

Kidderminster Town Council
MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th July 2021 at 6.00pm in the
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Kidderminster

Present: The Mayor (Councillor J. Smith)
 Councillors J. Aston, R. Bishop, D. Chambers, G. Connolly, H. Dyke, K. Gale, N. Gale,
 D. Hine, B. Hopkins, S. Miah, T. Muir, F. Oborski MBE, M. Rayner, S. Rook, and
 D. Ross

C.635 Apologies

Councillors J. Phillips and E. Stokes

C.636 Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2021

RESOLVED: - that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

C.637 Mayor's Engagements & Announcements

The Mayor updated Town Council on the revised dates for civic events, detailed below

	Event	Venue	Date
1.	Freemen Investiture	Town Hall	Wednesday 20 th October 2021*
2.	Baxter Lecture	Town Hall	Thursday 11 th November 2021
3.	Remembrance Sunday	Town Hall/St Mary's Church	Sunday 14 th November 2021*
4.	Christmas Lights Switch On	Town Hall	Saturday 20 th November 2021
5.	Mayor's Carol Service	St Mary's Church	Friday 10 th December 2021
6.	Santa in the Town Hall	Town Hall	Saturday 11 th December 2021
7.	Mayor's Ball	Town Hall	4 th March 2022
8.	Mayor's Sunday	St Mary's Church/Town Hall	24 th April 2022*
* =Gowns			

RESOLVED: - that the updated civic calendar be noted

C.638 Declarations of Interests by Members

None.

C.639 Public participation

None.

C.640 Presentation from the Policing Team for Kidderminster

PC Andy Forbes and PC Andy Gilbert attended the meeting to update the Town Council on the work of the local policing team.

In their presentation the officers referred to the work being done to manage the law and order implications on the lifting of lockdown and the plans being put in place to manage summer activities across the town.

In relation to the local priorities identified by Kidderminster Town Councillors

- Anti-social Behaviour – Young People

Significant work was going on with partners to address this issue and in the town centre the police were working with the BID Rangers to identify and manage unacceptable youth behaviour and to deal with offenders.

- Alcohol & Drugs – Dunelm Mill Car Park

Good partnership working was going on to address this issue. There had been a litter pick to tidy up the site and the shop staff were working with the police to help monitor and report incidents.

- Shop Lifting & Pickpockets

This had been the main priority over the last two months, the work had included patrols, plain clothes officers in the town, and number plate recognition being used to identify offenders.

In relation to questions from Councillors the officers undertook to look at the issues in St George's Park; continue to work with schools on parking; and were aware of a local housing drugs problem which was actively being addressed.

PC Forbes also stated that speeding and speed awareness were ongoing priorities that were also being addressed.

Finally, PC Forbes asked Councillors to think about what the next three local priorities should be.

Councillors thanked the police officers for the presentation and update.

RESOLVED: - that the

- i. presentation from the local policing team be noted
- ii. Town Clerk contact all Councillors to ascertain what the next three local policing priorities should be

C.641 Report of the Town Hall Committee

Councillor D. Ross presented the report of the Town Hall Committee

a) Levelling Up Fund (LUF)

Councillor Ross updated Council on the timetable for the LUF bid. It was hoped that the Government's decision would be known by September 2021.

RESOLVED: - that the update on the LUF be noted

b) Transfer of the Town Hall to a Trust

Councillor Ross updated Council on the plans to transfer the Town Hall in to a Trust Mr D. Alcock of Anthony Collins Solicitors attended the meeting (virtually) to answer any specific questions Councillors had on the transfer.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED: - that Council

- i. formally approves the transfer of the Town Hall into a Trust
- ii. agrees a set provision of £250,000 p.a. for the next five years to support the work of the Trust

c) Appointment of Town Councillor Trustees to the Town Hall Trust

RESOLVED: - that the Town Council appoints Councillors T. Muir, M. Rayner and J. Smith as the three Town Council Trustees for the new Town Hall Trust Board

C.642 Report of the Events & Services Committee

Councillor N. Gale presented the report of the Events & Services Committee

a) No Barriers Award

RESOLVED: - that the Town Council agrees to host the 'No Barriers' awards subject to external funding support

b) St Mary's Church Yard – Trees

RESOLVED: - that the Town Council agrees to the tree works at St Mary's Churchyard at a cost of £5,747 plus VAT, the cost to be met within current budgets.

c) Queen's Platinum Jubilee

RESOLVED: - that any Councillor wishing to serve on the Platinum Jubilee Working Group contact Councillor N. Gale directly

C.643 Report of the Staffing Committee

Councillor J. Smith presented the report of the Staffing Committee.

Councillor Smith specifically referred to the training opportunities being organised for Councillors and requested that if Councillors had any specific ideas they inform the Town Clerk directly.

RESOLVED: - that Council note the training event programmed for Thursday 30th September 2021

C.644 Report of the Finance & Overview Committee

Councillor D. Ross presented the report of the Finance & Overview Committee

a) Grants Policies

During the discussion some questions were raised on the grants policy criteria. As a result, the Chairman of the Policy & Overview Committee, Councillor D. Ross, agreed to review the grants criteria at the next Committee meeting

RESOLVED: - that

- i. the current allocation of £500 per Councillor for the Local Grant Fund remains for 2021/22
- ii. the parish wide grant fund remains at £5,000 for 2021/22
- iii. allocations to the grant budgets be reviewed in November 2021 as part of the budget planning process
- iv. the Finance & Overview Committee review the grants criteria at its next meeting

b) Banking

- i. the Town Council continues to bank with Barclays until a formal review in 2025

C.645 General Power of Competence

RESOLVED:- that the Town Council (re)adopts 'The General Power of Competence' for the civic year 2021/22

C.646 Outside Bodies – Update

Town Councillors reported on the current status of their work on outside bodies.

The main question of concern was the detailed financial position of St Mary's Church. Councillor K. Gale undertook to get this information

RESOLVED:- that the update on outside bodies be noted.

C.647 Appointment to Committees – Events & Services Committee

RESOLVED: - that for 2021/22 the membership of the Events & Services Committee be increased by one, to include the Town Mayor, Councillor J. Smith.

C.648 St George's Paddling Pool

The Town Clerk reported that the original contractor to manage the pool had withdrawn late in the programme. A substitute contractor had been found at short notice but this had affected the budget implications to deliver the service. Specifically, the cost of delivering the pool opening at such short notice was £7,500. This was £3,000 above the estimated budget.

The view of Town Councillors was that it was important to have the pool open for the summer and that a new contract should be agreed for the pool opening to cover the next three years. After discussion it was

RESOLVED: - that

- i. an additional budget of £3,000 be made available from reserves to fund the opening of St George's Paddling Pool for the summer of 2021
- ii. a tender be prepared to agree a three-year contract for the future opening of the pool from summer 2022 to 2024.

C.649 Finance Report

a) Budget spend to date

b) Accounts paid and income received to date

The Town Clerk stated that balances as at 19th July 2021 were £447,610.49. He also stated that there is an additional £100,000 invested through WFDC.

In relation to three detailed questions raised by Councillor D. Ross on the Grant Expenditure the Town Clerk undertook to get a written answer to all Town Councillors.

RESOLVED: - that Council

- i. notes the expenditure to date
- ii. approves the accounts paid to date
- iii. notes the income received to date
- iv. notes the current balances

The meeting ended at 7.38pm

Mayor

Date