

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Council : 5th January 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Town Council Chamber, Town Hall, Kendal

PRESENT The Town Mayor (Councillor C. Feeney-Johnson) in the Chair;
Councillors A. Robinson, M. Simpson, G. Vincent, G. Cook, M. Radice,
J. Bateson, P. Beavan, R. Boden, J. Brook, C. Hogg, K. Thompkins, and
J. Veevers.

APOLOGIES Councillors T. Clare, T. Rothwell, R. Yates, G. Murfin, C. Batteson, G. Raymond,
K. Bracey, R. Boden, E. Farrell, C. Graham and B. Jameson

OFFICERS Liz Richardson (Town Clerk), John Hutchinson (Town Treasurer), Margaret
Graham (Secretary).

Also in attendance was Nick Raymond, Cumbria County Council Area Engineer
for South Lakeland.

440/08/09 URBAN HIGHWAYS TEAM

The Mayor welcomed Mr Nick Raymond to the meeting to make a presentation
on the Urban Highways Team.

For Members' information, Mr Raymond had provided a hand-out detailing the
operation of the Urban Highways Team.

Mr Raymond explained that the County Council had had to find ways of
delivering the principles of devolution to Local Authorities in terms of identifying
and remedying highways defects. The introduction of Parish Lengthsmen and
Highways Stewards in rural areas had been welcomed. In urban areas, such as
Kendal and Ulverston, the delivery of the service was undertaken by a two-man
team which also supported the Highways Stewards. He said that defects should
be reported via the (24/7) Highways Hotline which is manned by Cumbria County
Council staff. Complaints from the public / police etc were assessed by
specialists who were responsible for prioritising the complaint and delivering a
solution. The Central Control and Post-box system was very good at collecting
and collating information and reporting work required to the Urban Highways
Team, as well as to the Highways Stewards, to be fitted into the wider work
programme. The majority of complaints came from the public. Mr Raymond
suggested that there might be a nominated Parish/Town Council representative
to report defects. He stressed that the County Council would not carry out any
work for which it did not have the responsibility or funding.

Responding to queries from individual Members, Mr Raymond provided the
following information:-

Gritting	Cumbria County Council can only cover 25% of the road network, at an annual cost of £3.8 million. This is a massive part of the County's materials and manpower costs.
----------	---

Grit and salt bins in residential areas are filled regularly. Availability had been affected by the extraordinary weather conditions and increased public demand/consumption.

He appreciated that grit spreading a wider area (onto pavements) by the gritting lorries would be helpful for pedestrians, but complaints were received that this caused damage to cars.

Communications

Mr Raymond agreed that improved communications between KTC and CCC would be beneficial and there were areas where it works well. He was reluctant to provide a direct telephone number for the Urban Highways Team as it was felt that the Team would then spend its time answering phone calls rather than getting on with work.

The Highways Hotline attracts a "local call" charge – the number of the Hotline is

0845 609 6609

The Hotline passes on information to other local authorities and organisations.

Improvements in local services

Mr Raymond felt that the Council would not see a massive improvement, but reported defects would get fixed

(Emergency) Potholes

Mr Raymond said that potholes of a depth of 4+ inches were normally remedied within five days. If the pothole was assessed as needing urgent repair, it was done immediately. However, large scale frost/thaw damage was a major problem and might take up to twelve months to fix. More cash was needed to improve the situation.

Utilities Repairs

Utilities have a statutory duty to reinstate roads. The County have a team which inspects Utilities' work. If defects are picked up within the statutory timescale, the County can recall the Utility to set the matter right.

Maude Street traffic

The County were looking at how to deal with the problem of enabling cars to keep moving and ensuring pedestrian safety, to achieve an improved solution. This might include a combination of changes, including changes to pedestrian crossings.

The Mayor thanked Mr Raymond for his time, and the very useful presentation, and said that the Town Council looked forward to meeting the Urban Highways Team on a future occasion.

441/08/09 MINUTES – 1ST DECEMBER 2008

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 1st December 2008, having been circulated to the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

442/08/09 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A list of engagements undertaken by the Mayor was circulated.

The Mayor pointed out that two Committee meetings had been omitted from the calendar for January 2009 –

- Christmas Lights Committee 15th January at 7.00 p.m.
- Audit, Grants and Charities 29th January at 7.00 p.m.

The Mayor thanked all those who had helped with and contributed to the Kendal in Bloom Coffee morning at the Parish Hall on 13th December 2008 (£111 had been raised) and the Mayor's Christmas Coffee Morning at the Town Hall on 20th December 2008, which had raised £280. Members were advised that a further Kendal-in-Bloom Coffee Morning was to be held at the Town Hall on Saturday, 7th March 2009 between 9.30 and 12.30. The Mayor would be bag-packing in Asda, to raise funds for the Mayor's Charities, on Saturday, 11th April 2009.

443/08/09 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

The Mayor asked if representatives to outside bodies could provide a brief summary to Council if there had been a meeting of the relevant outside body.

Councillor Maria Radice said that there was to be a meeting of NHS SOS in the Common Room of the new Impact Housing Scheme on Sandylands on Friday evening, 9th January, at 7.00 p.m. and she would appreciate Member support. The Mayor asked Councillor Radice if she could send an e-mail to the Administrative Officer so that details could be forwarded to all Councillors.

Members were reminded that Minutes of outside bodies' meetings should be provided to the Town Clerk.

Reports on outside bodies which were presented to Committees needed to be highlighted at full Council by the Committee Chairman.

444/08/09 COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FOR COUNCILLORS

Members had been provided with details of an event for Kendal Councillors on Tuesday, 6th January 2009, to be hosted by Councillor Clare Feeney-Johnson and Sergeant Bill Nolan from Cumbria Constabulary. The event was to promote discussion to establish "partners" within the local authorities, police and fire services. The Mayor encouraged everyone to attend if possible.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

445/08/09 STANDING ORDERS

The Town Clerk presented a draft of revised Standing Orders for Council's consideration and approval. The draft Standing Orders had been discussed at the Management Committee meeting on 20th October 2008 (Minute 316/08/09 refers). The Town Clerk confirmed that she had not received any written responses.

Members discussed the document in detail. The following comments were made and amendments (*in italics and underlined*) were proposed and agreed:

General	That s/he be inserted for he; or a statement be included that any "he" in the Standing Orders shall mean "he" or "she" according to the person, Councillor or Officer being referred to
Paragraph 1 (a)	Amend to: such <u>a</u> place
Paragraph 14	Refers to the <u>budget meeting in November</u>
Paragraph 27	Change to: <u>may be unable to answer in the meeting but should respond in writing as soon as practically possible.</u>
Paragraph 42	Noted: that this Standing Order is tied to Paragraph 44 in respect of the election of the Committee Chairman
Paragraph 63 (a)	Typing error on first line – Amend to "... canvassing of Members of the <u>Council or</u>
Paragraph 66	Add: inspection by any member of the Council or public <u>during normal office hours</u>
Paragraph 74	Remove reference to "Borough and Unitary"

Following a proposition by Councillor John Bateson, seconded by Councillor Austen Robinson, it was

RESOLVED that, subject to the amendments agreed, the revised Standing Orders be approved and adopted, and the Town Clerk be requested to produce the Standing Orders in booklet form – to be provided to each Member of Council (whether currently in office or on election in the future).

446/08/09 PAYMENT SCHEDULES – NOVEMBER 2008

The Town Treasurer presented a schedule of payments made by the Council in November 2008 and responded to Members' queries on individual entries.

RESOLVED that the Payment Schedule for November 2008 be approved.

447/08/09 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor P. Beavan, presented the minutes of the meetings held on 1st December 2008.

Councillor Beavan reported that it had been brought to the attention of the Planning Committee that Cumbria Highways had applied for a temporary (overnight) road closure of Stramongate Bridge and temporary prohibition of HGV vehicles to use Miller Bridge in respect of construction works to be carried out to progress the Riverside Cycle project. The closure was required from Monday, 19th January 2009 from 18.00 p.m. to 06.00 a.m. The work was expected to take approximately five nights.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 1st December 2008 be received.

448/08/09 KENDAL IN BLOOM COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Kendal in Bloom Committee, Councillor Katy Thompkins, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2008. She expressed her gratitude to all who had helped with and contributed to the Kendal-in-Bloom Coffee Morning on 13 December 2008, especially Councillor John Veevers and his wife, Lynne, for their hard work.

With reference to the second paragraph of Minute 390/08/09, Councillor Graham Vincent said he took exception to the inference that South Lakeland District Council might take money from the Town Council to "bolster maintenance costs"; there was no evidence of this. Councillor Geoff Cook, to whom this comment had been incorrectly attributed, requested that the minute be amended to remove the words "not just to bolster SLDC maintenance costs". Councillor Austen Robinson reminded Members that the Town Council still does need to ensure that its money is being spent wisely.

RESOLVED that, subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on 24th November 2008 be approved.

449/08/09 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Management Committee, Councillor A. Robinson, presented the minutes of the meetings held on 15th December 2008, and drew Members' attention to particular items of information, resolutions of the Committee, and recommendations which required the approval of Council in order that progress could be made on the issues.

RESOLVED

(1) that the minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 15 December 2008 be approved, and the actions taken be endorsed; and

(2) the specific *recommendations* at the following minutes be approved:-

Minute 424/08/09

The Town Clerk be authorised to pay increased level of office accommodation rental to South Lakeland District Council, without prejudice to the issue of double taxation being pursued with that authority.

Minute 426/08/09

The Council does not sign up to Mayors for Peace as it is not appropriate, or within the remit of the Town Council, to make a decision on nuclear proliferation / disarmament on behalf of the electorate.

450/08/09 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100(B)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the following item of business as it contains exempt information as described in Schedule 12A of the Act.

451/08/09 STAFFING ISSUES

In accordance with Section 100(B)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, the following report was excluded from inspection by members of the public as it contains exempt information as described in Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as follows:-

- *Information relating to any individual [Paragraph 1]*

The Town Clerk brought Members up to date on the current situation with regard to a staffing issue.

RESOLVED that the issue be delegated to the Management Committee to make a decision on a course of action, and report back to Council.

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.