

# KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the proceedings at the Annual Town Assembly held on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 at 7.15 p.m. in the Bindloss Room, the Town Hall, Kendal

**PRESENT** The Mayor (Councillor G Tirvengadam) in the Chair;  
Councillors G Vincent, G Cook, P Bramham, G Archibald, S Coleman, S Evans, A Finch, A Blackman, C Hogg, R Sutton, J Owen, D Rathbone, J Cornthwaite, J Dunlop, A Edwards, E Hennessy, H Ladhams, S Long, D Miles, M Miles and C Rowley

**OFFICERS** Liz Richardson (Town Clerk) and Nicky King (Council Secretary)

### **01 WELCOME, INTRODUCTION & PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT – THE MAYOR OF KENDAL, CLLR GUY TIRVENGADUM**

The Mayor opened the meeting with an introduction to Kendal Town Council and the presentation of the 2018-19 Annual Report. The Council serves a community of approximately 30,000 residents, with an electorate of 23,000. It consists of 10 Wards served by 28 Councillors who are elected for a term of 4 years.

Meetings of the Council are held on the first Monday of every month (except where there is a Bank Holiday) at 7.30pm and the public are welcome to attend. Planning Committee meetings are held fortnightly, the majority of other Committee meetings are held on a quarterly basis. Every Councillor is a Member of at least one Committee.

Each Committee Chair will give a 5 minute presentation. Question time will follow the presentations.

### **02 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE OVERVIEW – CLLR ALVIN FINCH (CHAIR)**

Councillor Finch reported a year of change with a newly appointed Townscape Manager and a new Chair and Committee membership following the elections in May 2018. The watering of crops proved challenging last summer due to the extended dry spell. The allotments database was upgraded to a specific allotment software. The export of data had been a time consuming task, but will hopefully improve the service long term.

Bi-monthly drop in sessions continue to be held. The waiting list has been manageable this year, mainly due to what appears to be annual plot relinquishments following the new seasons rent invoices. The rent increased by 1p per square metre, but having an allotment is still considered to be a cost-effective hobby.

In the future, Committee want to focus on continuing to improve current sites, with an aim to ensure each site meets a minimum standard. Having achieved that, Committee would like to see where further improvements can be made.

Committee continue to do their best, on behalf of current and future tenants, to provide good workable plots for their gardening ambitions.

**03 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & FESTIVALS COMMITTEE OVERVIEW – CLLR SHIRLEY EVANS (CHAIR)**

Councillor Evans referred to the grants and support the Committee give to Kendal's many festivals, one example being the Mary Wakefield Festival which is attended by lots of young people in particular. The Committee works hard to enhance the economy and vibrancy of Kendal and hopes it helps to "put smiles on people's faces".

There had been a different scenario with the Christmas Lights this year which posed a challenge. Several long-term sponsors were lost and, due to the demise of Lakeland Radio, there was no large stage outside the library, although there was a small stage in the Market Place.

Committee are hoping to expand the Christmas Lights displays in 2019. Enhancements at Wildman Street and Kendal Museum are being considered, along with the possibility of placing Christmas trees in holders above shops. Committee want to work with local businesses to make Kendal an even more colourful and welcoming place.

Two festivals were highlighted in particular, the Walking Festival which will take place again this year from 10-12 May, and the Unity Festival which will be held for the second time. The Unity Festival was initiated last year by the current Mayor with great success. Councillor Evans remarked that Kendal is a destination in itself and the festivals help to deliver this message.

**04 ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE OVERVIEW – CLLR JON OWEN (CHAIR)**

Councillor Owen explained how the Committee supported the Kendal and District Bus User Group (KADBUS) to install an improved bus shelter on Blackhall Road. This was made possible through joint working with County, District and the Town Council. KTC managed funding administration for KADBUS and has also adopted the shelter for future maintenance and cleaning.

The Northern Development Route notion was highlighted. KTC have contributed towards consultants engaged by CCC. There is no application to central Government at this stage but the Environment & Highways Committee are keeping an active eye on the issue.

Councillor Owen talked about some of the diverse range of projects that the Committee have been involved with over the past year. A new bin storage area has been funded as a first improvement step at Woolpack Yard. There will be a rolling programme to enhance all Yards in Kendal, with the newly refurbished New Shambles setting the standard. The Kendal Greenwall has been driven by a desire to improve air quality in Kendal and the planning permission process is underway. A hand-held speed gun has been purchased and a number of Councillors and members of public have received training in its use. This is part of KTC's efforts to improve the safety of residents.

Councillor Coleman thanked Members of the Environment & Highways Committee for their work and noted the vast array of projects undertaken.

**05 KENDAL IN BLOOM COMMITTEE OVERVIEW – CLLR ANDY BLACKMAN (CHAIR)**

Councillor Blackman remarked that the work of the Kendal in Bloom Committee is about much more than organising contracts for floral displays in Kendal. Most importantly it engages with the local community to discover splendid horticultural projects around the town, which helps to achieve success in the Cumbria in Bloom competition. Once again, in the 2018 competition, Kendal was awarded a Silver Gilt Award. Councillor Blackman said the Committee appreciated the contribution of Horticare and Castle Green Hotel, who continue to be a beacon of how a business can make great use of its grounds.

Feedback from Cumbria in Bloom judges included a suggestion to tap into the heritage of the town in more detail. Councillor Blackman talked about George Whitwell who lived in Serpentine Cottage during the reign of Queen Victoria. He founded the British Fern Society and recently the Conservation Volunteers Trust have developed a fern garden in Serpentine Woods. The Kendal in Bloom Committee are keen to bring that heritage into their remit and a number of planters around town now include ferns. The desire is to extend that into a trail which links to the heritage of the town and will hopefully satisfy judges in this area of the competition.

Other projects highlighted included the replacement of pot bound trees in the planters on Highgate and Stricklandgate. These have been recycled and moved to Gooseholme. Keep Kendal Mint Clean litter pick events are continuing, with the first litter pick of the season hopefully taking place during the coming weekend.

A member of the public congratulated KTC and the Kendal in Bloom Committee for their work in maintaining a bloom presence in town throughout the year.

**06 MAYORALTY & ARTS COMMITTEE OVERVIEW – CLLR GUY TIRVENGADUM (CHAIR)**

Councillor Tirvengadum explained that the main functions of the Mayoralty & Arts Committee are to look after Mayoralty, Mayor's Parlour presentations, ceremonies, civic occasions, Town Council's artefact collection (including collection and retention policy) and display and storage of our heritage.

Since completion of the Heritage Condition report in 2017, various remedial actions continue, such as repair of the wall clock and Katherine Parr's Book of Devotions in the Mayor's Parlour.

The Committee organised an event to commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War. There had also been a Regimental Parade through Kendal by the Duke of Lancaster Regiment. Unfortunately both events experienced bad weather on the day.

Councillor Tirvengadum talked about twinning. He had attended the opening of the Christmas market in Rinteln and remarked on the great atmosphere and friendly welcome he received during that visit. He highly

recommended that people visit the town. He had also visited the inaugural Killarney Mountain Film Festival in March, along with Councillor Blackman, and commented that the Festival is growing year on year. He added that there is a strong desire from both towns to strengthen this partnership.

Finally, Councillor Tirvengadum thanked the members of the Committee for their valuable contribution throughout the past year and the Council staff for their support.

**07****QUESTION TIME – OPPORTUNITY TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND ITS WORK**

Councillor Edwards congratulated KTC on its work, managing to bring festivals and bloomage to the town year on year. He commented that enthusiasm is high and needs to be nurtured. The Mayor thanked Councillor Edwards and reported that the Unity Festival had been shortlisted for the 2019 Diverse Cumbria Awards. The winner will be announced on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

A member of the public referred to the proposed loss of trees as part of the flood protection scheme and queried the stance of KTC. He asked whether KTC would consider replacing the trees lost. Councillor Owen explained that the Environment & Highways Committee and the Planning Committee had reported back to the Environment Agency in this respect. In broad terms the response stressed the importance that the town gets flood defences but pressed for a reduction in the amount of trees lost. Councillor Rathbone, Chair of the Planning Committee, added that Committee have no statutory powers or budget therefore they influence by liaising with other agencies and encouraging them to amend their plans. Councillor Edwards observed that 143 trees are being planted across the District, including some on Sandylands, Shap Road and other areas. He noted that we are seeing an offset even before flood defence works have started.

**08****CLOSING REMARKS – THE MAYOR OF KENDAL, CLLR GUY TIRVENGADUM**

Councillor Tirvengadum closed the Annual Town Assembly by thanking all Councillors for their work and the members of the public for attending. He said there had been lots of success over the past year and he was proud of the achievements of KTC.