

KIDDERMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EVENTS & SERVICES COMMITTEE
Held in the Council Chamber on 16th September 2021 at 6.00pm

Present: Councillors N. Gale (Chairman), R. Bishop (Vice Chairman), G. Connolly, H. Dyke
S. Miah, M. Rayner, J. Smith, and E. Stokes

Also in attendance: Councillors K. Gale and F. Oborski MBE

ES.67 Apology

Councillor D. Hine, (H. Dyke substituting)

ES.68 Minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2021

RESOLVED: - that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

ES.69 Declarations of Interests by Members

None.

ES.70 Services Update

The Town Clerk updated the Committee on the services being delivered. He stated that this programme of work would be managed by the newly appointed Public Realm & Operations Manager once he takes up his post in November 2021.

On specific services the Town Clerk reported that there had been positive feedback on the opening of St George's Paddling Pool as people had enjoyed good weather for most of the six weeks the pool was open.

The Water Feature was now working and the final aspect to secure the water mains link was being completed

He also commented that one request for a new grit bin had been received.

Finally, he informed Committee that the date for the 'No Barriers Awards' would be Wednesday 15th December 2021. He asked the Committee to agree a judging panel for the event

After discussion it was

RESOLVED: - that the

- i. update on other services be noted
- ii. A full update on the work on the Water Feature including opening times be circulated to all Councillors
- iii. decision on installing the grit bin be referred to the ward councillors for their comments
- iv. judging panel for the 'No Barriers Awards' be agreed as The Mayor (Councillor J. Smith), The Chairman, (Councillor N. Gale) and Councillor F. Oborski MBE

ES.71 Events Update

Civic Programme

The Committee reviewed the current timescales for the Civic Programme. It was noted that events were being planned but are still subject to any changes in the COVID guidance.

The Town Clerk said the 'No Barriers Awards were now programmed for Wednesday 15th December 2021

He informed the Committee that the Remembrance Parade was being organised for 14th November 2021 and the final decision on whether it will be an outdoor event will be made in consultation with the Church by Friday 15th October 2021

The Town Clerk also stated that the Kidderminster Dementia Action Alliance (KDAA) were planning a Memory Event in March 2021 to coincide with the Jubilee celebrations.

Mrs Sharon Tandy, Office Manager, updated the Committee on the outline programme for the Queens Jubilee weekend. The Committee gave feedback on the proposals and after discussion it was

RESOLVED: - that the

- i. update on the civic programme be noted
- ii. the Town Clerk circulate an update to all Town Councillors on the Water Feature, when it is open and what times it is on at.

ES.72

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations (including 'The Queen's Green Canopy')

Mrs Sharon Tandy, the Office Manager circulated the first draft of the planned events for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

The Committee made the following comments

- look to see if a young person could be nominated to light the Jubilee Beacon on 2/6/22
- liaise with WFDC to maximise the impact of the events across Kidderminster
- liaise with local community groups to ensure a coordinated programme across Kidderminster
- look at the option of having a big screen in the town on 4/6/22 to broadcast the 'Platinum Party at the Palace'

The Committee also discussed how the Town Council would support the 'Queen's Green Canopy' which was a tree planting initiative. The Committee supported the idea of working with the other councils and community groups to deliver on the project.

After further discussion it was

RESOLVED: - that the

- i. outline plan for the Queens Jubilee programme be noted
- ii. final agreement of the programme be delegated to the Queen's Jubilee Working Group
- iii. 'Queen's Green Canopy' project be included in the plans
- iv. budget for the programme be included in the Committee's estimates for 2022/23
- v. Working Group report back to the next meeting of the Committee

ES.73

Christmas Programme 2021

Mrs Nina Price, Arts Development Manager, updated the Committee on the outline plans for the Christmas events.

She stated that there was still a significant level of uncertainty across all authorities about planning events in case there is any change to the Covid guidance. She stated that the plan at the Town Council was to organise events that can be adapted/delivered if Covid guidance changes. Specifically, the current plan included

- Digital festive message from the Town Mayor
- Christmas Market
- Christmas Film Show
- Christmas Drop & Shop sessions
- Santa in the Town Hall

During the discussion the Committee supported the proposals but reiterated the need to ensure activities were Covid safe if guidance changed. After further discussion it was

RESOLVED: - that the

- i. outline plan for the Christmas Programme 2021 be agreed
- ii. the Covid safe approach be endorsed
- iii. officers be instructed to carry on and deliver the Christmas events

ES.74

Pop Up Tourist Information Station outside the Town Hall.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor K. Gale was invited to speak on the Tourism Information Station.

Councillor K. Gale stated there was limited information available to help any visitor who came to Kidderminster and that there was limited space and opportunity for local groups to put notices up to promote their community activities.

The Town Clerk explained that the leaflets that had been on display in the Town Hall had been the responsibility of WFDC when the Hub was located there but the contract had not been ended when the Hub moved out.

During the discussion the committee raised the following points:

- there was a lack of poster sites for local community groups to use to promote their work
- there was no coordinated approach across Kidderminster either to promote tourism or share the community activities that were going on
- that there needed to be other means rather than just digital to help local groups with their activities

After further discussion it was

RESOLVED: - that the Town Clerk be asked to investigate how the Town Council can

- i. promote tourism for Kidderminster
- ii. support local groups to promote their activities more widely

ES.75

Sir Thomas Brock – Sculptor Centenary

The Committee felt it would be appropriate to celebrate the centenary of Sir Thomas Brock and asked the Town Clerk to look to include an event in next year's civic calendar.

ES.76

Proposed Memorial Garden – Kidderminster Hospital

The Town Clerk stated that while the memorial garden was a positive idea, there are no firm costs for the project. He also said the land was owned by the NHS over which the Town Council has no jurisdiction. Finally, he also said from a risk perspective the Council should not commit to any expenditure where the Council has no ownership or future guarantees on delivery.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED: - that the Town Council cannot support the project

ES.77

**Remembrance Sunday & Christmas Lights
Town Hall Scaffolding & Façade**

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that the ongoing building works and scaffolding would be ongoing until end of November 2021. This impacted the use of the Town Hall for Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas Lights.

He also said the initial costings for covering and screening the building were inaccurate and to 'façade' the building and install a screen would likely cost upwards on £20,000

The current plan was to look to decorate the Town Hall for Remembrance Sunday in keeping with the health and safety demands of the ongoing stonework.

For Christmas he said a meeting was being organised with the Christmas lights contractors, building contractors and Town Council officers to see how best we can manage the Christmas lighting.

RESOLVED: - that the Town Clerk report to the next meeting to update the Committee on the works and negotiations

ES.78 Budget

The Town Clerk reported that service expenditure was currently being delivered within the agreed budgets.

RESOLVED: - that the current budget position be noted

ES.79 The Light It Up Project

Mrs Nina Price, Arts Development Manager, reported the Town Council had successfully delivered a grant of £40,000 from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to deliver a local project to promote economic activity in the town. The funding had been achieved in partnership which included, KDYT, the BID, Museum of Carpet, and Kidderminster College.

The project would run from mid-November 2021 to mid-February 2022.

The final agreement for the funding had just been achieved and she would be writing to all Councillors to give them a briefing of what the project would deliver.

The committee congratulated the officers and noted that a briefing would be provided to all Councillors

ES.80 Future Events Ideas

The Chairman asked the Committee for ideas for any potential future events. The following ideas were raised:

	Event Idea
a)	Foods of the World
b)	Sheep Trail for Kidderminster
c)	Outline Figure for Traffic Islands
d)	Funfair in the town
e)	Promotion of Street Music in the town

It was agreed that officers would review these ideas and report back to the next meeting with an update

The meeting ended at 8.10pm

Chairman

Date