

Town Council

Minutes of Meeting

Kidsgrove Town Council
Victoria Hall
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Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 24th February 2022, 7:00pm, Meeting held at The Victoria Hall, Kidsgrove.

21-22-FC8-01 Present

Cllrs A Cooper (Chair), D Allport, S Burgess, G Burnett, A Cartwright, S Dymond, V Jukes, M Maxfield, J Owen, B Owen, J Waring, P Waring.

Attending: Sue Davies (Clerk)

Two members of the public were present (one arriving during item 22-22-FC7-06).

21-22-FC8-02 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C Dickens, H Maxfield and K Robinson.

21-22-FC8-03 To note declarations of members interests.

Cllr M Maxfield declared an interest in the approval of the payment to Friends of Kidsgrove Station due to being a member of that group.

Cllr G Burnett declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 9a to consider a grant application received from Kidsgrove Sports Centre Community Group due to be a trustee of that group. Cllr Burnett informed that she would leave the room during debate and consideration of that item.

21-22-FC8-04 Public Participation

No members of the public present.

21-22-FC8-05 To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 20th January 2022.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting of Thursday 20th January 2022 were approved.

21-22-FC8-06 To receive and note the following draft minutes of Committee Meetings not previously presented to Council:

The following minutes were received by the Council:

Chair

- Approved minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 13th January 2022.

Receipt of the following draft minutes to be deferred.

- Draft minutes of Planning, Infrastructure and Highways held on the 25th January 2022.
- Draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 11th February 2022.
- Draft minutes of the Environment and Allotments Committee meeting held on the 17th February 2022.

Note:

- Draft minutes of the Events and Communities Committee held on the 22nd February 2022. – This meeting didn't progress due to being inquorate.

21-22-FC8-07 Matters Arising – To receive updates on any matters arising from previous meetings:

None raised.

21-22-FC8-08 Finances:

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

Resolved: The schedule of payments was approved by the Council. (Appendix 1)

b) To receive and approve the bank reconciliations and bank statements dated 31st December 2022.

The bank reconciliations and bank statements dated 31st December 2021 were received by the Council.

The Clerk informed that the statement from the NSI has not been received.

21-22-FC8-09 To receive a 10-month Budget Summary including Earmarked reserves.

The Clerk presented and the Council received a month 10 budget and earmarked reserves summary.

21-22-FC8-10 Grants and donations: To consider and resolve to approve or otherwise the following grant applications:

a) Grant application received from Kidsgrove Sports Centre.

Cllr G Burnett left the meeting at this point.

The Council heard an update on the consideration of the grant to date, including a presentation given to the F&GP to present the business case.

The Council considered the recommendations from the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

An amendment to the proposal was suggested to increase the grant award to £70,000 from £55,000 recommended by F&GP and it was noted that £70,000 approximates to the total amount requested minus the VAT.

The Clerk, as RFO, when asked, stated that £70,000 was feasible by taking the extra money from general reserves, but advised the council that to take care not to reduce general reserves too far.

It was noted that there would be no further opportunity for large grant to be considered in the current financial year due to the next Full Council meeting being the 31st March 2022. It was suggested by the chair and agreed by those present to consider the grant application in agenda item 9b (Tom Lowe Golden Gloves ABC) and then to resume consideration of this grant. (See 21-22-FC8-10 d)

Cllr G Burnett returned to the room.

b) Grant Application received from the Tom Lowe Golden Gloves ABC.

It was noted that since receiving the application for £12,000, the group has learned that space at the Sports Centre will not be available within four months. The Sports Centre Community Group are liaising with the Boxing Group to ascertain if any financially viable long-term solutions are possible using some space on their site.

Sustainability concerns were raised, and while a desire to support a good organisation was expressed, it was not felt viable to use precept money unless the future of the club could be secured.

It was noted that the group are trying to secure alternative premises.

The Council **resolved** as follows:

- That the Council earmark £6000 to be held as potential monies to help the group subject to further information being supplied.
- That the group are requested to liaise with the landlord to establish the lowest rent he would accept and to discuss the sustainability of the project with the group.
- The Council delegated further consideration and determination of this grant to the F&GP Committee to avoid the need for the application having to return to Full Council.

c) Grant Application from Signal 1's Cash for Kids.

Resolved: It was agreed that the council donate £500 from the donation budget line. It was noted that the charity has affirmed it will earmark the money for Kidsgrove Civil Parish residents.

d) Grant application received from Kidsgrove Sports Centre – continued.

Cllr G Burnett again left the meeting.

The Council noted that an amendment to donate £70,000 to the original proposal of £55,000 had already been tabled and seconded. The Clerk noted to the Council that this amended amount is effectively the full amount requested minus the VAT.

A further amendment was tabled and seconded of £63,000.

Standing orders were temporarily suspended to allow Mr Rigby, a trustee of the group, to speak regarding the minimum amount which would be required to open the pool. It was noted that more equipment is needed than on this grant application but funding is being sought elsewhere.

Standing orders were resumed.

Resolved: The Council voted by majority show of hands to donate £70,000 to the Kidsgrove Sports Centre Community Group to fund the swimming pool cover and any other items they need to ensure they can get up and running and operational and

subject to agreement of any conditions. The extra money beyond the residual in the capital reserve fund, the grant budget line and the residual money in the allotment fencing budget line, will be taken from general reserves.

The conditions recommended by F&GP were considered individually and the following **resolved**:

- i. The recommendation that the Town Council LOGO be placed on the swimming pool cover was amended to the Sports Centre's suggestion made to the Clerk that a plaque be placed in the foyer.
- ii. The request for representation on the Trustee Board was debated and it was reported that this might not be viable for the sports group. It was noted that Cllr G Burnett, although on the board, isn't representing the Town Council as she represents Staffordshire County Council but also that she does provide some feedback at Full Council. The recommendation was waived by the council and an alternative condition agreed that a feedback report be provided to the Town Council on a bimonthly (every two months) basis for the next six months.
- iii. That the clerk liaises with Mr Rigby to ensure that enough information has been provided to satisfy the Town Council audit requirements.

Cllr G Burnett returned to the room.

21-22-FC8-11 To receive a draft Appraisal Policy for approval or otherwise. (To follow separately)

This item was deferred.

21-22-FC8-12 Victoria Hall Matters:

The Clerk updated on the LOLER testing and the need for the safety harness line in the roof space to be tested.

21-22-FC8-13 Members Item from Cllrs D Allport and D Dymond

The Council heard about the work of Tri-Services in Harriseahead and agreed with the proposal that the Clerk contact them to determine if the Town Council can potentially offer any support. Raised beds with planting to assist with the bees was suggested.

21-22-FC8-14 Planning Applications to be considered:

Planning Appeal 21/00532/FUL

2 Hawthorn Gardens Kidsgrove Stoke-On-Trent. Appeal against application decision.

Response: No comment.

22/00053/FUL

37 Ian Road, Kidsgrove, Staffordshire

Rendering to the front, side and rear of the property.

Response: No comment.

22/00019/FUL
57 Sands Road, Harriseahead, Stoke on Trent
Conversion of garage with extension.

Response: No comment.

22/00072/FUL
16 Cedar Avenue, Kidsgrove, Staffordshire
Proposed two storey rear extension inc. new window openings in front and side elevation.

Response: No comment.

22/00056/FUL
5 Lodge Road, Talke Pits
Installation of external wheel chair lift.

Resolved response: Kidsgrove Town Council support this application.

22/00073/FUL
5 Stadmorslow Lane, Harriseahead
Proposed ground floor side and rear extension.

Resolved response: Kidsgrove Town Council object to this application due to parking issues and highways safety.

22/00032/FUL
22 Clough Hall Road, Kidsgrove
Rear single storey extension

Response: No comment

22/00048/FUL
136 Chatterley Drive, Kidsgrove
Change of use from dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) to a respite care home (Use Class C2).

Response: No comment

22/00112/FUL
37 Millstone Avenue, Talke
Proposed Single Story Rear Extension of 4m in depth by 5.5m in length

Response: No comment

21-22-FC8-15 CCIN membership - to receive an update to include a request from Cllr M Stubbs regarding the CCIN Policy Prototype Process 2022 and to resolve to agree the proposal or otherwise

Cllr Stubbs informed the Council of funding available from the CCIN through the Policy Prototype Process and requested that an application be submitted with money to be used towards setting up a project to help with mental health in children. This would involve putting posters in schools with a number to text to ask for help. Cllr Stubbs further suggested using the CCIN procurement process. It was noted that the project may have residual costs in future years. The maximum bid is set at £2000 for a policy lab.

The Council felt that the cause was worthwhile. Cllr P Waring asked how much work would be involved for the money available. The Clerk also highlighted that the Council needs to be mindful that financial regulations are adhered to.

It was resolved to agree that the grant application progress and that Cllr Stubbs should draft the application and pass to the Clerk for submission into the process.

21-22-FC8-16 To receive any feedback from NULBC and Staffordshire County Council and also the Town Council's representatives on other bodies:

a) Staffordshire County Council

Cllr Burnett informed that Gloucester Rd is closed to enable a drain repair. Also, the gullies were cleaned the first week of February and that she is trying to get a road sweeper out. Cllr Dymond highlighted some potholes in the entrance to Tesco to Cllr Burnett.

Cllr J Waring informed of issues relating to heavy goods vehicles reversing and posts being put in to try and prevent this. There is still work to improve the footpath on Chester Rd. Also, on Jamage Rd, HGVs are a problem, and she has had a meeting with Amey to evaluate the possibility of a one-way system.

b) NULBC

None provided.

c) Kidsgrove LAP

Cllr J Waring informed that meetings will resume soon.

d) Talke and Butt Lane LAP

Cllr Allport also informed that meetings will resume soon.

e) Town Deal Board

Cllr Stubbs had missed the previous meeting but reported that the railway station plans are progressing well.

Cllr P Waring informed that the previous weeks Town Deal meeting focussed on the shared services of the station and on Chatterley Valley. The Board has been assured that the station will be much improved and appear as a new station upon completion of the work. Cllr P Waring also informed that the consultation exercised held in the Town Hall had been very well attended and informative.

f) SPCA

Cllr Burgess reported on a Finance and Purposes Committee meeting.

g) Kidsgrove Rotary

Cllr Dymond updated that the food hub at the Labour Club is doing well and is being assisted by Tesco. She confirmed that referrals are not required.

h) Royal British Legion

Cllr Dymond reported that the rededication of the War Memorial will occur on the 21st May 2022.

i) Go Kidsgrove

Cllr P Waring provided an update and informed meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month in the Jolly Brewer's meeting room. A competition is being run for the reintroduction of a calendar and an Easter Lamb trail over Easter.

j) Kidsgrove Leisure Centre Group

Cllr G Burnett informed that work is progressing well, and that the BBC Midlands will be visiting for a report. She also informed that adverts have gone out for a centre manager to start the beginning of June. The Clerk informed that a request had been made to interview in the chairman's room.

k) Talke Mining Memorial Group

Cllr Dymond informed that the Clerk will be progressing the grant application with the group. Cllr Allport informed that he will speak to the group regarding the original bank account as there may still be some funds.

21-22-FC8-17 To receive Mayor and Clerk's reports and correspondence received.

The Clerk informed that, after discussion with Cllr Cooper, the 17th March 2022 has been identified for the Annual Town Meeting. Furthermore, this would involve rearranging an Events and Community meeting which had been suggested for that night. It was agreed to launch the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire on that evening.

The Clerk informed of correspondence from the Town Crier confirming that he doesn't want his allowance, due to having few duties over the Covid-19 period and requesting that it be paid into the Mayor's charities.

The Clerk informed on the plans from the Events and Community Committee regarding the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. On the Thursday evening, there are three potential sites spread over the parish for beacons and an event in the Town Hall to raise money for the Mayor's charity. On the Saturday, a party is being arranged in Clough Hall Park. Volunteers were requested from members not on the Events and Community Committee.

The Clerk informed she would circulate a revised meeting schedule.

**21-22-FC8-18 To agree the date and time of the next meeting: Thursday, 31st March 2022.
Meeting Closed 20:50pm**

Matters to be considered with the Press and Public Excluded:

21-22-FC8-19 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.

The Council resolved that the probation period of the assistant clerk, E Norton, had been successfully completed.

DRAFT

Appendix 1 – Schedule of payments

29/02/2022		Kidsgrove Town Council 2021/22								
17:47		Invoices totalling £0.00 or more for the period 01/01/2022 to 28/02/2022								
Ledger	Month	Invoice Date	Date Due	Date Paid	Invoice Number	A/c Code	Customer Name	Net Value	Val Amnt	Invoice Total
1	10	01/01/2022	31/01/2022		INV-07416	SPSLTD	Shires Pay Services Ltd	35	7	42.00
1	10	01/01/2022	01/02/2022		15486	MIC01	Microshade Business Consultants	256.5	51.3	307.80
1	10	05/01/2022	21/01/2022		16836	WATER01	Waterman Environmental Services	315	63	378.00
1	10	15/01/2022	31/01/2022		73993	V2V01	Voice 2 Voice	10.5	2.1	12.60
1	10	17/01/2022	17/02/2022		99178	ALPH01	Alpha Business Comms LTD	93.77	18.75	112.52
1	10	21/01/2022	21/01/2022		152240	CALB01	Calbarrie Compliance Services	65	13	78.00
1	10	25/01/2022	25/02/2022		075-060270	KIWA	Kiwa CMT Testing	990	198	1,188.00
1	10	25/01/2022	25/02/2022		9/028/AT/2020	TPP	Thomson Planning Partnership Ltd	275	0	275.00
1	10	25/01/2022	25/02/2022		I39	GNP01	Good News Publishing	90	0	90.00
1	10	25/01/2022	25/02/2022		I47	GNP01	Good News Publishing	120	0	120.00
1	10	25/01/2022	25/02/2022		ZA320135-22	ICO	Information Commissioners Office	40	0	40.00
1	10	31/01/2022	31/01/2022		MEM238279-1	SLCC01	SLCC Enterprises Ltd	256	0	256.00
1	10	31/01/2022	28/02/2022		KLE-1125	KLS01	Kleenscape The Specialists	397.8	79.56	477.36
1	10	31/01/2022	28/02/2022		74603	V2V01	Voice 2 Voice	10.5	2.1	12.60

Also, to approve the payment of a £500 grant to the Friends of Kidsgrove Railway Station which is currently being processed.

Staff payroll January 2021 £7768.52

Also, to note that the renewal of the Office 365 accounts and domain hosting has been paid to Element Hosting in February to ensure continuity of service:

Acronis back-up: £120

Councillor basic accounts renewal - £1383.48

Officer full 365 pro accounts x4 - £647.52

Domain renewal (biennial) - £120.00

