

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of
Kendal Town Council
held on Monday, 4th July 2016 at 7.30 p.m.
in the SLDC Council Chamber, the Town Hall, Kendal**

- PRESENT** The Mayor (Councillor S Coleman) in the Chair;
Councillors A Robinson, T Clare, G Vincent, G Cook, J Brook, C Feeney-
Johnson, J Veevers, D Evans, S Evans, A Finch, M Severn, G
Tirvengadam, L Oldham, A Blackman, K Bracey, C Hardy, K Hurst-
Jones, J Robinson, R Sutton, K Teasdale and J Owen.
- APOLOGIES** Councillors P Bramham, G Archibald, S Emmott, P Walker, C Hogg and
R Hogg
- OFFICERS** Liz Richardson (Town Clerk), Jack Jones (Town Treasurer) and Nicky
King (Council Secretary)

The Chair opened the meeting with a minute's silence in memory of the
late Jo Cox MP.

158/16/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**Colin Reynolds, Chair, South Lakeland Mind on Kentmere Ward,
Westmorland General Hospital**

Colin Reynolds spoke regarding the closure of Kentmere Ward and the
provision of local inpatient acute mental health beds in the Kendal area.

He acknowledged the reversal of the closure decision by the Cumbria
Partnership Trust and their recognition that errors of judgement were
made and their apology for the distress that this has caused within the
community.

Looking forward Mind believe that there should be inpatient acute care
mental health beds in the area, but not necessarily the current Kentmere
Ward as they recognise it is not an ideal facility.

Why do we believe this to be the case?

Demand – There is a demand/need for inpatient beds in the area.

Support structures – When an individual requires inpatient care they are
in a state of high distress and support structures are vital to their
recovery towards increased mental wellbeing. Moving them to a facility
that is not in the area and is 30+ miles away, depriving them of their local
support structures will increase their stress.

Relationships – strong stable relationships provide a foundation towards
the long term return of an individual to mental wellbeing. It should be
recognised that mental health issues also place a strain on the families of

the individuals.

Rural isolation – we need to be aware that in this area rural isolation can happen within 12 miles of Kendal with poor bus services. Additionally it is an unfortunate factor that many people with mental health issues are also, resource poor, time poor and generally socially disadvantaged.

All of these contribute to increased distress and hardship for the individual and their families and will be increased by the removal of local acute beds.

Moving forward:

We are not calling for the same number of beds that we currently have at Kentmere, providing that the outpatient care/crisis support is increased to a level to support the fact that a mental health crisis can happen at any time of the day.

The Trust themselves admit that Crisis support in the South Lakes area is not as good as in other areas of the county and as a first step that needs to be improved and upgraded before any thought can be given to reducing inpatient beds locally.

We need to look at the whole range of mental health services offered across the NHS and the Third Sector, we need an increased provision of outpatient care in South Lakes and finally after that has been put in place we need a right sized provision of inpatient beds available in the area.

159/16/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this point.

160/16/17 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6TH JUNE 2016

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of full Council held on 6th June 2016.

Councillor Vincent proposed that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Feeney-Johnson and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th June 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

161/16/17 PRESENTATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE KENTMERE WARD, WESTMORLAND GENERAL HOSPITAL

Chair of Cumbria Health Scrutiny Board – Councillor Neil Hughes.

Councillor Neil Hughes referred Members to the briefing paper which had been circulated with the agenda papers. The briefing detailed the powers of Health Scrutiny with regard to variation in health services. It

also set out Health Scrutiny's involvement in the specific issues arising about Kentmere Ward at Westmorland General Hospital. He emphasised that Health Scrutiny did not have the power to reverse a substantial variation in health services and could only give recommendations. He then invited questions from Members.

Councillor Vincent expressed his view that the county-wide structure for mental health services was very bad for South Lakeland. He said that a solution would need to involve north Lancashire (Morecambe Bay Trust).

Councillor A Robinson questioned to what extent the authorities liaised and worked together. He also commented that the Health Scrutiny's interpretation of 'substantial issues' might not be the same as KTC's interpretation. Councillor Neil Hughes replied that the question of whether a variation is substantial was up to the whole Committee of Health Scrutiny to decide. He suggested that Councillors consider attending a Health Scrutiny meeting.

The Better Care Together initiative is being carried out by the Morecambe Bay Trust to review health and care services provided across North Lancashire and South Cumbria. Further moves to align health and care would be addressed through the Sustainability and Transformation Plans initiative.

Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Andrew Brittlebank - Medical Director

Andrea Greenwood - Senior Network Manager for Acute & Urgent Care

Mags Quinn – Kentmere Ward Manager

Dr Brittlebank described Kentmere Ward as a 12 bedded inpatient unit on the first floor of Westmorland General Hospital. He explained that 10 beds are commissioned for short term recovery based care for acute adult mental health patients and 2 beds provided for the management of patients undergoing an alcohol detoxification programme.

The decision to temporarily close Kentmere Ward had been delayed pending a fuller assessment of the urgency of the quality and safety concerns highlighted by the Care Quality Commission. The Ward remains open and is accepting referrals as usual. The decision to delay temporary closure was because of:

- Concerns expressed by service users, carers and the community.
- The Trust's desire to be absolutely clear that it has explored every possible option to meet the minimum standards without the need for temporary closure.

Dr Brittlebank advised that a number of quality and safety issues relating to the environment of the Ward had been highlighted which did not meet national standards in privacy and dignity and access to outside space. These included:

- Mixed sex Ward with dormitory style rooms and shared bathrooms.

- Beds partitioned with boards and just a curtain for privacy.
- No dedicated outside space – service users must be accompanied by a member of staff through the main hospital to access outside spaces.
- The number of ligature points present on the Ward.

Dr Brittlebank explained that hanging is the main method of suicide for mental health service users. Patients use ligature points to suspend themselves off the ground, causing asphyxiation. He said that Kentmere Ward had many ligature points.

The decision to temporarily close Kentmere Ward had been prompted by national and regulatory standards, improved quality governance and increased propensity of patient population to self-harm. The Trust took the decision to delay temporary closure so that they could be absolutely clear that every possible option to meet the minimum standards without the need for temporary closure of the Ward had been explored.

Further discussions with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are being held for complete clarity as to what is necessary to meet minimum regulatory standards.

The Trust, and partners, will make a decision later in the summer about whether or not a temporary closure is necessary. Dr Brittlebank said that the question now was whether to continue running the Ward until the results of that public consultation are known.

NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group and the Trust are convening a quality surveillance group which will bring together health organisations and regulators to ensure all partners have a shared understanding about whether urgent action at Kentmere Ward is necessary on quality and safety grounds, out with a formal public consultation process.

The longer term future of mental health inpatient care will be considered as part of a Countywide public consultation led by NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group later this year.

Councillor Severn asked if there are 10 beds currently commissioned for short term recovery based care, how many would there be if the Ward closed? He referred to the safety issues highlighted and said that no information had been provided on what steps had been taken to address those issues. He also asked whether staffing matters were part of the issue and whether the decision came down to cost. Dr Brittlebank replied that if the decision was made to temporarily close Kentmere Ward they would be looking to increase the stock of beds elsewhere in Cumbria by 4, therefore there would be a loss of 6 beds (10 down to 4). He advised that ways of addressing quality and safety issues had been looked at extensively. The main issue was the time it would take to accomplish what was necessary. Structural works would be required and the Ward would have to close while these works took place. Advice received by the Trust was that the works would take a minimum of 40

weeks and a maximum of 2 years with costs of a quarter of a million up to 1.5 million. Regarding staffing, Dr Brittlebank commented that there had been new appointments recently and for the first time in a long time there was a full complement of medical staff. He said that the issue of cost was not a consideration and the Trust was not seeking to save money. If the decision was made to temporarily close the Ward it would be at cost and there would be no net saving whatsoever.

Councillor A Robinson remarked that a negative reaction from the local population must have been anticipated and commented that the presentation now being given would have been much more beneficial had it been given to a wider audience at an earlier date. Dr Brittlebank acknowledged that the Trust did not always give due recognition to this. He said that the Trust had apologised for the distress caused, which was not wilfully or willingly created, and would seek to learn and do better.

Councillor Clare raised the matter of patients' relatives/close friends having to travel long distances in order to visit if Kentmere Ward was to close. He asked the Trust to recognise that this part of Cumbria functions alongside, and only with the support of, North Lancashire. He said that transport links and employment needed to be considered. Dr Brittlebank remarked that the Trust appreciated the geographical issues.

Councillor D Evans requested more background information; who had made the decision, what had been the process and timescale. Dr Brittlebank advised that there had been a full inspection undertaken by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in November 2015. Detailed feedback had been given at a meeting in April 2016 with a clear message that the environment at Kentmere Ward required improvement. He advised that the CQC would be carrying out a further inspection and if there was no evidence of the issues being addressed CQC would have statutory powers to close the Ward. The Trust considered that the only responsible action to take would be to give full consideration to the matters raised prior to CQC's further inspection.

Councillor Veevers pointed out that the situation at Kentmere Ward exacerbated the problem of an already underused hospital, caused by the withdrawal of more and more services. He commented that Kendal used to have a fantastic hospital but it was now struggling. Dr Brittlebank said that these were very pertinent and relevant comments for the long term provision of health services and suggested putting them to the Better Care Together initiative (Morecambe Bay Trust).

The Mayor thanked Dr Brittlebank and his colleagues for attending the meeting and said that it would be useful to maintain contact.

162/16/17

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had been very pleased to write congratulatory letters to two young people of Kendal:

- Arthur Quin who had been named the UK's Young Chef of the Year 2016 at the national Oscars of the catering world
- Sophie Knowles who claimed third prize in the finals of the UK Wella Xposure 2016 Competition at the Wella Academy in London.

He asked Councillors to let him know if they were aware of any other achievements by young people such as this, so that he may write and congratulate them.

The Mayor advised that Mayoral Sunday had been well attended and thanked everyone involved.

163/16/17

OUTSIDE BODIES – REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Tirvengadam introduced a report on the South Lakes Equality & Diversity Partnership's 'Hidden Stories – Shared Lives' project. The project will gather, share and celebrate the story of migration in Cumbria through an oral history archive that will be accessible on-line. Councillor Tirvengadam advised that Lottery Heritage funding had been secured for the project and a minimum of 20 oral history volunteers were being sought across Cumbria to record real life migration stories.

Councillor Feeney-Johnson commented that following the EU Referendum, she was concerned about the effect it would have on school children from EU Countries and asked whether there was anything that could be done to get the message across that we are "one community standing together". Councillor Tirvengadam replied that the next meeting of the Partnership was on 14th July 2016 and it would be a good opportunity to discuss ideas. He said that the new Police and Crime Commissioner would hopefully be attending and agreed that it was important to get into schools to raise awareness.

Councillor Severn remarked that it was appalling children should be made to feel a sense of not belonging and encouraged the South Lakes Equality & Diversity Partnership to take matters direct to Government.

Councillor Vincent advised that there were problems with under reporting and commented that this needed looking at urgently.

Councillor Tirvengadam thanked Councillors for their support and confirmed that Councillor Sutton had volunteered to be involved in the project.

Councillor A Robinson suggested that the matter be an agenda item for further consideration. Members agreed this should be the Management Committee. Councillor Clare said it would be useful for the Management Committee to hear the views of all Councillors and invited all Members to submit any ideas to the Town Clerk. Councillor Feeney-Johnson said she would like to see schools get involved and had the connections within Kendal schools.

Councillor Tirvengadam proposed that hate crime be an agenda item for the next Management Committee meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Severn and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

That there be an item on the agenda of the next Management Committee meeting regarding hate crime.

164/16/17**POLICE REPORT FROM CUMBRIA CONSTABULARY – TO NOTE**

Members considered the Police Update report from Cumbria Constabulary for the period 1st April to 23rd June 2016.

Councillor D Evans pointed out that the figures quoted in point 1 on the first page of the report did not add up. He also commented that comparing one year with the previous does not give an idea of trend and said figures over a 5 year period would be more useful. He further commented that there were no figures provided for hate crimes.

Councillor A Robinson advised for information that schools normally kept a register of any issues directed towards minority groups. Councillor Tirvengadam confirmed that the South Lakes Equality & Diversity Partnership received updates from Cumbria Constabulary on hate crimes and suggested the Town Clerk ask for this to be included in the Police Report.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk request Cumbria Constabulary include hate crime figures in the Police Report.

165/16/17**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SOUTH LAKELAND CONSULTATION – DRAFT LETTER**

The Town Clerk presented a draft letter to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on draft recommendations for the electoral review of South Lakeland. She advised Members that SLDC were likely to present a counterproposal to include Stonecross back into Kendal on the basis of 5 wards, as opposed to 4 at the moment (north, south, east and west). This would result in KTC wards remaining exactly the same as now. The Town Clerk advised that she was minded to support SLDC's proposal and was seeking agreement from Council along with approval of the draft letter.

Councillor Cook proposed basic acceptance of the draft letter and the inclusion of a paragraph regarding KTC supporting SLDC's proposal. He referred to paragraph 4 on the first page and in particular the word 'annexation'. He felt that there was a more suitable word that could be used. After a general discussion it was agreed to substitute 'annexation' with 'separation'. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Book who added that he objected to Government interference in this matter which was not in the spirit of local democracy. He said that 2 member wards were preferable and was hopeful that the Commission could be persuaded of this.

Councillor D Evans commented that he considered KTC should put forward their proposals but warned they would be starting from a bad position.

The Mayor summarised what had been agreed; that the draft letter be approved, the word 'annexation' be substituted with 'separation', a paragraph be added supporting SLDC's proposal and reference made to "the spirit of local democracy". This was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the draft letter to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England be approved subject to the amendments discussed.

166/16/17 PROPOSED COUNCIL AND CIVIC DATES FOR 2017

Members noted and agreed the proposed Council and Civic dates for 2017.

167/16/17 MAYORALTY & ARTS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Mayoralty & Arts Committee meeting held on 13th June 2016 were presented by The Mayor who proposed that they be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Blackman and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Mayoralty & Arts Committee meeting held on 13th June 2016 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

The Mayor then presented the following recommendations of the Committee:

168/16/17 Disposal of Heritage Chairs and Desks (Ref Minute 088/16/17)
 (1) *That the Mayor's desk, one carver chair and one ordinary chair be retained from the heritage chairs and desks.*
 (2) *That proceeds from the sale of chairs and desks go into the conservation fund for heritage items.*

Councillor Feeney-Johnson agreed with the recommendations but asked where the items would be stored and when the sale would take place. The Town Clerk advised where the items were likely to be stored but said that she was still waiting for the lease from SLDC and the sale could not take place until that was received.

The Mayor proposed that the recommendations be approved. This was seconded by Councillor A Robinson and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the Mayor's desk, one carver chair and one ordinary chair be retained from the heritage chairs and desks. Also that proceeds from the sale of chairs and desks go into the conservation fund for heritage items.

169/16/17 Commemoration of 250th Anniversary of the Birth of John Dalton
 (Ref Minute 090/16/17)
That Council agree to fund the hire of the Assembly Room at the Town

Hall (up to a maximum of £250) to support the lecture to mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of John Dalton.

The Mayor proposed that the recommendation be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Vincent and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That Council agreed to fund the hire of the Assembly Room at the Town Hall (up to a maximum of £250) to support the lecture to mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of John Dalton.

170/16/17 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 6th June and 20th June 2016 were presented by Councillor J Robinson who asked Council to receive these minutes.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 6th June and 20th June 2016 be received.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

171/16/17 (a) Revised Budget 2016/17 and Updated Development Fund Programme

The Treasurer presented a report on the revised budget 2016/17 and updated Development Fund programme. The report proposed a revision of the existing budget for the year. The Development Fund programme had also been updated.

Councillor Vincent proposed approval of the report including the updated Development Fund programme. This was seconded by Councillor Hurst-Jones and carried unanimously. It was agreed that budget monitoring for the remainder of the current financial year would be based on the Revised Budget and the updated Development Fund programme.

RESOLVED That the Revised Budget 2016/17 and Updated Development Fund programme be approved.

172/16/17 (b) Festival Grants

The Treasurer requested approval for the payment of approved Festival Grants and General Grants 2016/17. Councillor Feeney-Johnson proposed that approval be granted. This was seconded by Councillor A Robinson and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the payment of approved festival grants and general grants 2016/17 be approved.

173/16/17 (c) General Grants

Considered under Minute 172/16/17.

174/16/17 (d) Bank Payments Schedule: May 2016

The Town Treasurer presented the Bank Payments Schedule for May 2016. Councillor D Evans proposed approval and this was seconded by Councillor Owen and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the Bank Payments Schedule for May 2016 be approved.

175/16/17 (e) Invoices over £2,000

The Treasurer reported that there were four invoices over £2,000 which required approval as follows:

- HMRC – Tax and NI – June 2016 payroll - £2,175.41 (no VAT)
- Cumbria Pension Fund – superannuation June 2016 - £2,104.08 (no VAT)
- SLDC – contribution to Kendal Futures Website project - £6,000 (no VAT)
- Amberol Limited – new planters - £4,013.09 plus £802.62 VAT, total £4,815.71.

Councillor Oldham proposed that payment of the 4 invoices be approved. This was seconded by Councillor S Evans and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That payment of the four invoices over £2,000 be approved.

The meeting ended at 9.23 p.m.

Signature

Date