

Town Council

Minutes of Meeting

Kidsgrove Town Council
Victoria Hall
Liverpool Road
Kidsgrove
Staffordshire

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Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2021, 7:00pm, Victoria Hall

21-22-FC3-01 Present

Cllrs Cooper (Chair), Dickens, Dymond, Allport, V Jukes, M Maxfield, H Maxfield, Burnett, B Owen, Robinson, Stubbs, J Waring, P Waring.

Attending: Sue Davies (Clerk), Elizabeth Norton (Assistant Clerk)

No members of the public present.

21-22-FC3-02 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Burgess and J Owen.

21-22-FC3-03 To note declarations of members interests.

None.

21-22-FC3-04 Public Participation

No members of the public present.

21-22-FC3-05 To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 21st June 2021.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting of 21st June 2021 were approved.

21-22-FC3-06 To receive and note the following draft minutes of Committee Meetings not previously presented to Council:

a) The following minutes were received by the Council:

- Draft minutes of the Environment and Allotments Committee Meeting of the 1st July 2021.

Chair

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- Draft minutes of the Events and Community Committee Meeting of the 8th July 2021.
 - The approved minutes of the Finance and General Purposes of the 15th June 2021.
- b) The receipt of the following minutes was deferred until the meeting of the 9th September:**
- Finance and General Purposes Committee of the 15th July 2021.
 - Planning, Infrastructure and Highways Committee of the 12th July 2021.

21-22-FC3-07 Matters Arising – To receive updates on any matters arising from previous meetings including:

a) Internal Audit Actions –

The Clerk confirmed that the audit actions are either resolved or in progress. A list of contractors and review dates is being compiled for review by F&GP. The risk assessment is due for review and will incorporate the inclusion of supplier fraud.

21-22-FC3-08 Finances:

a) To receive bank statement and reconciliations dated 30th June 2021.

The bank statements and reconciliations dated 30th June 2021 were received and noted by the Council.

b) To receive the summary financial data dated 30th June 2021.

A financial summary dated 30th June 2021 was received and noted by the Council.

c) To receive the Quarter 1 Financial report from the Clerk and resolve to approve any recommendations or otherwise.

The Council received the quarter 1 budget report.

Resolved: To approve the recommendations:

- Vire £600 from 4027 (office costs) to 4011 (ICT software and support.)
- Add a further £1000 to 4011 (ICT and software support) from general reserves.
- To move £2000 into 4094 – External contractor cleaning – from general reserves and review again at the end of quarter 2.

d) To receive a statement of reserves.

Resolved: The council approved the Statement of Reserves dated 31st March 2021.

The Clerk informed that this document will be posted onto the website.

e) To receive an update on the Council's VAT position in relation to exempt business as reported at audit.

The Clerk reported that she had reported the VAT situation for 2020-2021 to the internal auditor. There was no exempt business activity for the year due to Covid-19.

f) To receive and approve the schedule of payments requiring approval.

Deferred.

21-22-FC3-09 Boundary Review Consultation:

- a) To consider and agree a response or otherwise to the boundary review consultation.**

The Council agreed there was no response other than that resolved below in part (b).

- b) To receive a motion from Cllr J Waring that Kidsgrove Town Council support a name change of the constituency to ‘Stoke-on-Trent North, Kidsgrove and Talke’.**

Considerations of a name change was discussed and an amendment to the motion was put forward by Cllr M Maxfield of ‘Stoke on Trent North and Kidsgrove Districts’.

Resolved: The Council agreed to support a name change to ‘Stoke on Trent North and Kidsgrove Districts’ by majority vote.

The Clerk agreed to submit this proposal to the consultation.

21-22-FC3-10 Newchapel Recreation Ground: To receive a proposal from Cllr Cooper regarding the naming of this ground and to approve the recommendations or otherwise (Appendix 6).

Resolved: It was agreed by a majority show of hands, the area of discussion would be referred to as Newchapel Recreation Ground by the Town Council. It was acknowledged that the concern of some residents that the ‘nick-name’ causes offence to some people and the Town Council agreed that this name will not be used by the Town Council.

A proposal was also received to write to Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council to clarify and confirm the name, and request that signage be installed clearly displaying this to affirm the name going forward.

21-22-FC3-11 Talke Mining Memorial/Monument: To receive a request from the community group regarding future ownership and maintenance and to approve the recommendations or otherwise.

Resolved: The Council received the report and agreed, in principle, to the request from the community group to take responsibility of the memorial once installed.

21-22-FC3-12 Victoria Hall – To hear a verbal update from the Clerk and F&GP members relating to a concession request and grant application for a request for a hall booking for an event to raise money for charity and to resolve to delegate the grant application request (£1000) to F&GP to allow the concession and grant application to be considered alongside each other.

Resolved: The Council received a verbal report from the Clerk and agreed by a majority show of hands that the matter be delegated to the F&GP committee including consideration of the grant request, noting that this is a deviation from the grants policy in place being an amount over £500.

21-22-FC3-13 To receive any feedback from NULBC and Staffordshire County Council and also the Town Council’s representatives on other bodies:

- a) Staffordshire County Council (Cllrs Burnett and J Waring) –**

Cllr Burnett updated on the status of current pot holes in the area and that those that are at a ‘dangerous’ depth are being dealt with as a priority. Cllr Burnett also informed that there are a number of gullies blocked in the area that are going to be addressed.

Burnett also emphasised that Covid Vaccinations are now being encouraged for younger adults that are eligible.

Cllr J Waring updated on the national Bus strategy for England 'Bus Back Better', hoping to improve bus facilities and that not all discontinued routes will be reinstated and therefore funding is being acquired to help some of those areas.

b) NULBC (all Borough Councillors present) –

Cllr Dymond raised concern of the gullies in the Talke and Butt Lane area not being addressed. Cllr Burnett advised that she received an email from David Greatbatch, trash screens at known locations and now being inspected on a monthly basis, they were last visited between 16th and 20th July. Outstanding work to clear debris is being checked.

c) Kidsgrove LAP (Cllr J Waring) –

Cllr J Waring advised she is waiting on restrictions to book a room to arrange a meeting.

d) Talke and Butt Lane LAP (Cllr K Robinson) –

Cllr Robinson advised he is waiting on restrictions to lift to resume meetings.

e) Town Deal Board (Cllr Stubbs) –

Cllr Stubbs advised that the meeting was deferred to September and therefore no update to provide at this time.

f) SPCA (Cllr S Burgess)

Cllr Burgess not present.

g) Kidsgrove Rotary (Cllr Dickens)

Cllr Dickens updated on the following:

- The Book Bus, going out to residents who are isolated encourages people to chat and is an opportunity to combat social isolation.
- Cllr Dickens also updated on the Dementia Friendly Initiative where Rotary is working with the Town Council, noting information sessions and planned Sensory Gardens.

h) Royal British Legion (Cllr Dymond)

Cllr Dymond advised the Royal British Legion are waiting on an AGM meeting to be organised by the County.

i) Go Kidsgrove (Cllr P Waring)

Cllr P Waring advised they are hoping to arrange a meeting next month.

j) Kidsgrove Sports Centre Group (Cllr G Burnett)

Cllr Burnett updated that the pool has now all been stripped out and the gym equipment is on order. The booking in systems have also been ordered and looking on track to open Spring 2022.

k) Talke Mining Memorial Group (Cllr S Dymond) –

Cllr Dymond reported further to the item above in FC-11. Cllr Stubbs is working with the group to assist in a Heritage Lottery Application and plans can't progress until monies have been secured. Go Fund pages are still live.

21-22-FC3-14 CCIN membership – to receive an update.

Cllr Stubbs reported that he has been tasked by the CCIN with producing a document for all councils across the country relating to training. There are opportunities for projects within your area where you are looking to engage with community groups with grants available for £50,000 and £5000. Applications will be opening for this from late September, and Councillors were encouraged to let the Clerk know if they have any projects in consideration for this.

21-22-FC3-15 Council Meetings: To receive an update from the Clerk.

The Clerk updated that social distancing will be kept in place and microphones to be used to improve sound in the meetings. It was addressed the layout of the tables need to be looked at for the next meeting.

21-22-FC3-16 To receive Mayor and Clerk's reports and correspondence received.

The Clerk advised that most correspondence received had been discussed earlier in the meeting. There was correspondence received from MP Jonathan Gullis in regards adding Newchapel Recreation Ground to our CCTV coverage which the Clerk confirmed is already in hand. There was also a suggestion of a tuck shop to the same area, however discussions of an Ice Cream concession by NULBC have taken the need for this.

The Mayor updated on events starting to open up as Covid restrictions relax. The Mayor will be in attendance at the renaming of the bar at the Clough Hall pub and also veterans breakfast next month.

Cllr P Waring wanted to advise on an agenda item from the Newcastle Borough Meeting, where there is an opportunity to access provision of trees and advice on planting and will send the details onto The Clerk for the Town Council to look at getting involved with.

21-22-FC3-17 To agree the date and time of the next meeting: Thursday 9th September 2021.

21-22-FC3-18 Matters to be considered with the Press and Public Excluded:

Exclusion of press and public: To resolve under 1960 (admission to meetings) Act to exclude the press and public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

Resolved: To move exclude the press and public for the following items:

21-22-FC3-19 CCTV: To receive the first draft of the SLA for comment.

The Clerk circulated the draft SLA ready to be reviewed by the Town Council's solicitor

Resolved: To authorise the expenditure required for the use of Staffordshire Council legal department to review the SLA and to authorise associated legal costs.

The Clerk emphasised the document should not be released into the public domain until it has finally been agreed.

Meeting Closed 21:20 pm