

Kimberley Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Kimberley Town Council held on the 28th January, 2021. This meeting was held under the “Zoom” remote conferencing system, with participants located separately, using appropriate technology. On line and connected were the following. The meeting commenced at 1900hrs

Attending

	Cllr S Bain	
	Cllr K Boettge	
	Cllr N Doherty	
	Cllr J Diamond	
	Cllr N Oakden	(Arriving later from a previous appointment)
	Cllr T Rood	Chairman
	Cllr E Tansley	
	Cllr J Wickham	
	Cllr I Wilson	
County Cllr	Cllr P Owen	
Council Officers	Malcolm Plumb	Acting Town Clerk
	Sue Nolan	Assistant Town Clerk/RFO
Public Member	Gordon Barksby	

515 Apologies for absence

(Town) Cllr J Pearce
(Town) Cllr R Plumb
Borough Cllr M Crow
Borough Cllr R Robinson (written report submitted)

516 Declarations of interest

- Cllr T Rood declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 (Accounts)
- Acting Town Clerk Malcolm Plumb declared a none pecuniary interest in the first bullet point, confidential items agenda.

517 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on the 23rd November, 2020, having been circulated to all Councillors were taken as read and noted. Subject to the following amendments the meeting adopted the minutes as a true and accurate record and approved their signature by the Chairman at a future convenient date.

518 **Reports upon action taken from the November 2020 Town Council meeting**

- **Stag Recreation Ground.** Cllr Wilson provided details upon the replacement, repair and maintenance of play equipment and ground re surfacing. After discussion, the meeting **noted** proposals for much of this work to proceed. Sue Nolan, Assistant Town Clerk/RFO reported upon the insurance aspect of this item of business
- **Free parking in Kimberley.** Acting Town Clerk reported that a detailed request had been submitted to the Borough Council for these charges to be withdrawn. A detailed response had been received shortly before the meeting, explaining why the Borough Council could not accede to this request. After a short discussion, it was **agreed** to circulate a copy of the Borough Councils response to all Town Councillors, for further consideration at an early future meeting of the Town Council
- **Petanque pitch provision.** Acting Town Clerk reported that work upon this new provision had been limited to site clearance and toilets cleaning because of inclement weather conditions. An order for the required materials will be issued shortly. Cllr J Diamond suggested the pitch needs to be sited a reasonable distance from the Bowls pavilion. This was **noted** by the meeting.
- **Stag recreation ground.** Cllr T Rood (Council Chairman) reported that work on the installation of access road speed “bumps” and “safety signage had also been delayed by inclement weather conditions. Installation work will begin as soon as possible, weather permitting. Report **noted**.
- **Residential development Edgwood Road/Abba Close.** .Acting Town Clerk reported that he had submitted a request for the planning consultation period to be extended to allow the Town Council to consider the implications of this development proposal. (**Noted**). During the ensuing discussion, the meeting expressed serious reservations upon the following aspects. Inadequate vehicular access to this large development: Housing drainage arrangements; Housing character inconsistent with existing properties; resulting traffic congestion with the main Road; Site drainage concerns. It was therefore **agreed** to advise the Borough Council of the Town Councils concerns, immediately.
- **Kimberley Town War memorial up lighting.** Cllr T Rood (Chairman) reported because of weather conditions, only site clearance work had been carried out. Subject to this constraint, work upon the up lighting should start within two weeks. **Report noted**.
- **Co option of new Town Councillors.** The Acting Town Clerk reported that a new expression of interest had been received in being co-opted on the Town Council as Councillor. The Candidate had signed a declaration of compliance

with the statutory requirements for becoming a Councillor. It was **agreed** details to be circulated to all Town Councillors for consideration at the next Town Council meeting.

519 **Reports from the Borough Councillors**

Circulated to all Town Councillors, via e mail, was a detailed report from Borough Councillor Richard Robinson. This report referred to his lobbying the Borough Council in relation free parking in Kimberley; grant for a defibrillator (approved);provisions for vaccination services within the Borough; parking problems , junction of Valley Road/Awsworth Lane; car parking problems over tactiles; provision of business grants throughout the Borough including Kimberley. After discussion, the meeting **recorded** its appreciation for the information report from Councillor Robinson and for his support for the above mentioned grant.

520 **Report from the County Councillor**

County Councillor Philip Owen gave a detailed report upon Council Matters which included the following Station Road Re surfacing; High Street to be re surfaced in March; Traffic regulation order for Knowle Hill/Nottingham Road and Swingate School junction; Investigations upon vehicular obstructions and safety bollards. In response to a question from Town Councillor Ellis Tansley, Cllr Owen agreed to look into the question resurfacing/regression work on Maws Lane and Mill Road School area. After discussion, Cllr Owen's report was **noted**. He was thanked for his attendance at the meeting, his support for the above mentioned report of a grant, and his informative report.

521 **Kimberley Town Council Annual budget/precept 2021/22**

- Cllr J Diamond, Chairman of the Town Council's Finance Committee, reported that following a detailed review of the current financial year's expenditure and income, and the likely financial situation for the forthcoming financial year, The Council's Finance Committee was recommending an **unchanged precept** for the financial year 2021/22. He therefore proposed this motion on the Committee's behalf for adoption and was seconded by Cllr K Boettge. Upon the motion being put to the meeting, it was **carried without dissent**. Chairman and Town Council's RFO to sign the notification to the Borough Council and submit.
- Cllr J Diamond reported that the Acting Town Clerk has reviewed the position in relation to the high level of reserve funds, held by the Town Council compared to the Governments official guide "Governance and Accountability

for Smaller Authorities in England". A particular element of the guide lays down guidelines for appropriate limits upon excessive variations to recommended limits. The Town Councils reserves are well above these limits but can be justified if the Council can, specifically, give acceptable reasons. Taking into account the November 2019 building survey report upon the Parish Hall and Recreation Pavilions, this report confirms that **substantial, capital costs** will be incurred either through substantial renovations or, alternatively, complete replacements. Such costs can only be met by a large capital contribution from the Town Councils own financial resources, supported by grants from grant making Bodies and "loans" from the Public Works loans Board (a "mortgage"). The Finance Committee therefore recommends that the Town Council **formally records** its view that these circumstances justify the Town Council current level of high financial reserves. After a full discussion, the meeting **adopted** the Finance Committee's recommendation. And that it is **so recorded**.

522 **Worlds Climate Emergency. Town Councils Policy Statement.**

Cllr K Boettge addressed the meeting in support of a proposal that the Town Council considers and adopts a detailed policy statement "noting its serious concerns relating to the growing crisis facing the whole world in relation to the world climate and worsening state of the world's environment". The Statement would specify" the Town Councils and Community's contribution to contribute to the work in dealing with these problems, both locally and nationally, taking into account its limitations from legal and financial constraints"

During the ensuing discussion, the questions were asked upon (a) what would such a policy involve, in practical terms, (b) what is the experience from other Local Councils in adopting such a policy and (c), should advice be sought from the environmental agency?

After a full discussion, the meeting **resolved** to hold the (already proposed) Extra Ordinary Town Council meeting on the 11th February 2021, commencing at 1900hrs, to consider, and possibly adopt a Policy Statement, appropriate to the Kimberly Community.

523 **Correspondence**

The contents of the list of correspondence was received and **noted by the meeting**. The Assistant Town Clerk/RFO reported upon a request to use the Parish Hall for first aid training for children/young people. It was agreed to consider this request at the next Town Council meeting. In response to a question upon the reason for circulating

a list of correspondence, the Assistant Town Clerk/RFO explained the purpose for this agenda item.

524 **Accounts for payment.**

The meeting **received and noted** the schedule of payments totalling £2,878.82 which had been circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting

525 **Questions/statements from members of the public**

Mr Gordon Barksby raised the following matters

- When the “hearing loop” for the Parish Hall would be installed (**Noted for consideration**).
- The unsatisfactory state of the disabled access path to the Kimberley Church (**Clr Wilson to investigate**)

526 **Dates of next meetings**

Extra Ordinary Town Council Meeting	11 th February, 2021
Monthly Town Council meeting	25 th February. 2021

527 **Exclusion of the public and press**

It was **resolved** that in view of the remaining items of business being classified as “exempt” in accordance with the appropriate legislation,, the Public and press be excluded from the meeting at this point. The matters concern personnel and contractual items of business. The Chairman therefor thanked the member of the Public for his interest, and his “on line” connection was closed.

NOTE. Consideration of the remaining items of business are recorded on a separate formal attachment to the minutes record, as a confidential item, for the information of Town Councillors and Council Officers **ONLY**

Kimberley Town Council

Town Council Meeting

28th January, 2021

Confidential attachment to the minutes of the above meeting of the Town Council, for the information of Town Councillors and Council Officers ONLY. (Exempt items classified under the appropriate statute.)

528 Appointment of permanent Town Clerk. Report

“““The Acting Town Clerk reported that the advertisement for this appointment had now appeared on all the Town notice boards, in the Council “Facebook” page and circulated to Town and Parish Councils by Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Associations of Local Councils. Closing date was the 31st January, 2021.

As at the date of this meeting, only one application had been received. The Acting Town Clerk clarified that he would need to declare a none pecuniary interest in respect of a past working relationship in a local Council with this Candidate. He could therefore take little part in the selection process, except perhaps in respect of a very general nature.

After a full discussion, it was **agreed** to advise the Borough Council of this vacancy; extend the closing date for receipt of applications and advise NALC of this extension. It was further agreed to offer a “Zoom” system interview with the Candidate held by members of the HR Committee, managed by Sue Nolan, Assistant Town Clerk.

529 Current Staff working arrangements

The Acting Town Clerk reported that following discussions with Sue, Assistant Town Clerk/RFO, amended working times had been arranged where separate working time had been agreed in order to comply with the Government’s distance working rules. Whilst this would increase the risk of “lone workers” elements, the Council office would be open for longer hours. After **noting** this report, it was suggested that the rear door of the hall be kept locked for additional security during these time.

530 Stag Recreation Ground. Re surfacing of fire damaged ground. Equipment replace and repair.

Cllr J Wilson gave a report upon preparations for carrying out this work Contract/quotes were being sought for Insurance purposes and work will, hopefully, commence shortly. The current estimated cost of repairs and replacement of equipment was in the order of £6,000. After discussion the report was **noted**. Cllr

Wilson and Assistant Town Clerk to implement this work as soon as possible. It was further **agreed** that the Town Council Handyman carry out appropriate cleaning work to the equipment and weeding work, weather permitting, as soon as possible.

531 **Web Site Replacement/development**

The Acting Town Clerk reported that despite inviting four more Web Site Company's to quote for this work, no responses had been received. Consequently, only two quotations had been submitted. The Council's Financial Regulations required a minimum of three quotations.

After a full discussion, it was **agreed** that Cllrs S Bain and I Wilson assist in the search for more quotations. Acting clerk to provide copy of the original invitation.

532 **Purchase of updated office I.T equipment and new Account software.**

The Assistant Town Clerk/RFO reported that an order for the new accounts software from RBS Company had now been placed and arrangement are in hand for its installation, effective from the 1st April, 2021. Further quotes were being sought for update I.T. "hardware", which is currently estimated at about £1,200.

After discussion the report was **noted**. Work to proceed with a high priority level.

533 **Pallet truck hand pump. (Moving of Toll Bar Square container)**

The Assistant Town Clerk/RFO reported upon an offer from the Borough Council to purchase an appropriate lifting/transporting item of equipment at an estimated cost of £215. After discussion it was **agreed to accept** this offer.

534 **Provision of floral hanging baskets, Town Centre.**

The Assistant Town Clerk/RFO reported that last year's Contractor for this work had quoted an unchanged cost for this provision for 2021. (Cost £2,668). After discussion, it was **resolved** to accept this quotation.

535 **Lighting for the Chapel on the Hill toilets.**

The Chairman, Cllr T Rood, reported that additional lighting for the toilets was required and advised that the most inexpensive system was a "Solar powered" light. It was **agreed** that quotations be obtained and authorised work to be carried out as soon as possible

536 **Provision of an additional defibulator**

The Chairman, Cllr T Rood, that there was a need for an additional defibulator at the Swingate location. The Local Pub provided, internally a defibrulator. It was suggested that this be re sited outside the Pub, subject to the Landlords agreement. After discussion, it was agreed that an application for a grant towards the cost be made to the Borough Council and if this was agreed, work to proceed as soon as possible

537 **Items for referral to next meeting of the Town Council**

The Acting town Clerk reported (for record purposes) that 3 further items will need to be considered by the Town Council during the next meeting. They were as follows.

Application for grant towards the cost of new tree's

Disabled access to Kimberley Church

Co Option of new Town Councillors

Report **noted**

At this point, the Acting Town Clerk left the meeting in order to facilitate discussion of the remaining item of business. Assistant Town Clerk/RFO to officiate and record.

538 **Period of Contract. Acting Town Clerk. Malcolm Plumb**

Cllr T Rood, Council Chairman reported that the current contract term for the Acting Town Clerk, Malcolm Plumb, was due to expire at the end of February, 2021. Mr Plumb was willing to continue in this role should the Town Council so wish and need, but he was hopeful of finally retiring in July, 2021 following his 80th birthday.

After a full discussion, it was **resolved**; that his contract is again extended to the end of July 2021, unless a satisfactory appointment is made in the meantime of a permanent Town Clerk.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked Councillors for their attendance and contributions, and **closed the meeting at 2130hrs.**