agenda item 3(c) following a report from a member of the public in attendance.
- 16 035-25 Annual Town Meeting 2025**
Following the success of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting, it was agreed that the Annual Town Meeting for 2025 would be held on 21st May 2025 in the Burton Hotel, if available, to allow for additional attendees. As before, members of the community sector working in Kington would be invited to attend to give a presentation of their achievements over the year. Presentation of Kington’s Civic Awards will also take place at this meeting and members were reminded to encourage nominations from local residents in accordance with the Civic Awards Policy.
- Members were also reminded that the Annual Town Meeting is a meeting of residents/electors of the town and not a town council meeting.
- Finally, members noted that the Annual Meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for Monday 19th May 2025.
- 17 036-25 Co-option of a Town Councillor**
There were no candidates for co-option present at the meeting so this item was deferred to the March meeting.
- 18 037-25 Reports from Committees**
The following report from was noted:
- Planning & Environment Committee held on 10th February 2025

19 038-25 Reports from Councillors

A query was raised under this agenda item relating to Herefordshire Council's proposed survey of the burgage walls in Kington. The Mayor will follow this up.

Progress on the sweeping of footpaths in Kington was also raised and will be raised with Herefordshire Council when the Chief Executive and Leader visit Kington later this month.

20 039-25 Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 17th March 2025 at 6.00pm in the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street. It was agreed that support for a bus service to Leominster be an agenda item.

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



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KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting held on Monday 17th March 2025
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 and includes some items which are for information only.

1. Councillor Vacancies

Councillors are reminded that we still have several vacancies that can now be filled by co-option. Please ask anyone who might be interested in serving their community to contact the Town Clerk for information on what the role entails.

2. Defibrillator for the Masonic Hall

Installation of the additional defibrillator at the Masonic Hall is now complete and the unit is registered on The Circuit.

3. Kington Royal British Legion Branch

A reminder that Eardisley and Hereford area of the Royal British Legion are hoping to bring back the Kington Branch of the Royal British Legion and have set up a public meeting at the Burton Hotel on 9th April at 7.30pm to help revive the branch. The Town Council has been asked to help promote the meeting and councillors are encouraged to attend.

Those arranging the meeting have requested financial support for this meeting and have been sent a grant application form to complete.

4. Potential development off Kingswood Road

An approach has been received from developers proposing to build a number of homes on land off Kingswood Road asking for a pre-application meeting/consultation with the town council. In accordance with the agreed policy on meetings with developers, and to help ensure that the Town Council is able to submit comments on any future planning application in connection with that site, the developers have been advised of the agreed policy. It is not yet clear whether they will wish to address the next planning & environment committee meeting which will take place in April.

5. Staffing Review

Following the agreement last month for a staffing review to be conducted by Local Council Consultancy, an initial telephone conversation has been held with the proposal that work will start over the next week or so.

6. Parking Provision

A prospective new resident has written to the town council complaining about the lack of parking provision within the town and suggesting that the town council might like to consider the purchase of land for parking for residents without on or off street parking. The

correspondent has been advised that work is currently taking place to review parking provision within the town and any change in the current situation will be advised if/when additional parking provision has been identified.

7. Community Infrastructure Fund

The claim for funding via the Community Infrastructure Fund has been submitted within the deadline of 28th February. Assuming all elements claimed are agreed, the sum of some £8,990 should be received in due course. There remains the final monitoring form to complete which details benefits to residents of the projects funded through that grant (handwash units in the Recreation Ground toilet block) which is due in April.

8. Financial year end

A reminder that the town council's financial year end is 31st March so all accounts will be closed at that date and the new financial year started. The internal audit will take place on 14th May and final accounts presented for approval alongside the Annual Governance and Accounting Return in June. Once the AGAR is approved, documents are then sent to the external auditors for their review no later than 30th June. Separate accounts will also be prepared for Kington Recreation Ground Trust at the same time.

9. Pavement damage

Emergency work in the High Street by Welsh Water on Sunday 2nd March was "repaired" by WW with tarmac rather than the replacement of the paving tiles which were originally installed under the Market Towns Funding Initiative two years ago. A formal complaint has been filed with Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty who have expressed similar dissatisfaction with the end result. HC/BBLP are to follow this up but given the lack of response in recent months, it will be followed up by the Clerk too.

10. Parish Summit

Herefordshire Council's next Parish Summit will take place on Tuesday 8th April from 5.30pm – 9.00pm at Plough Lane. The summit will begin with a "market place" where attendees can speak to various HC departments and the meeting will start at 7.00pm. Herefordshire Council has asked for agenda items to be sent by 14th March but items raised now can still be forwarded.

11. Annual Town Meeting

As agreed at the last meeting, the Annual Town Meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st May at 7.00pm at the Burton Hotel. Members are reminded that items for the agenda for this meeting (which is a meeting of residents, not a meeting of the town council), need to be notified to the Clerk no later than ten days before the meeting. As agreed, voluntary groups working in and for Kington residents have been invited to attend to present a report on their work to the Town.

12. Civic Awards

A reminder that nominations for a civic award need to be passed to the Clerk no later than 31st March. Please encourage your contacts to nominate their local hero.

13. Blocked footpath

A gate has been installed along the Old Tramway footpath, close to Rock Cottage. The footpath is temporarily closed at that location as a result of a landslip but the gate appears to be a permanent addition so has been queried with the Public Rights of Way unit at Herefordshire Council.

Kington Town Council
 Grant Applications 2024-5
 Second round – Spring 2025
 Schedule of grant Applications

Organisation	Amount requested	Activity to be funded	Agreed Offer	Payment reference
Kington Chamber of Trade	£1,500.00	Support for Summer Food Festival including music, minibus hire & drivers for park & ride, signage and portaloos. Note winter food festival (grant awarded by KTC £750.00) cancelled.		
Kington Festival Association	£500.00	Signage for Wheelbarrow race		
Open Arms Kington	£500.00	VE Day activities 2025. Note second application for fy 2024-5. Previous application was for activities funding		

Total budget available this year:

£5,000.00

Total committed to date:

£2,610.00

Total requested, as above:

£2,000.00

Total for year

£4,610.00

Budget remaining

£ 390.00



Directorate/Division: Economy and Environment
Team: Built and Natural Environment
Our Ref: 250429
Please ask for: Andrew Cunningham
Direct line:
Email: andrew.cunningham@herefordshire.gov.uk
Date: 04/03/2025

Mrs Liz Kelso
Clerk to the Parish
Kington Town Council
Office 1, The Old Police Station
1 Market Hall Street
Kington
Herefordshire
HR5 3DP
clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Dear Mrs Liz Kelso

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 250429 - 2 The Beeches, Victoria Road, Gravel Hill, Kington, Herefordshire HR5 3BS
APPLICATION TYPE: Works to Trees in a Conservation Area
DESCRIPTION: T1 - Holly tree, cut down. T2 - Accacia stump, leave stump, cut off branches. T3 - Laurel - cut back. T4 - Holly tree, cut down. T5 - Leylandi, reduce top by 3ft.
GRID REFERENCE: OS 329940, 256755
WEBSITE: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/searchplanningapplications

We have received an application which affects your Parish. The application is described above and we are seeking the comments or views of your Parish Council. If the land concerned is on or near the parish boundary, we consult both councils as a matter of courtesy and welcome local views.

The planning application and its supporting documentation can be viewed, normally within 24 hours, by using the website link above and entering the application number 250429.

If you wish to make comments which you would like the Council to take into account before making a decision on the application, please respond by **25/03/2025** If you do not respond by this date it will be assumed that you have no comments to make.

You will be able to monitor the progress of the application, including all of the correspondence received, any amended or additional documentation, the officer report and the decision by viewing the application on the Council's website.

Yours faithfully

TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER

All personal data held is processed in accordance with data protection law. For further information please see our website https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning_services/62/apply_for_planning_permission/3

**Advice Note from Monitoring Officer****To: Ward and town councillors****Re: Civility and Respect in Public Office****Introduction**

A recent report presented to Herefordshire Council's Audit and Governance Committee revealed an increase in complaints involving councillors against other councillors at local councils, including parish, town, and city councils.

All complaints were resolved by the Monitoring Officer at the Initial Assessment Stage. No further action was taken due to them being of such little consequence that it was not in the public interest to use further public money.

However, there is still a cost to processing such complaints. Further, the underlying issues of the complaint remain and may not have been addressed. It was noted that in some instances, it appears that the Parish/Town council and/or councillors do not try or believe that any local resolution is possible or achievable. As such, a complaint to Herefordshire Council is almost seen as the next stage in the dispute or a means for another body to resolve the dispute.

The Committee noted that associations such as Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), Country Associations, National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and others, provide assistance to local councils to help them to promote civility and respect by local councillors and this includes providing training and supporting information and documentation to help local councils.

This is summarised by a commitment ('a pledge') by local councils to promote civility and respect in everything they do. The committee noted that within Herefordshire only 7 Parish/Town Councils have signed up to the pledge (4.6%). This is extremely low even compared to the national average of 17% nationally signed by local councils and is the second lowest in the country.

Monitoring Officer Advice:

Throughout the public sector, there continues to be concern about the impact bullying, harassment, and intimidation can have on local councils, councillors, clerks and council staff and the resulting effectiveness of local councils.

National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and other interested associations responded by setting up the Civility and Respect Project. Its work is supported by a significant amount of resources that can be seen here: [Improving civility and respect](#)

NALC invited councils to take a 'Civility and Respect Pledge', with a mission statement that includes the aim that civility and respect should be at the heart of public life.

The Monitoring Officer circulated guidance in July 2024 about the most common complaint raised about Parish/Town Councillors, around lack of respect [Guidance on respect - Councillors' code of conduct](#).

Councils are asked to particularly consider alternative resolution to complaints under the Code of Conduct that involve complaint by one councillor against another, mindful of the parties' mutual responsibilities under the Code of Conduct.

The Monitoring Officer invites all councillors to read and adopt the resources that are available through NALC and other bodies on this subject and invites town and parish clerks to promote these resources and, if appropriate, to liaise with HALC to encourage engagement with this issue.

The Monitoring Officer recommends that councils adopt the NALC Civility and Respect Pledge specifically, or adopts principles similar in intent, to demonstrate their commitment to members upholding standards in public life.

The Monitoring Officer's advice is that the responsibility to behave respectfully, as one of the tenets of public life, remains paramount.

Monitoring Officer
Herefordshire Council
February 2025



Guidance Note on Respect under the Councillors' Code of Conduct

The principle of treating others with respect appears in two places in Herefordshire Council's Code of Conduct, which itself reflects the Local Government Association's Model Code of Conduct:

1. General principles of councillor conduct:

In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and

2. General Conduct

1. Respect: As a councillor:

1.1 I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.

1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.

The Code of Conduct says:

'Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a councillor, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies in a robust but civil manner. You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack.

In your contact with the public, you should treat them politely and courteously. Rude and offensive behaviour lowers the public's expectations and confidence in councillors.

In return, you have a right to expect respectful behaviour from the public. If members of the public are being abusive, intimidatory or threatening, you are entitled to stop any conversation or interaction in person or online and report them to the local authority, the relevant social media provider or the police. This also applies to fellow councillors, where action could then be taken under the Councillor Code of Conduct, and local authority employees, where concerns should be raised in line with the local authority's councillor-officer protocol.'

At Herefordshire Council, a significant proportion of complaints considered by the Monitoring Officer each year, include an allegation of disrespect. Some recent examples are appended to this note. Many allegations about conduct that breaches the principle of respect have been deemed suitable for informal resolution.

This additional guidance, by reference to recent decisions made by the Monitoring Officer, is therefore intended to assist councillors to ensure adherence to their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct, with particular reference to respect.

Throughout the public sector, there are growing concerns about the impact bullying, harassment, and intimidation can have on local (parish and town) councils, councillors, clerks and council staff and the resulting effectiveness of local councils.

As a result, National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and other interested associations have responded by setting up the Civility and Respect Project. Its work is supported by a significant amount of resources that can be seen here: [Civility and Respect Project \(nalc.gov.uk\)](http://nalc.gov.uk). In particular, NALC has invited councils to take a 'Civility and Respect Pledge', with a mission statement that includes the aim that civility and respect should be at the heart of public life.

Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights, given effect by Schedule 1 of the Human Rights Act 1998, affords a level of enhanced protection to the expression of opinions on matters of public interest in the political arena. Those rights have been upheld by the courts on a number of occasions.

However, it is the Monitoring Officer's advice that the responsibility to behave respectfully, as one of the tenets of public life, remains paramount.

Appendix

Summary of outcomes from the Monitoring Officer's decisions

- A subject member who used inflammatory language in a leaflet distributed to the public was found to have breached the Code of Conduct: this involved conduct by a councillor which could reasonably be regarded as reducing public confidence in their council's ability to fulfil its functions and duties and would bring the authority into disrepute.
- A subject member who recorded the meetings of a local council and then used the recording to publically query and criticise the clerk over the accuracy of the minutes of a previous meeting was found to have breached the Code of Conduct. It was recommended that the subject member apologised in writing to the clerk.
- A subject member who was found to have, on occasion, demonstrated domineering, aggressive and confrontational behaviour was found to have breached the Code of Conduct. Although clearly an enthusiastic councillor, the manner in which they had conducted themselves had, at times, caused others to feel intimidated.
- An email exchange that verged on being abusive and personal towards the complainant resulted in a finding that a subject member had been in breach of the Code of Conduct: the subject member was advised not to make personal comments about members of the public or councillors in correspondence.
- At a meeting, a subject member responded aggressively to a question, banged the table and left the room. The subject member was found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct and was asked to apologise in writing to the complainant for their behaviour and to undertake further Code of Conduct training particularly in the areas of disrespect and equalities.
- At a public meeting, a subject member interrupted a member of the public who was addressing the council as they were permitted to do under the council's standing orders. The subject member proposed that the member of the public should be stopped from speaking; the council voted on this and agreed to the member of the public have a short while longer to speak, whereupon the subject member banged the table and walked out of the meeting saying that 'he was not prepared to listen to this [nonsense]'. The subject member was found to have breached the Code of Conduct although no sanction was suggested because, by the date of the decision notice, the subject member stood down.

Ms Liz Kelso, Clerk
Kington Town Council
Old Police Station
Kington HR5 3DP

8 March 2025

Dear Ms Kelso,

It is becoming very apparent that older people, their rights and needs are being badly neglected nationally and across the country at local levels. It is also clear that nationally there is culturally embedded ageism that requires stronger legal protections.

In Wales, there is a well-established Commissioner for Older People and a comprehensive network of local authority Older People's Champions and it seems obvious to me that, at our very local level, there are issues affecting older people that would benefit from such a champion; issues such as access to healthcare and associated services, mobility and other physical abilities, loneliness and isolation, etc etc.

I'm sure that we have local organisations and voluntary groups that could be tapped into and which could be critical in terms of identifying issues that the champion could bring to the council's attention.

The Welsh concept of Older People's Champions is one that could easily be replicated locally so I would urge you to consider that such a position is adopted for our older people.

Yours sincerely,