

**MEETING:** Kingswood Town Council, Finance and Administration Committee  
**DATE & TIME:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.00pm  
**PLACE:** The Park Centre, Kingswood

**Councillors in attendance:** Richard Bentham (Chair) Maria Ingram-Cotton (Vice Chair), Diane Bentham, Jim Corrigan, Comfort Iyiewuare, Sean Rhodes (non-committee member).

**Also Present:** Charlotte Littlewood, Town Clerk

**Absent:** Councillors Ken Rabone and Joanne Doyle  
There was no public question time.

**F01.11.24      Apologies for absence**  
There were no apologies.

**F02.11.24      Declarations of interest and requests for Dispensations**  
There were no declarations of interest in relation to this agenda.

**F03.11.24      Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**  
The minutes from the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were approved.

**Resolved:** To accept and sign the minutes of the meeting as a true record.

**F04.11.24      To note the receipt of the internal audit report.**  
Councillors received the internal audit report and noted that the clerk was actioning the recommendations: To open additional bank accounts, and to increase the fidelity guarantee insurance.

**Resolved:** to recommend that full council note the report and actions being undertaken.

**F05.11.24      Sponsorship Opportunity**  
The Clerk explained that the council has been approached by a local insurance company who had expressed a wish to sponsor an event, to provide volunteers for events and to collaborate with the town council when the opportunity arises. This was discussed, welcomed and the clerk was asked to accept the offer, on the basis that this is a one off and to consider the development of a criterium in a policy if similar proposals are made in the future.

**Resolved;** to accept the sponsorship opportunity from Ashley Rodwell Insurance of £150 towards the Christmas Event 2024 with thanks.

**F06.11.24      Budget Consideration**  
Councillors were invited to make proposals for projects and activities that they wish to be considered in the budget setting projects, for implementation in coming years. At this stage it was not necessary to have costs, but to make suggestions that can be developed.

The following proposals were put forward:

Councillor Diane Bentham asked that the current youth budget be used for expanding the youth club offer to include specialist groups, that might be delivered by the National Autistic Society or with Creative Youth Network.

Councillor Corrigan proposed that consideration be given to installing up to 8 "Welcome to Kingswood" road signs on the boundary roads into Kingswood. Currently there was very little to demark that people were entering Kingswood, and new signs would create a sense of pride as well as define the area.

He also requested that a budget be created for the installation of park benches and similar

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public realm furniture for the council to consider as it develops.

Councillor Richard Bentham asked for consideration to be given to the provision of motor bike racks for the safe locking of bikes and helmets while bikers are visiting the town centre. This might already be considered in the Regeneration Scheme, but to make a request to SGC that this is included or establish if this could be funded by WECA.

Councillor Iyiewuare requested that consideration be made to the installation of public Wi-Fi in the town centre area, to allow shoppers to make better use of their phones for shopping, paying and internet browsing while in the town centre.

To also consider if the Citizens Advice Bureau would come to Kingswood if there was funding.

**Resolved:** For these recommendations to be put into a report for consideration by full council.

**F07.11.24 To refer items to full council**

The committee agreed to refer the above project proposals to full council as part of the budget setting process.

**F08.11.24 Date of Next meeting**

The next Finance and Administration Committee will be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm (Community Grant Scheme)

Meeting Closed: 1945rs

Signed as a True Record.....

Date.....