

KIDDERMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Kidderminster Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Kidderminster Town Hall on Wednesday 14th December 2022 at 6:00pm

Present:

- Gale (Chair)
- Aston
- Bishop
- Chambers
- Connolly
- Dyke
- N. Gale
- Hine
- Hopkins
- Muir
- Oborski (MBE)
- Rayner
- Rook
- Ross
- Smith

In Attendance:

- Mr L. Jakeman, Chief Executive
- Mr Peter White, Freshlife Consulting
- Mr Daniel Mulligan, Glenn Howells Architects
- 1 x member of the public

C.052 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members noted the apologies received from Cllrs Miah, Phillips and Stokes.

C.053 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

C.054 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

C.055 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: Members approved the minutes of the meeting of Kidderminster Town Council held on Wednesday 28th September 2022.

C.056 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members noted the mayoral engagements from September, October and November.

Friday 2nd September – Flag Flying Ceremony at Wyre Forest House
Friday 2nd September – Kidderminster Choral Society Concert
Sunday 18th September – King’s Proclamation
Thursday 22nd September – BBC Hereford & Worcester Make a Difference Awards
Friday 23rd September – Mayor of Bewdley’s Quiz Night (*Deputy*)
Thursday 29th September – Mayor’s Bingo Night
Friday 7th October – Husum Twinning Meal at Bistro Pierre
Sunday 16th October – Redditch Civic Service
Thursday 20th October – Dementia Action Alliance Event
Friday 21st October – Mayor’s Quiz Night
Saturday 22nd October – 10th Anniversary of Opening of Museum of Carpet
Sunday 23rd October – Droitwich Spa Civic Service
Saturday 29th October – Summer Reading Challenge Medal Ceremony
Friday 11th November – Armistice Day Ceremony
Saturday 12th November – Tour of Town Hall
Sunday 13th November- Remembrance Sunday sw
Wednesday 16th November – Chairman’s Autumn Civic Soiree
Friday 18th November – Wyre Forest Young Voices Concert
Saturday 19th November – Christmas Lights Switch On
Saturday 19th November – Old Carolians Association Dinner
Thursday 24th November – Mayor of Ludlow’s Chairty Winter Warmer Supper (*Deputy*)
Friday 25th November – Three Kings Parade
Saturday 26th November – Kidderminster Choral Society Concert
Saturday 26th November – Presentation of Photography Competition
Saturday 26th November – Christmas Bake Competition at Franche Community Church

C.057 **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

Nil received.

C.058 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED: Members noted the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 27th September, 25th October, and 29th November 2022.

C.059

SERVICES COMMITTEE

a. **RESOLVED:** To note receipt of the minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on 8th September and 9th November 2022.

b. Members considered the following recommendations:

Kidderminster Ring Road Water Feature. To approve the recommendation (option 2) made by the Services Committee at its meeting on 8th September 2022 relating to the Kidderminster Ring Road Water Feature.

Members discussed the purpose of the waterfall and its role as a memorial. It was felt that some detailed and documented consideration about signage and promotion of the feature be provided before any final decision could be made by the Town Council.

b(i) RESOLVED: To defer the matter and ask the Services Committee to reconsider the proposal at its next meeting.

c. St George's Park Paddling Pool.

In light of the recommendation from the Services Committee it was proposed that the St George's Paddling Pool be removed and the ground reinstated.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Oborski to replace the original motion: that the Paddling Pool be mothballed for a year and not dug up to give the community time to find external funding.

(Note: Cllr Oborski asked that the votes be recorded in the minutes. For: All councillors present, Against: Nil, Abstentions: Nil)

With the amendment being successful it became the substantive motion.

c(i) RESOLVED That the (*St George's Park*) Paddling Pool be mothballed for a year and not dug up to give the community time to find external funding.

C.060

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Members noted the minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2022.

C.061

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

Members noted the minutes of the Town Hall Committee meeting held on 27th October 2022.

C.062 **STAFFING COMMITTEE**

Members noted the minutes of the two Staffing Committee meetings held on 5th October and 26th October 2022.

C.063 **FINANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

Members noted the minutes of the Finance and Overview Committee meeting held on 6th December 2022 (noting that the budget and precept recommendations would be discussed as a separate item later on the agenda).

C.064 **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

Members noted receipt of the finance report.

RESOLVED: To approve payments totalling £453,830.96 from 1st September to 30th November 2022.

C.065 **HOSPITALITY AND GIFTS POLICY**

Members considered a draft Hospitality and Gifts Policy and a recommendation that the policy be adopted by Kidderminster Town Council

RESOLVED: That the Hospitality and Gifts Policy (*circulated with the agenda*) be adopted by Kidderminster Town Council.

C.066 **MEMBERS GRANT FUNDING REQUEST**

Members considered a proposal from Councillor David Ross that:

“Kidderminster Town Council donates a sum of £2,000 to the Weavers Wharf Shopping Centre Charity Fund to support its efforts in providing a Warm Hub in one of its unoccupied retail units until the end of March 2023.”

RESOLVED: To donate a sum of £2,000 to the Weavers Wharf Shopping Centre Charity Fund to support its efforts in providing a Warm Hub in one of its unoccupied retail units until the end of March 2023.

C.067 **BUDGET AND PRECEPT SETTING**

Members considered recommendations from the Finance and Overview Committee. That the Full Town Council approves the summary budget recommended by the Finance & Overview Committee.

RESOLVED:

- a. To approve Budget proposal D (*A Precept of £879,566.00, General Reserve at £413,560.00; and Band D equivalent of £49.75 percentage increase of 4.74%. With a total income of £9,488,000 and a total expenditure of £9,529,368*).

AND

- b. That a precept be issued, requiring Wyre Forest District Council to pay Kidderminster Town Council £879,566.00 (Eight Hundred and Seventy-nine Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty-six pounds) to meet its expenditure for the financial year 2023/24

(Note: members asked that the votes be recorded in the minutes. For: All councillors present, Against: Nil, Abstentions: Nil)

C.068 **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.069 **TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENT**

Members noted a report and received a presentation from the project manager and the architects for the Town Hall Refurbishment Project. Members took the opportunity to clarify understanding round various aspects of the project, spend predictions, timelines and emphasise that the project has a set budget despite wider-world economic uncertainty. Members thanked the two presenters for their time and contribution.

(Note: Cllr Muir departed the meeting during this item).

RESOLVED:

- a. To approve the proposed structure of the £249,695 grant application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

AND

- b. To approve the Stage 3 design proposals for the podium.

STAFFING MATTERS

Members received 2 confidential reports from the Staffing Committee (*relating to the committee meetings held on 5th and 26th October*) and noted the contents.

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