

KENILWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Services Committee

Commencing at 7.00 pm on Thursday 16 December 2021

PRESENT: Councillor R J Barry (Chair).

Councillors: P Austin, A G Chalmers, M F Coker, J A Cooke, A M Dearing, J A Dearing, K S Dickson, R G Dickson, A J Firth, G D Hyde, P J Jones, A J Kennedy, A W Milton, R J Spencer.

Town Clerk: Miss M S Field.

Deputy Town Clerk: Mr N Eaton.

No members of the Public were present.

The fire and safety brief was displayed on the screens prior to the commencement of the meeting.

FGS.260 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

FGS.264	Allotments – update on current position	Councillor R J Barry	Allotment Holder
FGS.264	Allotments – update on current position	Councillor A M Dearing	Allotment Holder
FGS.264	Allotments – update on current position	Councillor J A Dearing	Allotment Holder
FGS.264	Allotments – update on current position	Councillor G D Hyde	Allotment Holder
FGS.264	Allotments – update on current position	Councillor P J Jones	Allotment Holder
FGS.267	Kenilworth Twinning Association Update	Councillor P Austin	Member KTA
FGS.267	Kenilworth Twinning Association Update	Councillor R G Dickson	Member KTA
FGS.267	Kenilworth Twinning Association Update	Councillor G D Hyde	Member KTA

Councillor R Spencer made a Declaration of Interest in respect of any item that had a link to or association with Warwickshire County Council.

FGS.261 APOLOGIES

Councillors: S A Cooke.

FGS.262 MINUTES

Members NOTED the Minutes of the Finance and General Services Committee held on 11 November 2021. These were received and approved by the Town Council (KTC) on 02 December 2021.

MATTERS ARISING

FGS.263 CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor Michael Coker gave a verbal update regarding the recent market and the various festive initiatives taking place within the Town. The market was a success, well attended and over 30 stalls. A very successful shop window competition resulted in Samaritans preloved being overall winners. Santa Clause was very popular, eventually running out of gifts. Councillor Andrew Milton reported that the Cycle Stand had provided a useful opportunity to engage with young people.

Members thanked Councillors Michael Coker and Sam Cooke for their efforts. In addition, they requested letters of thanks go to – John Nichol (Santa Clause), Pop Voices Choir and Hugo Hawkins (for use of Discovery Property's car park).

Members NOTED this update.

The Chair informed Members that an email from WDC proposed reverting to a two date switch on for next years Christmas illuminations. This would help “hedge” against cancellation due to bad weather. Few cost savings were achieved in having a single date. There had also been adverse feedback from stall holders and charities who had to choose which event to attend, rather than being able to participate in both like they normally do.

Members AGREED with this proposal.

FGS.264 ALLOTMENTS – UPDATE ON CURRENT POSITION

The Town Clerk reported that legal matters remained in progress in relation to the transfer of the Allotment Land at Beehive Hill that is taking place from Warwick District Council to Kenilworth Town Council. A recent email from the Town Councils Solicitor was read out.

Members expressed frustration at what should be a straightforward process. An amount of stalling by Warwick District Council was identified and WDC Members were encouraged to pursue this. In the meantime, The Town Council has a clearly proposed solution and it should be made clear that this is the only way we will accept the transfer.

Members NOTED this update.

STANDING MATTERS

FGS.265 REVIEW OF GRANTS AWARDED 2020-2021

Members NOTED that no updates had been submitted.

FGS.266 INTERNAL AUDIT – REPORTS AND ACTION

Members NOTED that no updates were due.

FGS.267 TWINNING

Councillor G Hyde reported that Roccalumera were arranging a low key signing ceremony.

Councillor James Kennedy reported that the Project Working Group were currently looking at changes to Kenilworth road signage, pursuant to twinning with Roccalumera and will report to the next Town Council.

Members NOTED this update.

NEW MATTERS

FGS.268 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING – KENILWORTH RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Members considered an application for Funding support in the sum of up to £450.00 from Kenilworth Rugby Football Club. Members discussed this application for a Minor Grant and it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED that the sum of up to £450.00 be granted to Kenilworth Lions, from the Grants (Town Events) budget.

FGS.269 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING –LONDON NORTH WEST RAILWAY SOCIETY

Members considered an application for Funding support in the sum of up to £100.00 from London North West Railway Society. Members discussed this application for a Minor Grant and it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED that the sum of up to £100.00 be granted to London North West Railway Society , from the Grants (Town Events) budget.

FGS.270 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF SPEND – NOTICEBOARD

Members considered a request from Kenilworth Allotments Tenants Association (KATA) for purchase of a notice board. It was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED to approve a request from the Kenilworth Allotments Tenants Association (KATA) for a Community Noticeboard to be purchased by Kenilworth Town Council (KTC), and installed and maintained by KATA at the Odiborne Allotments, at a cost of £1279.14 exc of vat .(In addition to any costs incurred by KTC for permissions).

The Town Clerk reported that any necessary permissions will be pursued.

FGS.271 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-2023

The Chair outlined published budget proposals and his financial reserves forecast, prepared following discussions with Group Leaders.

These were considered in detail, discussing issues line by line.

Protracted debate took place regarding the level of reserves and future pressures. Members agreed that this was a collaborative budget and congratulated those involved in its preparation.

Consequently it was proposed by Councillor J Cooke, seconded by Councillor P Jones and:

RECOMMENDED unanimously, that Kenilworth Town Council adopts a budget based on submitted figures, amounting to a total spend of £235,377. The precept for the financial year 2022-2023 should be set at £20.71 per household (Band D). The balance of funding for any adopted budget, beyond that provided by the precept, and other identified income, will be drawn from the earmarked and General reserves.

FGS.272 NEXT MEETING

Members NOTED that the next scheduled meeting of the Finance and General Services Committee will take place on Thursday 03 February 2022, at 7pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.03 pm.

Signed

Dated.....