

KIDDERMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Kidderminster Town Council held in the Council Chamber,
Kidderminster Town Hall on Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 6:00pm**

Present:

Councillors:

Gale (Chair)
Aston
Bishop
Chambers
Connolly
Dyke
N. Gale
Hopkins
Miah
Oborski (MBE)
Rayner
Rook
Ross
Smith
Stokes

In Attendance:

Mr L. Jakeman, Chief Executive

C. 036

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillors D. Hine and J. Phillips.

Absent - Councillors: T. Muir.

C.037

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tributes to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second were made by the Councillors: K. Gale, D. Ross, F. Oborski, H. Dyke and S. Rook.

Members noted the mayoral engagements between 27th July and 31st August 2022.

Thursday 28th July – Kidderminster College Careers Fair.
Friday 29th July – Reveal of Covid Memorial Art Installation at Kidderminster hospital.
Saturday 20th August – Garden Party at Holmwood Care Home (*Deputy*).
Monday 22nd August – River Boat Trip along River Severn.

C. 038 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

C.039 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

C. 040 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meeting of Kidderminster Town Council held on Wednesday 27th July 2022.

C. 041 **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

RESOLVED: Members approved payments from 21st July 2022 to 31st August 2022.

C. 042 **BUDGET MONITORING**

Members noted a summary budget report as at 31st August 2022.

C.043 **TOWN HALL – PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD**

Members received a report regarding an application for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board.

RESOLVED: To seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £500,000 over the borrowing term of 20 years for the redevelopment of Kidderminster Town Hall. The annual loan repayments will come to around £37,000.

It is not intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments.

C.044 **TOWN HALL EXCHANGE CAFÉ**

Members received a report from the Exchange Café from the Chief Executive, to include a summary of finances and consider if the Town Council would want to extend the current arrangements beyond 30th September 2022.

Members asked that appropriate measures be taken to ensure that any Town Council property being utilised by the venture remain with the Town Council.

RESOLVED: To extend the existing agreement with the Exchange Café (to operate a café) to continue up to 17th December 2022.

C.045 **ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE – FORMER RAINBOW CHILDREN’S CENTRE**

Members received correspondence from Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) and formed a view as to whether the Town Council wishes to be considered as a potential bidder for the former Rainbow Children’s Centre.

RESOLVED: To decline, the invitation to register an interest (under the right to buy under the Assets of Community Value Scheme) to bid for the former Rainbow Children’s Centre.

C. 046 **LOCAL POLICING**

Members received a response to questions raised following a policing report at the Town Council meeting on Wednesday 27th July.

RESOLVED: To note the responses from the Local Policing Team.

C. 047 **KIDDERMINSTER EDUCATIONAL FUND**

Members received a report to confirm representatives on the Management Committee of the Kidderminster Educational Foundation (Charity No: 527537).

RESOLVED: To appoint 3 councillors (Oborski, Smith and Stokes) to the management committee of the Kidderminster Educational Foundation for the purpose of carrying out and overseeing the day-to-day management of the Charity (on behalf of the Town Council) in line with the charities aims (including the awarding of grants) and providing regular (at least annually) reports to the Full Town Council

AND

That a fourth member could be nominated by Councillor Dyke following discussion with her political group.

(CEO Note: Cllr Dyke confirmed herself as the 4th member of the KEF management committee following the meeting)

C.048 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: in terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, **RESOLVED** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded.

(Note: While the discussions are confidential the decisions made are documented for the public record)

C. 049 **PUBLIC PARKS**

Members considered a recommendation to agree for the transfer of Baxter Gardens, Broadwaters and St George's Park from Wyre Forest District Council to Kidderminster Town Council during the financial year 2022/2023.

RESOLVED: To accept the transfer of Baxter Gardens, Broadwaters and St George's Park on the basis of the meeting held on 2nd August 2022 and summarised in the offer from WFDC dated 24th August 2022 and, that the official acceptance of Heads of Terms be delegated to the Chief Executive (in consultation with members of the Finance & Overview Committee through the Committee Chair) and, subject to obtaining legal advice, provided that they are line with expectations expressed in the summary offer from WFDC.

C. 050 **TOWN HALL**

Members reviewed arrangements regarding the formation of a Trust to operate the Town Hall following its planned re-development during 2023 and 2024.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approved Option A proposed in the report.

C.051 **LEVELLING UP FUND – AGREEMENT WITH WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Members considered the Levelling Up Fund agreement with Wyre Forest District Council.

RESOLVED: Kidderminster Town Council instructs the Chief Executive Officer to sign [on behalf of Kidderminster Town Council] the formal agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) with Wyre Forest in relation to Levelling Up Grant Funding for the refurbishment of the Town Hall, regarding the terms and conditions on which the Grant is made by the Funder to the Recipient.