

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Mayoralty & Arts Committee

**Monday 10th September 2018 at 7.00 pm
in The Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Kendal**

- PRESENT** Councillors Guy Tirvengadam (Chair & Mayor), Paul Bramham (Vice Chair), Jonathan Brook, Richard Sutton and Julia Dunlop
- The Mayor's Attendant, Simon Unsworth, was also in attendance for item 5 on the Agenda.
- APOLOGIES** Councillors Chris Hogg, Rachael Hogg, Alvin Finch (Deputy Mayor) and Pat Gibson. Liz Richardson (Town Clerk)
- OFFICERS** Nicky King (Council Secretary)
- 306/18/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- None.
- 307/18/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- There were no declarations of interest made at this point.
- 308/18/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH JUNE 2018**
- The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2018, which had been approved by full Council on 6th August 2018.
- Councillor Brook proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Sutton and carried with 1 abstention.
- RESOLVED** That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25th June 2018 be accepted as a correct record.
- MATTERS ARISING** (Not on Agenda)
- 309/18/19** In the absence of the Town Clerk the Mayor's Attendant updated Committee on the following matters:
- Heritage Audit Report - Minute Ref 100/18/19
The Town Clerk had sought clarification as to normal practice. There is no necessity to write off items highlighted as missing in the audit report, but it would be sensible to do so for ease of practice.
- Donation of the Mary Wakefield Trophy - Minute Ref 101/18/19
The decision to accept the donation provided the item was not on loan had been passed on to the Mary Wakefield Festival Committee. A response is awaited.

Items in Mayor's Parlour not on Database – Minute Ref 106/18/19

The Mayor's Attendant advised that the Town Clerk and himself had put some time aside to address this matter.

Photograph of newly formed Town Council – Minute Ref 110/18/19

It had previously been thought too costly to organise a photograph of the newly formed Town Council. The Chair advised that Councillor Bramham had offered to take the photograph in order to keep costs down. It was agreed to include the matter on the agenda for the next meeting when details could be discussed further.

RESOLVED That the possibility of organising a photograph of the newly formed Town Council be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

310/18/19 OVERVIEW OF HERITAGE CONDITION SURVEY – FINDINGS AND ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BY SIMON UNSWORTH, MAYOR'S ATTENDANT

Simon Unsworth explained that an audit is carried out by Morag from Kendal Museum once a year. She randomly selects 40-50 items and these are referenced against the database. The majority of items in the Mayor's Parlour belong to the people of Kendal, with the exception of the George Romney violin which is on loan. The Heritage Condition Survey highlighted some issues to be addressed, such as recommendations on storage requirements etc. Over the period of a year each item was looked at individually in terms of storage. There are a number of items that need attention, such as the Catherine Parr Book of Devotions which has a broken hinge on the book. Simon Unsworth is liaising with the V&A Museum for advice in this respect. Frame repairs are required to one of the Romney pictures and the Charters need new boxes. Simon Unsworth is obtaining new storage trays for items currently in the drawers and folders.

There were some items in the Condition Survey that cannot be located. Simon Unsworth is creating a list of items that can be distributed around people to make it easier to track their whereabouts. New offers of donations are constantly being received and it is part of the Mayor's Attendant's role to enter these into the database. This is a rolling programme of work.

It was noted that humidity monitors had been placed in various rooms. Humidity levels in the Mayor's Parlour are acceptable, although there is a slight possibility of mild damp to one wall. There is an issue with damp/condensation in the Council Chamber and this is being monitored. Another issue in this room is air quality resulting from air pollutants entering the building from Lowther Street.

Simon Unsworth said there was nothing for immediate concern highlighted in the Condition Survey. Long term ambitions included looking at digitising old photographs of past Mayor's which were currently stored in the picture store and looking at improving storage.

There is a lot of ongoing work which will ultimately make the Mayor's Parlour much more efficient.

Councillor Bramham asked whether the George Romney violin is now secured. Simon Unsworth advised that it is. He added that the Mayor's Parlour is constantly evolving and changing. It is a working room, used for meetings etc, it is not a museum and members of the public should be able to handle items as long as care is exercised. Requests are regularly received to view items such as medals etc or items donated by people's relatives.

Councillor Brook commented that it would be good to reinvigorate the website and asked the Mayor's Attendant to bear in mind appropriate content that could be incorporated. Simon Unsworth advised that he had discussed some kind of timeline idea with the Town Clerk which would be good for the website. He said he would consider the website further and make suggestions.

Councillor Bramham referred to the exhibition held every two years and suggested an exhibition of past Mayors of Kendal.

Councillor Brook proposed that the potential for an exhibition of past Mayors be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Some of the material to be placed onto the website. This was seconded by Councillor Bramham and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the potential for an exhibition of past Mayors be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Some of the material to be placed onto the website.

311/18/19 KENDAL MUSEUM GRANT

It was noted that KTC have £2k available this financial year for a Museum project. Kendal Museum have reported their busiest summer for some time with over 100 visitors regularly on the days they are open. Galleries are now in need of some repair and visitor interpretation and they would utilise any grant for this purpose.

Councillor Brook proposed that Committee approve the grant to Kendal Museum. This was seconded by Councillor Bramham who commented that the Museum is an underrated facility in the town. This was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That Committee approve the grant of £2k to Kendal Museum.

312/18/19 PROPOSED DONATION OF A FIRE SCREEN

The Town Clerk had received an offer of donation of a hand crafted latch-hook fire screen which is of the Kendal Coat of Arms and motto. Committee were asked to consider whether they wished to accept the donation.

Following a general discussion, Councillor Brook proposed that the offer be accepted in principle, subject to an Officer making the final decision. Should Committee consider the fire screen inappropriate for the Mayor's Parlour upon receiving it, they would seek an alternative suitable home. This was seconded by Councillor Bramham and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That Committee accept the offer of donation, subject to an Officer making the final decision. Should Committee consider the fire screen inappropriate for the Mayor's Parlour upon receiving it, they would seek an alternative suitable home.

313/18/19 FREEDOM OF KENDAL PROPOSAL FOR THE 1127 (KENDAL) SQUADRON, AIR TRAINING CORPS

The Chair informed Members that he had received a request from Flt Lt Tim Corry, Officer Commanding 1127 (Kendal) Squadron, Air Training Corps asking whether the 'Freedom of Kendal' could be extended to the Royal Air Force.

Councillor Bramham provided some background information. He explained that the Duke of Lancs inherited the Freedom but formal approval was never actually granted. He suggested that the Freedom Parade in March 2019 might be an opportune time to do so. He added that to receive the Freedom of Kendal is an honour and if it were to be granted to others it might potentially open the flood gates and 'water down' that honour. He noted that it was not the Royal Air Force but the Air Cadets.

Councillor Brook considered Committee had insufficient information/knowledge about what the Freedom of Kendal really means and the implications. Councillor Bramham explained that Freedom gives the right to march through the town with fixed bayonets.

The Chair suggested the matter be added to the agenda for the next meeting. The Town Clerk to prepare a paper with further information regarding the implications of granting Freedom. In the meantime a holding letter would be sent to Flt Lt Tim Corry advising that Committee are considering the request.

RESOLVED That the Freedom of Kendal proposal be added to the agenda for the next meeting. The Town Clerk to prepare a paper with further information. Holding letter to be sent to Flt Lt Tim Corry.

314/18/19 2019/20 BUDGET – REVIEW OF BUDGET REQUIREMENTS AND PROPOSALS FOR ONE-OFF DEVELOPMENT FUND BIDS

Committee considered the paper which had been previously circulated. Members were broadly happy with the budget as it stands. They were not aware of any one-off Development Fund bids.

There was a discussion regarding whether the Mayor's Charity Dinner should be included as Council have now agreed this should become a civic function. Councillor Brook proposed acceptance of the recommendations made in the paper, but suggested that the Staffing budget under the Mayoralty heading be increased to £12,000. This was seconded by Councillor Dunlop and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That Committee accept the report and recommendations therein. Staffing budget under the Mayoralty heading to be increased to £12,000

315/18/19 REVIEW OF SPEND AGAINST BUDGET 2018/19

Committee noted the Budgetary Control Statement for four months ended 31st July 2018.

316/18/19 ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Autumn/Winter 2018 edition:

- Armistice exhibition in Georgian Room.
- Remembrance Day.
- Mayor's Coffee Morning.
- Kendal Unity Festival (Chair to liaise with Town Clerk)

Spring 2019 edition:

- Duke of Lancs Parade

317/18/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

318/18/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 12TH NOVEMBER 2018 AT 7PM

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Summary of Information, Resolutions and Recommendations to Council

Min	Subject	Information/Resolution/Recommendation to Council	
309	Photograph of newly formed Town Council	RES	That the possibility of organising a photograph of the newly formed Town Council be added to the agenda of the next meeting.
310	Overview of Heritage Condition Survey	RES	That the potential for an exhibition of past Mayors be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Some of the material to be placed onto the website.
311	Kendal Museum Grant	RES	That Committee approve the grant of £2k to Kendal Museum.
312	Proposed Donation of Fire Screen	RES	That Committee accept the offer of donation, subject to an Officer making the final decision. Should Committee consider the fire screen inappropriate for the Mayor's Parlour upon receiving it, they would seek an alternative suitable home.
313	Freedom of Kendal	RES	That the Freedom of Kendal proposal be added to the agenda for the next meeting. The Town Clerk to prepare a paper with further information. Holding letter to be sent to Flt Lt Tim Corry.
314	2019/20 Budget	RES	That Committee accept the report and recommendations therein. Staffing budget under the Mayoralty heading to be increased to £12,000