

# KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

## Environment Committee

**30th September 2008 at 7.15 p.m.  
in The Mayor's Parlour, The Town Hall, Kendal**

PRESENT Councillors T. Clare (Chairman), M. Simpson, K. Thompkins and J. Veevers.

APOLOGIES Councillors G. Cook, C. Feeney-Johnson, E. Farrell and T. Rothwell.

OFFICERS Liz Richardson (Town Clerk) and Margaret Graham (Committee Clerk).

Also in attendance were Ms Liz Ashburn (Stephenson Halliday Architects) and Mrs Pat Hovey (Kendal Civic Society).

### **248/08/09 MINUTES – 2ND JULY 2008**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2nd July 2008 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **249/08/09 SOMERVELL GARDEN**

Liz Ashburn reported that three quotes had been sought on the basis of the drawing submitted. Tenders had been received from

Dave Edmondson Landscapes	£32,500
Continental Landscapes	£28,555
Bob Young/Malcolm Haygarth	declined to tender

It was pointed out that the difference in cost between the two tenders was attributable to the finish of the stonework; Edmondson Landscapes had allowed for cutting the stonework to height. In view of the over-budget tender prices, Ms Ashburn had negotiated some "reductions" in the contract as follows:-

- Reducing the remit so that the semi-circle does not encroach on the existing Riverside path tarmac;
- Omit the resin band gravel (the most expensive item);
- Change remaining stone sets to tarmac;
- Granite set trim flush with tarmac of one set width

Incorporating these changes would reduce the tender price from Continental Landscapes to £16,600. Omitting bulb and wild flower planting at this stage would reduce the figure by a further £2,275 – giving a revised figure of £13,325. Fees amounted to £1,600 so far and up to a further £1,000 was needed for contract supervision costs. The total estimated cost of the contract - including supervision and fees - was £16,485.

Councillor Katy Thompkins said that the Kendal-in-Bloom Committee was submitting a bid to the Development Fund for bulb planting, and felt that the Somervell Garden would be a good project for Kendal in Bloom. However, the Chairman felt that the planting for the Somervell Garden project should be an additional call on the budget rather than at the expense of other planting projects.

Ms Ashburn pointed out that the horticultural side of the contract would require the removal and thinning out of some trees on the site, and re-planting. This had been allowed for within the contract price. It was suggested that Council, at its meeting on 6th October 2008, should be recommended to approve the contract price for the modified scheme to ensure that it went ahead, and asked for up to £3,000 for bulbs and wild flowers to complete the planting aspect of the project. The actual planting would be a community project, and South Lakeland District Council would need to be advised of the reduced mowing.

The Chairman thanked Ms Ashburn for all her hard work, and looked forward to the project proceeding.

RESOLVED that, in order for the Somervell Garden project to proceed,

- (1) Council be recommended to accept the tender price of £16,485 from Continental Landscapes for the modified scheme; and
- (2) Council be asked to approve further expenditure of £3,000 for bulbs and wild flowers.

#### **250/08/09 KENDAL CIVIC SOCIETY**

The Chairman said that he had been approached by Mr Stephen Appleby of the Kendal Civic Society indicating that the Society had several ideas for improving various parts of the Town.

Mrs Pat Hovey gave the Committee a brief outline of projects already undertaken by the Civic Society and those ongoing:

- the Summerhouse at Serpentine Woods has been re-roofed at a cost of £6,400
- painting the undercroft of Collin Croft to Beast Banks and relaying cobbles
- involvement in the Kendal Motto project
- assisting Stricklandgate House with a history/pictures (Stricklandgate House are getting a Lottery Heritage Grant)
- the sub-station on Sedbergh Road had been painted by United Utilities, and the former bus stop is to be removed.
- The sub-station at the rear of Boyes store
- tall conifers on Blackhall Road had been felled, and the Society was paying to have these replaced with whitebeam
- Greenside Lime Kiln

The Society was seeking the support of the Council in respect of Garth Heads and the Old Playing Field. Mrs Hovey was reassured that the Planning Committee had considered submissions from the Society, endorsed the concerns and would be sending letters to the appropriate organisations.

Mrs Hovey also mentioned that the filthy condition of some of the Kendal Yards meant that these were not included in the Society's guided walks around the

town.

The Town Clerk reported that South Lakeland District Council have a budget of £20,000 per annum for Environmental Partnership, and she thought that SLDC has a rolling programme of environmental projects. She agreed to contact Joanne Taylor of SLDC with a view to undertaking a site visit and establishing what might be available in the way of funding for environmental improvements to the Yards.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Kendal Civic Society be reassured of the Town Council's support for its concerns over Garth Heads and the Old Playing Field; and
- (2) the Town Clerk be asked to contact the District Council about Environmental Partnership in respect of Kendal Yards.

#### **251/08/09 CHERRY TREES AT MILNTHORPE ROAD**

Councillor John Veevers reported that the dead cherry tree had been removed, and the other trees trimmed. The Town Clerk reported that Cumbria County Council had no objections to the Town Council proposals to replace the dead cherry tree, and she had been given a contact name at Capita.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Town Clerk be asked to pursue the replacing; and
- (2) the sum of £2,000 – previously approved by Council – be maintained for replanting etc.

#### **252/08/09 PARKS AND BIODIVERSITY**

Councillor John Veevers had sought feedback from the judges of Britain-in-Bloom, who had felt that the parks in Kendal were "looking a bit tired". They had suggested that the best thing to do was to ask the advice of the gardeners at the Castle Green Hotel to replicate what had been done there.

Members agreed that the Town Council needed to keep working with partners for improvements, and the following items for replacement/improvement were suggested:

- Removal of the railings on Aynam Road and planting of park area
- Victorian railings for the side of Miller Bridge
- Replacing seats in Maude's Meadow which had been removed
- The Millennium Green on Heron Hill

The idea of producing maps for public open space, through external grant, was discussed. The Cumbria Wildlife Trust would be advising us.

Further to Minute 082/08/09, the Chairman reported that he and Tony Naylor, SLDC Parks Manager, had visited the parks in Keswick. It had been noted with interest that the three parks were each run under separate Trusts.

RESOLVED that the Council continue to work with partners to achieve improvements.

**253/08/09 BUDGET 2009/2010**

The Chairman suggested that a global budget bid of £20,000 for 2009/10 would allow the flexibility to contribute to the SLDC Parks and Gardens budget for an improved standard of work in Kendal, if appropriate, Also, a bid for £3,000 should be submitted to the Development Fund to complete the Somervell Garden project.

RESOLVED that a bid for be made to Council for £20,000 for the Environment Budget for 2009/2010.

**254/08/09 FINANCIAL BID TO COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT FUND MONIES**

It was agreed to enter a bid of £3,000 for natural varieties of wild flower bulbs, as recommended by the Cumbria Wildlife Trust, together with £5,000 for the railings at Aynam Road.

RESOLVED that the above bids be recommended to full Council.

**255/08/09 LAKE DISTRICT WORLD HERITAGE PROJECT**

The Committee considered a letter from Mr Michael Clarke, Director of the Lake District World Heritage Project. Mr Clarke had indicated that he would be happy to make a presentation to the community, on request, in respect of the project. Members decided that, as Kendal is not in the Lake District National Park, it would be inappropriate at this stage to have such a presentation.

RESOLVED that Mr Clarke be thanked for his offer, which should be respectfully declined at this stage.

**256/08/09 MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE SAFELY**

The Committee considered letters from Cumbria County Council and South Lakeland District Council in respect of the Government White Paper "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely – A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal. In the White Paper, communities had been invited to make an "expression of interest" in opening up – without commitment – discussions with the Government of the possibility of hosting a geological disposal facility at some point in the future. Cumbria County Council had asked whether Councils supported them, expressing a "without commitment" interest.

Members were minded to express a "without commitment" interest, representing the local community, in order to have a seat at the table in any future negotiations with a view to fighting any such proposal.

RESOLVED that the Town Council write to support Cumbria County Council, expressing a "without commitment" interest to government.

**257/08/09 PEST CONTROL**

The Committee considered a request from Mrs Carole Underwood, referred from full Council, to formally request South Lakeland District Council to establish a working group to look at restoring the Pest Control Service.

RESOLVED that South Lakeland District Council be requested to establish a working group to look at restoring the Pest Control Service.

**258/08/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Committee be held in January 2009, on a date to be arranged. (*Date set as Monday, 12th January 2009*).

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.