

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of
Kendal Town Council
held on Monday, 24th November 2014 at 7.00 p.m.
in the Town Council Chamber, the Town Hall, Kendal**

PRESENT The Town Mayor (Councillor Tom Clare) in the Chair;
Councillors A. Robinson, G. Cook, P. Bramham, J. Brook, C. Feeney-Johnson, J. Veevers, G. Archibald, S. Emmott, D. Evans, S. Evans, A. Finch, J. McCreesh, M. Severn, G. Tirvengadum, P. Walker, A. Blackman, C. Hogg, R. Hogg, K. Hurst-Jones and L. Oldham.

APOLOGIES Councillors S. Coleman, K. Bracey and K. Teasdale.

OFFICERS Liz Richardson (Town Clerk), John Hutchinson (Town Treasurer), Jack Jones (Town Treasurer) and Cara Makin.

469/14/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Walker declared an Other Registrable Interest in respect of the proposed grant to Beck Community Centre at Item 6c) of the agenda because he is a member of that organisation.

470/14/15 INVOICES OVER £2,000

The Treasurer presented invoices over £2,000 for Council approval;

- Monies to Low Orchard in respect of Winter Planting.
- Monies to Christmas Plus for the installation of the Christmas lights display.
- Monies to Christmas Plus in respect of additional display lights.

It was proposed by Councillor John McCreesh, and seconded by Councillor Austen Robinson, that payment of the invoices be approved.

RESOLVED unanimously, that the payment of invoices over £2,000 be approved.

471/14/15 EXTERNAL AUDITORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

The Treasurer presented Members with the External Auditors' Report for the year ended 31 March 2014. Whilst this had already been presented to the Audit Grants and Charities Committee, the report is for full Council and therefore shown as a separate agenda item. It was noted that there were no matters which came to their attention which required the issuing of a separate report. Council thanked the Treasurer for his work.

RESOLVED that the External Auditors' report be received.

472/14/15 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

The Treasurer had provided both written and numerical explanatory statements in support of the Financial Report, highlighting points of interest for Members' information and explaining the reasons for variances. Overall, the financial position of the Town Council was satisfactory.

RESOLVED that the Finance Report for the six months ended 30 September 2014 be approved.

AUDIT, GRANTS AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2014 were presented by the Chairman, Councillor Matt Severn.

473/14/15 Investments

The Committee had considered the Treasurer's report regarding the Council's investments and the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee recommended that, as there was no beneficial alternative, the current investment with the Cumberland Building Society remain unchanged.

RESOLVED that the Council's current investment at the Cumberland Building Society be approved.

474/14/15 Cheque Signatories

Councillor Matt Severn referred to the minutes of the Audits, Grants and Charities Committee to ask for approval of adding Councillor Chris Hogg and the new Treasurer, Jack Jones to the Town Council's cheque signatories, for the accounts at Barclays Bank, as recommended to Members. It was noted that Councillor Chris Hogg had been incorrectly titled as Mayor as opposed to Deputy Mayor, and this was to be amended. Once these signatories have been accepted by the bank then Councillor John Willshaw and John Hutchinson (retiring Town Treasurer) are to be removed as signatories to the account.

RESOLVED that the changes to the Council's cheque signatories at Barclays Bank be approved.

474/14/15 South Lakeland Mind – Grant Application 2014/15

Councillor Matt Severn referred to the list of grant applications considered by the Audit, Grants and Charities Committee at its meeting on 28 October 2014. He invited questions from Members, and sought approval for the Committee's recommendations.

Councillor Matt Severn gave background on the organisation South Lakeland Mind, which was the first grant application for approval. The Committee had recommended an emergency grant of £5,000 be made in order to help the charity in its present financial difficulties, subject to it having a sound recovery plan. The Town Treasurer declared that monies could be made available from the Election Reserve.

Councillor David Evans confirmed that his meeting with the charity, as requested by the Audit Committee, was a positive one and that he supported the proposal. However Councillor Emmott expressed concerns and thought it imperative to seek a strategic plan in order to establish its future, rather than simply a short-term recovery plan.

Members discussed in great detail their views on the application, whilst highlighting similar concerns to Councillor Emmott. It was thought very important that the Charity needs to be sustainable.

Councillor Emmott proposed that, subject to the Treasurer's satisfaction, an amendment be made to state 'The Council will commit to the emergency grant on the basis that South Lakeland Mind has a sound recovery plan and strategic plan for future viability of service'. Twelve members were in favour with nine against and one abstention.

Councillor Clare Feeney-Johnson proposed that delegated authority be given for the Mayor and Treasurer to look at the forward plan once provided by the charity which they can then approve and £5,000 be paid. This was seconded by Councillor Matt Severn and approved with one abstention.

The Town Treasurer asked that the money for the grant be allocated from the Election Reserve. This was proposed by Councillor Matt Severn and seconded by Councillor Giles Archibald and approved with one abstention.

RESOLVED That an emergency grant of £5,000 be made to South Lakeland MIND, subject to the Mayor and Town Treasurer confirming that the charity has a sound recovery plan and strategic plan for viability in the future, and that the funding be allocated from the Election Reserve.

475/14/15 Grant Applications for 2015/16 – Recommendations from the Audit, Grants and Charities Committee

The Council discussed proposals for grants for 2015/16, as recommended by the Audit, Grants and Charities Committee. It was noted that a request from the Kendal Concert Band would be referred to the Mayoralty and Arts Committee.

RESOLVED that the following grants be awarded for 2015/16:

	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Amount</u>
(1)	Kendal Brewery Arts Centre	£ 8,000
(2)	Abbot Hall - Lakeland Arts Trust	£ 1,000
(3)	Kendal Old Folks Treat	£ 300
(4)	1127 Squadron (Kendal) Air Training Corp	£ 750
(5)	Great North Air Ambulance	£ 1,000
(6)	"One Voice" - Kendal and South Lakes Centre for Independent Living (subject to the grant being spent in Kendal)	£ 1,500
(7)	The Quaker Tapestry at Kendal	£ 3,000
(8)	Beck Community Centre	£ 250
(9)	Kendal Community Theatre (to be paid early in 2015 from the underspending in 2014/15)	£ 1,000
(10)	South Lakes Citizen Advice Bureau (subject to the receipt of satisfactory accounts)	£ 4,000
(11)	Sandgate Hydrotherapy Pool (amount reserved pending a formal application)	£ 2,500
(12)	Abbot Hall Public Bowling Club	£ 50

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(13)	Kendal Lads and Girls Club	£ 550
(14)	Ibis Junior Football Club (amount reserved pending a formal application)	£ 250

476/14/15 Grants Budget 2015/16

It was agreed as per the minutes of the Audit, Grants and Charities Committee that a Budget of £27,500 be set for 2015/16. This was proposed by Councillor Matt Severn and seconded by Councillor John McCreesh. All were in favour with one abstention.

RESOLVED that the Grants Budget for 2015/16 be set at £27,500.

477/14/15 Minutes of meeting held on 28 October 2014

Council was asked to approve the minutes of the Audit, Grants and Charities Committee held on 28 October 2014.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Audit, Grants and Charities Committee held on 28th October 2014 be approved as a correct record.

478/14/15 DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2015/16

The Treasurer presented the draft budget for 2015/16, based on the Approved Budget for 2014/15 and the Year End Forecast position for 2014/15. Provisional amounts had been included for the council tax base, election and lighting expenses. Firm figures for these items would be provided by South Lakeland District Council during December; their effect of the draft budget would require confirmation by the Town Council at its January meeting. The Treasurer also drew attention to the funds statement and explained the purpose of the individual funds.

The draft income budget assumed a nil increase in both the precept and allotment rents. The majority of expenditure budgets reflected current spending levels adjusted for pay awards and inflation. However, allowance had been made for several items as identified by Committees, notably an additional part-time post to help implement the Vision for Kendal and this was shown under the Management Budget heading. A number of proposals for the suggested £16,500 Development Fund budget were listed.

Councillor Sylvia Emmott presented an email sent to her by Made in Cumbria which stated they were due to relocate to premises in Market Place, which would have positive implications for the Tourist Information Centre by making it a more centralised location. The organisation had requested a grant of £5,000 from the Town Council for each of three years, totalling £15,000.

Councillor Clare Feeney-Johnson expressed her support and proposed a 1.63% increase in the precept for 2015/16, specifically to accommodate the safeguarding of the Tourist Information Centre in Kendal and support its future.

Councillor Bramham stated that the Tourist Information Centre should also be

supported by the District Council and Councillor Sylvia Emmott made a Declaration of Interest as a District Councillor. Councillor Chris Hogg made a Declaration of Interest as a member of Cumbria Tourism.

Councillors discussed increasing the precept and council tax to accommodate a grant to Made in Cumbria. Councillor Matt Severn favoured a nil increase in council tax as he felt that the grant could be funded by unspent monies instead. Councillors Shirley Evans and David Evans agreed. Cllr Austen Robinson expressed his concern about a nil increase and supported the proposed rise. Councillors Archibald, Cook and Bramham thought the precept should be raised, but only by a small increase such as 1%.

The Mayor referred to discussion at the last Management Committee meeting regarding the newsletter. All Councillors were in agreement that there should be two issues of the newsletter in 2015/16.

In respect of the Development Fund, the contribution to which represented the balancing figure in the Budget, Councillors acknowledged that funding would be available for new proposals. In order to consider these alongside existing proposals, it would be preferable to invite suggestions from all Councillors to be discussed at the February Council meeting.

The Mayor invited a decision to be made on the precept. Councillor Braham proposed and Councillor Walker seconded an increase of 1%. Councillor John Veevers made an amendment to this proposal and proposed a 2.0% rise. The amendment was carried and the subsequent amended proposal was agreed.

Councillor Sylvia Emmott asked about the response that should be given to Made in Cumbria and Councillor Archibald thought that more information was sought. It was agreed that the spokesperson for Made in Cumbria be invited to the next Management Committee meeting and that was agreed.

RESOLVED that

- (1) Allotment rents remain at their current level for 2015;
- (2) the precept and council tax for 2015/16 be increased by 2.0%;
- (3) an amended draft budget for 2015/16, based on the discussion at this meeting, be submitted to the Council meeting on 5 January 2015 for ratification; and
- (4) all Councillors be invited to submit proposals for schemes to be met from the Development Fund budget, to be considered at the February 2015 meeting of Council.

The meeting ended at 9.35pm

Signed

Date