



Victoria Hall Liverpool Road Kidsgrove Staffordshire ST7 4EL
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KIDSGROVE TOWN COUNCIL Full Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25th September 2025

Meeting started: 7.00pm Concluded: 9.30pm

Present: Cllr Jonathan Gullis (Chair), Cllr Dave Allport, Cllr Keith Cooper, Cllr Cressida Dickens, Cllr Sylvia Dymond, Cllr Andrew Gould, Cllr Dave Grocott, Cllr Steve Gallimore, Cllr Kevin Johnson, Cllr Mary Maxfield, Cllr Jason Owen, Cllr Sarah Pickup, Cllr Craig Skelding, Cllr Mike Stubbs, Cllr Ray Tait and Cllr Paul Waring.

Officer present: Nicola Antoney (Town Clerk)

Sue Woodward (Assistant Town Clerk)

The Mayor announced that the part two agenda item was being removed due to the staffing meeting not being quorate and that the meeting is being rescheduled.

FC/25-26/04/01 Apologies

Apologies were received and approved from:

Cllr Gill Burnett-Faulkner (personal)

Cllr Jill Waring (personal)

Cllr Simon Jones (personal)

Cllr Loren Skelding (personal)

FC/25-26/04/02 Declaration of Pecuniary and Other Interests

None were declared

FC/25-26/04/03 Public Participation

A Member of the public raised the query regarding the petition that had been raised regarding Cllr Jonathan Gullis and his position as Mayor and Town Councillor, in particular referencing his recent comments made with regards to current affairs.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the petition held no weight.

The Town Mayor responded and thanked the member of the public and advised that when he does his public speaking, it is as himself, not as a Town Councillor or Town Mayor and are his personal beliefs and opinions alone. They are not the opinion of the Town Council.

It was agreed that the Sentinel be contacted about using the image of the Town Mayor, when reporting on issues raised as a private citizen.

FC/25-26/04/04 County Councillors Reports

No written reports were submitted and no county councillors present

FC/25-26/04/05 Staffordshire Police

PCSO Matt Hough gave an update on the report that was previously circulated to members. The PCSO spoke about the lack lighting within Clough Hall Park and was waiting on responses to the inadequacy of the lighting and lack of it throughout the park. Natural lighting and artificial lighting was discussed. He also spoke about the CCTV within the park and how locations were being discussed on best locations to be cited so that a bigger area was covered. The pavilion is well covered by CCTV. Education was being used to educate people on the repercussion of anti-social behaviour.

The anti-social behaviour currently being experienced within the park and the cause of the increase. Potential reasons for this increase can be attributed to the nice summer which has been unprecedented.

Potential of locking park again was discussed. Borough Councillors to help the re citing of CCTV within the park. Better locks to be investigated for the tennis courts.

Mow Cop was raised with regards to car cruising. A Public Space Protection Order was now in place to help combat anti-social behaviour with regards to vehicles. Due to the location, this involves not only ourselves but Cheshire East and Staff Moorlands, with which multiple meetings have been had to help combat this issue.

The report contains an update regarding the new youth club that was started over the summer, which is now regularly attended by 30+ youths. An improvement has been seen amongst the attendees in behaviour and has helped early intervention from various aspects.

Lastly the PCSO spoke in regard to the SMART Alert and what it entailed and how people could be signed up to keep up to date with regards to any situations arising within in the community.

FC/25-26/04/06 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the minutes as an accurate record of the following meeting 24th July 2025.

FC/25-26/04/07 Committee Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the committee meetings:

- a) Finance and General-Purpose meeting held on 3rd September 2025.
- b) Staffing Committee meeting held on 16th September 2025.

FC/25-26/04/08 Committee Structure

The Clerk advised that the last three committee meetings of Events and Planning did not proceed due to being inquorate. Members discussed the current set up and discuss ways to prevent this from happening. Members also discussed the requirement of both committees, and the following was agreed.

It was **RESOLVED** to keep the current committee structure but with the proviso of emailing all councillors to ensure meetings are quorate. Also, that all planning applications to be emailed to all councillors.

It was noted that the Mayor will not be holding a Beer Festival this year due not being able to secure sponsorship. It was also noted that Cllr Kevin Johnson would be on hand to oversee the panto on Boxing Day this year due to the Mayor not being able to attend.

FC/25-26/04/09 Dementia Project Update

Cllr Dickens gave an update on the project to date specifically the café and the work currently being carried out. Cllr Dickens advised all dbs were up to date, and a discussion on the sensory garden was had and the impact that had. Visitors to the café project included the Alzheimer's Society. Cllr Dickens spoke about The Herbert Protocol was discussed and how that could be implemented. The Herbert Protocol is a form for carers, family, and friends to fill out with details about a vulnerable person, such as someone with dementia, to help police find them quickly if they go missing.

FC/25-26/04/10 Policies

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the following policies

- a) **Investment Treasury Management Policy**
- b) **Procurement Policy**
- c) **Reserves Policy**
- d) **Expenses Policy**
- e) **Gifts and Hospitality Policy**
- f) **Dignity at Work Policy**
- g) **Civility and Respect Pledge**

FC/25-26/04/11 Financial

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following:

- a) The bank reconciliation for July and August 2025
- b) To approve the payment list for July and August 2025
- c) To note the budget to date for 2025/26
- d) To note the Pay Award for 2025 – 2026
- e) To receive the council year to date Financial Position.
- f) To consider, discuss and approve the Ear Marked Reserves Report

The Clerk advised that due to some budgets being exceeded that transfer would be required from earmarked reserves as per the report.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following Ear Marked Reserves transfers and to delegate to the clerk to action:

- Staffing and Office £2,893.00
- CCTV Capital £3,560.00
- Environmental Improvements £729.00
- g) To consider, discuss and approve the DBS Report.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve for staff and some Cllrs to have a DBS check

- h) To note the External Audit

The Clerk advised that whilst it was hoped to have the external audit signed off, it was advised that a generic email was received the day before advising that there was potentially that the external auditors would not have the external audit signed off in time for the 30th September deadline and statement would need to go on the noticeboard and website.

FC/25-26/04/12 Town Council Office Space

Cllr Paul Waring updated the members on the situation with regards to the council office and advised that a meeting was had with the borough due to an invoice that had been received that was higher than expected. Cllr Waring also advised that this was the charge going forward and would need to be budgeted for in the up coming budget.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the lease and invoice and to delegate to the clerk the authority to sign on behalf of the Council.

FC/25-26/04/13 Quotes and Tenders

Members discussed the report of the clerk on the refurbishment of the kitchen. They wayed up each quote and what was included in each quote

It was **RESOLVED** to award the contract as recommended by Finance Committee to

- a) Award the contract to Kirklands.
- b) To delegate to the clerk full authority to oversee the project to competition.
- c) To delegate to the Clerk along with the Chair of Finance full authority to authorise any associated work required to complete the refurbishment subject to our Financial Regulations.

Victoria Hall Floor

The Clerk advised that due to the advice and one quote sought from a company that the council not replace the floor on a 3-quote system, due to our financial regulations it would need to go through a tender process. The Clerk advised that she is currently preparing a tender and once completed would forward to the chair of finance for review.

FC/25-26/04/14 Town Deal and Highways Improvement Updates

Cllr Waring gave an update as follows there is consultation on 18th October, 11am and 2pm on the old brown's garages, to discuss what is happening on the frontages of King Street. At the things like things like car parks have already been decided, however they would like to have feedback on things like benches, planters and such like. So, what is actually going to happen that whilst the car parks are done in Kidsgrove, brown's garages will be turned into a makeshift car park. In relation to the railway station, it looks like it will be completed in September/October 2027. It is East Midlands Railways are the people that are working on this and have got a really good level of agreement from Network Rail that they will carry out the work. This is on the buildings and car park with additional car parking. County Council have been asked if the land gifted to Network Rail that is not being used is gifted back so that the land can be used. Any specific question from councillors will be answered. The building itself was a surprised improvement whilst not quite what was wanted. Any improvements to the town can only enhance Kidsgrove. Hopefully going forward, it will be done smoothly. The social aspects of the shared hub have now gone across to the school who are building a building so all the adult education will be pulled into that, so now must do something with all that part including the car park. The redoing the car park and the roads will need to be done. When the decision was made not to do the shared services, then the criteria that met, now must be met in different way. There is a confidence for a need for starter units.

FC/25-26/04/15 Local Government Reorganisation

The Mayor advised that he had asked for this to be added to the agenda, having seen the two updates with the leader of the county given their vision of an east and west, Newcastle would be in the west side, that proposal has gone forward, using the M6 as an economic corridor, the city will be putting forward their proposal which include Newcastle Under Lyme, Stoke City Council and Staffordshire Moorlands, whether parliamentary boundary potentially used. Three proposal are now on the table and if no agreement between upper tier authority, then it would sit on the desk of Secretary of State and would be down to his decision. Keen to get views of the council on the proposal put forward.

Cllr Stubbs advised he was looking at what is next? He also raised the point of the universities and what the divisions would mean for them?

Once full submissions have been made for it to be raised at the next Full Council meeting in November.

Part Two

To consider a resolution under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and representatives of the press from the meeting during the discussion of the next items on the grounds that matters contain sensitive information and by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted

FC/25-26/04/16

It was **RESOLVED** to under Section 1 of the Public Bodies Act 1960 to exclude the public and press on the grounds of matters discussed were of a confidential nature.

It was at this point that the Clerk left and assistant clerk left the meeting.

FC/25-26/04/17 Town Clerk

An update was from staffing committee was given and discussed regarding the Town Clerk. It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the staffing committee proposal.

FC/25-26/04/17 Date of the Next Meeting

To note the date, time and venue of the next meeting scheduled for Thursday 27th November 2025 at 7.00pm, Victoria Hall, Liverpool Road Kidsgrove Staffordshire ST7 4EL

Signed

Dated