

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Environment and Highways Committee

**Tuesday 11th July 2017 at 7.00 pm
in The Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Kendal**

- PRESENT** Councillors Jonathan Owen (Vice Chair), Giles Archibald, Andy Blackman, Shirley Evans, Jon Robinson and John Veevers
- APOLOGIES** Councillors Clare, Vincent and Bracey
- OFFICERS** Liz Richardson (Town Clerk) and Hazel Belshaw (Temporary Council Secretary)
- Councillors Cook and D Evans were also in attendance.
- 187/17/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None
- 188/17/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None
- 189/17/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH APRIL 2017**
- The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting held on 10th April, which had been approved by full Council on 8th May.
- Councillor J Robinson proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor S Evans and carried with one abstention.
- RESOLVED** That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10th April be accepted as a correct record.
- MATTERS ARISING** (Not on Agenda)
None
- 190/17/18 REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**
The Town Clerk presented the Terms of Reference that had been previously circulated.
- Councillor S Evans commented that the terms refer to receiving reports from Lakes Line and the Bus Users Group although she understood that no report from the Bus Users Group had ever been received and it may be useful for them to attend a meeting. The Town Clerk agreed to contact the group and arrange.
- There was a discussion around the frequency of meetings and it was noted that further meetings may be called if necessary.
- It was proposed by Councillor Blackman to accept the Terms of Reference and this was seconded by Councillor J Robinson and carried unanimously.
- RESOLVED** That the Terms of Reference be accepted.

191/17/18**PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2018**

Members noted the proposed meeting dates for 2018.

RESOLVED

That the meeting dates for 2018 were noted.

192/17/18**RADAR SPEED GUN UPDATE (REF MINUTE 1032/16/17)**

Councillor Owen updated Members that the speed gun has been purchased and the next action is to make this available to Councillors and Committees. Councillor Feeney-Johnson has offered her support to take this forward and a date will be arranged for training to use the speed gun.

It was suggested by Councillor S Evans that ideally the training session takes place before September ready for a new school year.

193/17/18**REQUEST FOR SUPPORT TO REPOSITION 30MPH SIGN ON A6 SOUTH OF KENDAL**

Councillor Owen presented a letter received from Geoffrey Kenyon, Resident and Director of Helsington Laithes Management Committee that had been previously circulated. He is seeking support to replace the 40mph sign with the 30mph sign and reposition the 40mph sign to a suitable distance further south, possibly near the layby.

Members were fully supportive of the moving of the sign although there was some discussion that the signs are not within the boundaries of Kendal.

It was proposed by Councillor J Robinson to send a letter of support to CCC and Highways for the proposal. This was seconded by Councillor S Evans and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk write a letter of support to CCC and Highways for the repositioning of the speed signs on Milnthorpe Road.

194/17/18**UPDATE ON PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND JOINT KENDAL IN BLOOM COMMITTEE PROJECTS**

The Town Clerk updated Members on the projects.

Dowker Lane

The planting bed is near completion and was just awaiting the bark chip. She reported there had been some positive comments from the public.

Bird Cage

The work will be finished this week.

Parks and Open Spaces

The Town Clerk had no further update. Councillor Archibald confirmed that the Nobles Rest Park improvement project was on schedule and the tender should be awarded in the autumn.

Ford Park

Councillor Veevers advised that the flower beds were in need of attention. The Town Clerk will investigate.

195/17/18**LOWTHER STREET TREE REMOVAL UPDATE AND APPROVAL OF FUNDING (REF MINUTE 787/16/17)**

The Town Clerk advised that it had been previously approved by this Committee to remove the dead tree from the bottom of Lowther Street. It took some time to gain relevant permissions and unfortunately it was too late to use the budget from last year. She has brought this back to Committee to ask if Members would now like to go ahead to be funded using budget from this year. The cost for the removal is £900.

It was proposed by Councillor Archibald that £900 of the budget be used to take the tree down and this was seconded by Councillor Owen.

Councillor Veevers proposed an amendment that the budget is not used to remove the tree as he felt it was not benefitting the people of Kendal and could be better used on other projects. This was seconded by Councillor J Robinson.

There was then a discussion by Members on whether the budget could be used for other projects within the town.

The Town Clerk advised that the decision about the tree could be made nearer the end of the year if there was money left in the budget as the permission was now in place and there is no issue with timing. Councillor Blackman advised that some of the feedback from Britain in Bloom last year was around the maintenance of the trees within Abbot Hall so maybe these could be considered. It was decided to form a 'blight list' and this list could be prioritised.

Members noted in favour of not removing the tree at this time.

Councillor Blackman then proposed that the Committee put together a 'blight list' to include this tree and decide which projects to go ahead with at the end of the year with the remaining budget and this was seconded by Councillor Veevers and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

1. That the tree on Lowther Street not be removed at this time.
2. That the Committee produce a 'blight list' which will be prioritised and any remaining funds at the end of the year can be used on the projects from that list.

196/17/18**APPROVAL OF CCC TOWN CENTRE BENCH ASSET TRANSFER (REF MINUTE 1041/16/17)**

The Town Clerk advised that she and Councillor Vincent had met with CCC 2 weeks ago regarding the town centre benches. There are 11 benches in total, along Highgate and Stricklandgate. The Town Clerk shared a draft memorandum of agreement from CCC with Members.

She suggested the following amendments to the agreement be proposed by CCC:

1. We assume this is maintenance only and CCC will retain ownership.
2. Memorandum clause 2 – we would like a second option of “CCC shall be at liberty to repair and recover the cost from KTC” not just remove. Our view is that for the people of Kendal this would always be preferable to just removing.
3. Memorandum clause 4 – as we discussed at our meeting we would like to see “in consultation with KTC” included. We would also like CCC to in the first instance look to offer a replacement site to move the seat to rather than straight removal. It should be noted that the cost of any removal/moving to a new site would have to be met by whomever was making the demand eg to make way for housing the developer; to make way for road widening CCC.
4. If CCC retain ownership it may be in your interests to have a clause that if ever you wanted the asset back we were under an obligation to return it in an as received condition.
5. The right to affix our logo to the seats to inform that we are responsible for maintenance.

There was then some discussion from Members around the original idea that taking over the maintenance of the benches was in return for CCC maintaining the KTC owned lights in the town. The Town Clerk confirmed that the lighting situation had proved difficult due to the difference in type of lights that are owned by KTC. Members felt that although there is a cost involved in maintaining the benches it was in the interest of the public and the town to have them in a state of repair. It was also thought that if the benches were being maintained by KTC then it would be nice for them to carry the KTC logo.

It was proposed by Councillor J Robinson these comments on the memorandum of agreement be made to CCC. The final document could then go to full Council. This was seconded by Councillor Blackman and carried with one abstention.

RESOLVED

That the comments on the memorandum of agreement to be made to CCC.

197/17/18

DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH VICARAGE PARK SCHOOL – APPLICATION TO CCC

The Town Clerk presented the application that had been previously circulated regarding the diversion of the footpath at Vicarage Park School.

It was felt by Members that if it helps the school especially around safeguarding issues then they would support the diversion of the footpath. It was also felt that the proposed route was not less convenient.

It was proposed by Councillor Veevers to support the diversion of the footpath at Vicarage Park School. This was seconded by Councillor Archibald and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the Committee support the proposed diversion of the footpath at Vicarage Park School.

198/17/18

CANAL HEAD ALLOTMENTS FOOTPATH REPAIR UPDATE AND RENEWAL OF APPROVAL TO FUND (REF MINUTE 1076/15/16)

The Town Clerk advised Members that it had been previously approved by this Committee to investigate resurfacing the path at Canal Head allotments up to a maximum cost of £500. Approval for the work was required from SLDC and when the permission was granted it was too late to use the budget from last year. Members were asked to decide if they still wanted to go ahead with the original proposal using funds from the current budget.

Councillor Veevers confirmed the request had come to this Committee as the land was not allotment land and is owned by SLDC.

It was proposed by Councillor Veevers to investigate resurfacing the path at Canal Head allotments up to a maximum cost of £500. This was seconded by Councillor J Robinson and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the Committee agree to investigate resurfacing the path at the Canal Head allotments up to a maximum cost of £500.

199/17/18

PROPOSAL FOR INTERPRETATION PANEL AT SCOUTS SCAR AND NEAR KENDAL RACECOURSE

The Town Clerk presented a proposal for interpretation boards at Scouts Scar and near Kendal Racecourse that had been previously circulated. She highlighted that the areas are outside the Kendal boundary so support could only be in writing to the Lake District National Park and Friends of the Lake District requesting them to support and not financial.

Members felt that they would like to support the proposal and there was a discussion whether similar boards could be erected within the town boundary directing people to these areas of interest. Councillor J Robinson also advised that it would be worth speaking with the Civic Society for their input into the information for the boards.

It was proposed by Councillor Veevers to support in writing the erection of interpretation boards at Scouts Scar and near Kendal Racecourse. This was seconded by Councillor Archibald and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the Committee support the erection of interpretation boards at Scouts Scar and near Kendal Racecourse by asking the Lake District National Park and Friends of the Lake District to support.

200/17/18**ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Members discussed possible items for the newsletter and these included:

- Radar speed gun
- Town centre benches
- Kendal Castle
- Parkside Road and Sunnyside painting railings
- Rosemary Hill Garden and bench
- Dowker Lane/Bird Cage improvement
- Rinkfield Play Area

201/17/18**REVIEW OF SPEND AGAINST BUDGET 2017/18**

The Town Clerk presented the review of spend against budget for the 3 months ended 30 June which was noted by members.

RESOLVED

That the review of spend against budget be noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS**202/17/18****Wildman Street**

The Town Clerk presented an email from Owen David from CCC regarding the design of a cycle way along the length of Shap Road as part of funding from LEP to support SLDC's Local Plan. Owen highlighted that the area of Wildman Street was still a problem in the design. CCC are proposing a trial by narrowing Wildman Street to 1 lane for the full length, by using water filled barriers to create a 2.5m wide footpath. There would be a provision of a loading bay outside Giant Kendal for businesses. The trial would be for 2 months, over August and September to enable them to see how traffic is affected over the holiday period and a school period. He also advised that traffic at the end of Wildman Street would still be able to turn in all 3 directions; Stramongate, Beezon Road, Castle Street. The trial will allow CCC to see if this solution would work or not.

There was concern by Members and the following issues were highlighted:

- Problematic junction already
- Monitoring of the trial be at all times and not just peak traffic times - school finishing times
- Impact on businesses especially post floods from being difficult to unload and no temporary stopping
- Questions on whether the cycle way would be two-way
- Cycling close to people's front doors on Longpool
- A PR exercise would be needed beforehand
- Ability to stop the trial quickly if it is not working

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk will respond to Owen David, CCC with the concerns raised by the Committee.

203/17/18**Waterside Paving**

Councillors Clare and Vincent have been asked by member of the public about the poor state of the paving slabs on Waterside.

Members agreed that these slabs were a problem and the Town Clerk would highlight concerns to CCC again. Councillor J Robinson suggested that it could go on to the 'blight list'.

204/17/18

Footpath to the south of Romney Bridge

Councillor Veevers advised that the footpath to the south of Romney Bridge was in need of attention and the shrubs required cutting back. The path is owned by SLDC and United Utilities. Members suggested arranging a site visit with SLDC and UU.

RESOLVED

The Town Clerk to arrange a site visit with SLDC and United Utilities to discuss maintenance of the footpath to the south of Romney Bridge.

205/17/18

Keep Kendal Mint Clean

Councillor Blackman advised he would be seeking funding for branded hi-vis jackets, bin bag hoops and dustpan and brushes and asked for it to be an item on the next agenda.

Plastic Free Town

Councillor Archibald advised Members that he had attended a screening of Plastic Ocean. He is keen for the Town Council to endorse making Kendal a (non-recyclable) plastic free town. It was suggested inviting an organiser to the next meeting and this was agreed by Members.

RESOLVED

Councillor Archibald to invite one of the organisers of Plastic Free Town to the next Committee Meeting.

206/17/18

Woolpack Yard

Councillor J Robinson asked for an update on the situation with the improvement of the building wall at Woolpack Yard. The Town Clerk confirmed a survey of the building had been completed by the owner and dry rot had been found necessitating extensive renovation work.

207/17/18

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

10th October 2017

The meeting closed at 9.08pm.

Summary of Information, Resolutions and Recommendations to Council

Min	Subject	Information/Resolution/Recommendation to Council	
193/17/18	Request for support to reposition 30MPH sign on A6 South of Kendal	RES	That the Town Clerk write a letter of support to CCC and Highways for the repositioning of the speed signs on Milnthorpe Road.
195/17/18	Lowther Street Tree Removal Update and Approval of Funding (ref minute 787/16/17)	RES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the tree on Lowther Street not be removed at this time. 2. That the Committee produce a 'blight list' which will be prioritised and any remaining funds at the end of the year can be used on the projects from that list.
196/17/18	Approval of CCC Town Centre Bench Asset Transfer (ref minute 1041/16/17)	RES	That the comments on the memorandum of agreement to be made to CCC.
197/17/18	Diversion of Footpath Vicarage Park School – Application to CCC	RES	That the Committee support the proposed diversion of the footpath at Vicarage Park School.
198/17/18	Canal Head Allotments Footpath Repair Update and Renewal of Approval to Fund (ref minute 1076/15/16)	RES	That the Committee agree to investigate resurfacing the path at the Canal Head allotments up to a maximum cost of £500.
199/17/18	Proposal for Interpretation Panel at Scouts Scar and Near Kendal Racecourse	RES	That the Committee support the erection of interpretation boards at Scouts Scar and near Kendal Racecourse by asking the Lake District National Park and Friends of the Lake District to support.
202/17/18	Wildman Street	RES	That the Town Clerk will respond to Owen David, CCC with the concerns raised by the Committee.
204/17/18	Footpath to the South of Romney Bridge	RES	The Town Clerk to arrange a site visit with SLDC and United Utilities to discuss maintenance of the footpath to the south of Romney Bridge.
205/17/18	Plastic Free Town	RES	Councillor Archibald to invite one of the organisers of Plastic Free Town to the next Committee Meeting.