

Kidderminster Town Council
MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th September 2021 at 6.00pm in the
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Kidderminster

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

C.650 Apologies

Councillors J. Aston, H. Dyke and J. Phillips,

C.651 Minutes of the meeting held on 28th July 2021

RESOLVED: - that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th July 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

C.652 Mayor's Engagements & Announcements

The Mayor made the following announcements:

a) Mayors Awards

There will be a new Town Council civic award, 'The Mayor's Award' to recognise those who have given their time and support to benefit others.

To start the award, and in recognition of the challenging times we have all experienced, the Town Council is looking to recognise the exceptional contributions of people during the pandemic.

The Mayor circulated the details of how the award will work, the process for nominations the deadline for nominations for the first award is Friday 8th October 2021.

b) Mayor's Quiz Night

The quiz night, to raise monies for the Mayor's charities will be held on Wednesday 24th November 2021 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange, Town Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

c) Freeman Investiture - Special Council Meeting

There will be a special meeting of the Town Council on Wednesday 20th October 2021 for the investiture of 4 freemen. It will be a robed event and details will be going out in the next week.

d) Councillors Training Event

The Councillors Training Event will take place in the King Charles Room on Thursday 30th September 2021. The papers will be circulated next week

e) Remembrance Sunday

The full Remembrance Sunday Parade and Church Service is being organised for Sunday 14th November 2021.

f) No Barriers Awards

The No Barriers Awards will take place in December 2021 in the Town Hall. The Mayor thanked the Police & Crime Commissioner for sponsoring the awards and she said more details will be circulated nearer the event.

g) Public Realm & Operations Manager

The Mayor informed Town Council that Mr Adam Stockhall had been appointed as the new Public Realm & Operations Manager. His official start date is programmed for Monday 8th November 2021. The Mayor welcomed Mr Stockhall to the Town Council meeting.

RESOLVED: - that the engagements & announcements be noted

C.653 Declarations of Interests by Members

None.

C.654 Public participation

Representation from Mr J. Lawson – Kidderminster Hospital League of Friends

Mr Jim Lawson informed the Town Council of a charity event that was being organised to raise funds for the League of Friends of Kidderminster Hospital. Specifically, he would be completing a half marathon on Sunday 26th September 2021.

It was agreed that the details of the event be circulated to all Councillors and promoted through the Town Council's social media.

C.655 Motion

Climate Change

It was proposed by Councillor Oborski MBE & seconded by Councillor S. Miah that *“Council recognises that Climate Change is the greatest threat facing our world. Council further recognises that both Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council have declared Climate Emergencies.*

Council therefore resolves to:

- a) Declare a Climate Emergency.*
- b) Whilst accepting that 2050 is the national target for Carbon Neutrality, resolves to do everything in its power to achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2035.”*

An amendment was then put by Councillor D. Ross and seconded by Councillor B. Hopkins that

“This Council declares a climate emergency and commits to doing the following:

- Continue to work with our partner authorities to review and update all relevant policies*
- To establish a Member Group to assist the future revision of the plan and report annually*
- This Council agrees the target of reaching net carbon neutral by 2050 in line with the Government's target*

After a short debate the amendment was voted on

RESOLVED: - that Council declares a climate emergency and commits to doing the following:

- Continue to work with our partner authorities to review and update all relevant policies
- To establish a Member Group to assist the future revision of the plan and report annually
- This Council agrees the target of reaching net carbon neutral by 2050 in line with the Government's target

C.656 Draft West Mercia Plan 2021/2025 – Police & Crime Commissioner

The Council discussed the Police & Crime Commissioner's draft plan. There was outline support for the plan but Council felt the Police & Crime Commissioner should be invited to a future Town Council meeting to speak directly to the Town Council.

RESOLVED: - that Council invites the Police & Crime Commissioner to a future meeting to discuss the delivery of the Draft West Mercia Plan 2021/25 and its impact on Kidderminster

C.657 Town Hall Development

Town Hall Trust Update

Councillor Ross, Chairman of the Town Hall Committee, updated Council on the Trust appointments. Offers had been made to appoint a Chair of Trustees and also two Vice-Chairs. This along with the previous appointment of three Town Council trustees

meant six of the eleven places had been filled. Interviews to appoint the remaining trustees were being programmed.

RESOLVED: - that Council note the update on the appointment of Town Hall Trustees

C.658 Town Hall Development

Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Bid Progress

The Town Clerk updated Council on the progress of the LUF bid. He said the announcement on funding was expected by October 2021 but that in the interim the Town Council needed to put in place the governance arrangements to manage the project going forward. He made two main points

- Town Council is responsible for the oversight of the project and this project will be a standing item for future Town Council meetings
- The work on the Town Hall needed to continue prior to the LUF announcement to ensure the Town Council can achieve the deadlines for the project subject to funding being agreed

RESOLVED: - that Council

- i. notes the update on the LUF bid
- ii. agrees the governance arrangements for the delivery of the next stage of the project
- iii. notes the £100K 'match funding' expenditure already committed as part of the Town Council's contribution to the overall project

C.659 Artefacts Policy

The Town Clerk reported that since the Town Council had been approached regarding the Baxter Pulpit another Church had contacted the Town Council about preserving local artefacts. The purpose of the policy was to make the Town Council's position clear and to help, where possible, to preserve the town's artefacts.

RESOLVED: - that Council

- i. adopts the Artefacts Policy
- ii. agrees oversight of the policy is delegated to the Finance & Overview Committee
- iii. reviews the policy in 12 months' time

C.660 Finance Report

a) Budget spend to date

b) Accounts paid and income received to date

The Town Clerk stated that balances as at 8th September 2021 were £332,008.56. He also stated that there is an additional £100,000 invested through WFDC.

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 6.38pm

Mayor

Date