

Kimberley Town Council

Minutes of an extra ordinary meeting of the Kimberley Town Council held on the 11th February, 2021. This meeting was held under the “Zoom” remote conferencing system, with Participants located at separate locations, using appropriate technology. “On line” and connected were the following. The meeting commenced at 1900hrs.

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| Attending | Cllr S Bain Cllr K Boettge Cllr N Doherty Cllr J Dymond Cllr N Oakden Cllr J Pearce Cllr T Rood Cllr E Tansley Cllr I Wilson | Chairman |
| Council Officers | Malcolm Plumb Sue Nolan | Acting Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk/RFO. |
| Public Members | Two | |

538 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following

Cllr S McEntee
Cllr R Plumb
Cllr J Wickham
County Cllr. P Owen

539 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interests were made by attending Councillors in respect of items listed on the formal agenda.

540 Town Councils Environmental Policy

Cllr K Boettge, as the original proposer for the creation of a new Environmental Policy, opened the discussions by speaking in support of her proposals in support for a Town Council Environmental Policy, the details of which she had previously circulated to all Councillors. Amongst the points raised by Cllr Boettge were:-

- The seriousness of the Planets climate change and the wholesale damage to the Worlds environment. Cllr Boettge accordingly asked the Town Council to “declare a climate emergency” in accordance with the details specified in her paper circulated to Councillors.
- The consensus of support, amongst all Political Parties for the urgent development of new Environmental Policies, both locally, nationally and internationally.
- The considerable evidence emerging from many authoritative sources confirming this as a growing **CRISIS**.
- Responsibility for dealing with this worsening environmental situation **MUST** involve local Communities, National Governing Bodies and International action.
- Accordingly, local Councils all need to make their own contributions by establishing local Policies and taking action themselves and by pressing other organisations to take positive actions as well.

During a prolonged debate upon various aspects of this matter, many opinions were expressed, all of which were in general support for establishing a formal Town Council Policy. Amongst the many points raised and debated were as follows

1. It was confirmed that amongst many Political, democratic organisations there was strong support for urgent action to arrest and reverse the current decline
2. One example of this crisis, locally was the increased incidence of flooding
3. Guidelines upon what specific kinds of action, which could be considered by Town/Parish Councils, were readily available and offered help and assistance to Local Councils upon how to make valuable and effective contributions locally, to combat this growing crisis.
4. It was important to ensure that, should the Town Council adopt and act upon this policy, any action is within the law, is effective, practical, feasible, and financially within appropriate budgetary limits.

Two specific proposals had therefore been put forward. Firstly by Cllr K Boettge, and secondly by Cllr S Bain (with Cllr J Diamond). These were debated upon how a new policy might be brought into operation, what specific actions would be included, the management and organisation of the work and other operational details. The consensus view was that the adoption of the principle of an Environmental Policy was justified. However, the detailed proposal from Cllr Cllr. K Boettge, (previously circulated to all Councillors) was not supported by the meeting. Cllr S Bain then proposed the following which again, he had already circulated to all Councillors, prior to the meeting. His Proposal was seconded by Cllr J Diamond

- Kimberley Town Council acknowledges the need for emergency global action to be taken to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere and to control other sources of environmental damage.
- It is committed to take an active part in programmes initiated at National, County, and District levels
- With that in mind, it will appoint its own Working Group of Councillor Members to investigate and advise on how this may be done locally, and what the Town Council might do on its own initiative

Upon this proposal being put to the full meeting, it was **APPROVED** by 8 votes **FOR** with one abstention. Working party to appoint its own Chair, and to commence work ASAP. A first meeting is being held on 11th March, 2021. (8 Councillors specifically expressed a willingness to join the Working Party)

541 Date of next meetings

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| Town Council meeting | Thursday 25 th February, 2021 |
| Environmental Working Party | Thursday 11 th March, 2021 |

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all Councillors for their contribution and closed the meeting at 2010 hrs.
