

**KIDDERMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN HALL COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2026 at 6pm
in the Council Chamber, Kidderminster Town Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

J. Beckingham (Vice Chair)

S. Hollands

F. Oborski

B. Connor

J. Aston

H. Dyke

In Attendance:

Town Hall Manager

Curtis Fudge – Business Development Lead

Absent:

B. Brookes (Chair)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

B. Brookes (Chair)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J. Beckingham declared a friendship on social media with the owner of the Turkish Café when the loan of the black and white photo to the Turkish Café was discussed.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Town Hall Committee held on 9th December 2025.

5. TOWN HALL WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the Forward Work Programme as set out in Appendix 2.

The update was noted and members agreed the contents of the programme.

6. TOWN HALL EVENTS

Members received an update from the Business Development Lead on Town Hall Events.

Members welcomed the positive progress being made and noted the verbal report.

Members asked for a written report in the future. The Town Hall manger agreed and said that the verbal report from The Business Development Lead at this meeting would be distributed to members with Meeting Minutes.

Councillor B. Connor suggested we hold a Town Crier Competition at the Town Hall. The Town Hall Manager said he would mention it to the Civic Event Manager.

7. NLHF – A JOURNEY THROUGH KIDDERMINSTER’S TOWN HALL

Members received an update from the Town Hall Manager on the NLHF project.

The update was noted.

8. TOWN HALL EVENT BANK ACCOUNT

Members received a report recommending the closure of the Town Hall Bank Account.

RESOLVED:

That the closure of the Town Hall Bank Account be approved.

9. TOWN HALL ARTIFACTS AND PAINTINGS

Members received an update from the Town Hall Manager on the artifacts and paintings that have been returned to the Town Hall.

The update was noted.

The Town Hall Manager confirmed the black and white photo of the Town will return to the Town Hall from the Turkish Café. Members were also advised that he was looking for the original photo or negative so a duplicate could be produced for the Turkish Café.

10. TOWN HALL CARTAKER

Members received an update from the Town Hall Manager regarding the recruitment of a part-time Town Hall caretaker.

Members noted the staffing Committee agreement and approved progression to recruitment.

11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

In terms of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the following item was considered likely to disclose exempt information relating to financial and contractual matters and it was therefore resolved that, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded.

12. TOWN HALL CATERING PROVISION

Members received an update on the Town Hall Bar and Courtyard operations and financial performance and seeking approval to formalise the negotiated move to a 10% of gross income commission model from March 2026 for an initial period of 13 months, after which the arrangement will be formally reviewed.

Councillor J. Beckingham provided feedback regarding the Courtyard Café, noting that the radiators in the Courtyard should have Hot Warning signs near them as they could pose a burn risk to children. It was also noted that the variety of snacks for young children was limited, with many appearing to have strong flavours. The Town Hall Manager confirmed he would investigate both issues.

1. Members noted the strong early performance of the Courtyard Café and Bars and their growing positive impact on town centre activity.
2. Members noted the level of private investment committed by Savva and the additional planned investment.
3. **RESOLVED:** Members approved the formal variation of both concession agreements to a 10% of gross income model from March 2026 for a 13-month period.
4. **RESOLVED:** Members approved we request a full performance review report before the next contract review on 1st April 2027.