

Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4ED
www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk



Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments Committee held on Monday, 29 April 2024, in the Georgian Room at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal, at 7.00 p.m.

Kendal Town Council Members

Cllr G Archibald (Vice Chair)	Present	Cllr J Cornthwaite	Apologies
Cllr L Edwards	Present	Cllr A Finch (Chair)	Present
Cllr C Hardy	Apologies	Cllr L Hendry	Present

Co-optees

Jon Cox	Present	Chris Rowley	Present
Ros Taylor	Present		

Site Representatives present

Castle Haggs	Gwen Tordoff
Castle Haggs Ext	Jon Cox
Underley Road	Chris Rowley
Wattsfield	Ros Taylor

In attendance: Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk), Janine Holt (Council Services Officer) and Pierre Labat (Townscape Officer).

A34/2023 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Kendal Town Cllr C Hardy and Cllr C Cornthwaite and Site Representative Elizabeth Kelly (Castle Drive)

A35/2023 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

A36/2023 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no confidential items included in the agenda.

A37/2023 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Allotments Committee held on 26 February 2024 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

A38/2023 Minute Action Sheet

The Committee considered a report on actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings.

Cllr Archibald highlighted the workload pressure on the officers and advised them not to overreach themselves. He thought it would be helpful if the action sheet could reflect the exact status of projects even if they were on hold because there was not enough officer capacity.

Resolved: To note the report.

A39/2023 Review of Spend against 2023/24 Budget

The Council Services Officer presented a report reviewing spend against the budget as of 31st March 2024. It was noted that the budget was underspent at the end of the financial year.

Resolved: To note the report.

A40/2023 Canal Head Orchard

The Town Clerk presented a proposal to create a small community orchard at Canal Head allotments. It was noted that this project overlaps with the Environment Committee with the proposal developed by the Project Officer. Concerns were raised in respect of the capacity to deliver this project. Chris Rowley who has prior experience in developing a community orchard, highlighted that the amount of work required to maintain an orchard was huge. He suggested that the community base of volunteers was developed as a first step. These comments will be fed back to the Project Officer for consideration.

Resolved: To provide feedback to the Project Officer

A41/2023 Allotment Workshops

Councillor Hendry presented a proposal for developing a series of informative workshops for allotment holders. She acknowledged that it was too late in this growing season to implement the programme. She agreed to undertake further research and report back to a future meeting.

Resolved: Councillor Hendry will further research the development of a series of workshops and report back to the Committee in the future.

AA42/2023 Townscape Officer Update

The Townscape Officer presented his report. He reported that the newly established maintenance system was working well and helping him to focus on his workload.

The Townscape Officer reported that the repair of the gates on the original side of the Canal Head site was to be a priority in between his work on the installation of the civic planting.

Following on from a site meeting with the Council Services Officer and Site Representative for Castle Hags Ext, it was agreed that the Townscape Officer could effectively repair the boundary fence at Castle Hags Ext. In addition to repairing the fence, he would also install a permeable membrane along the length of the fence line, this would help alleviate the

complaints about the weeds and brambles encroaching on the allotments. This work is scheduled to start on 3rd May.

The Townscape Officer reported that he had met with the site representative from Castle Hags to discuss concerns with the installation of the water troughs. It appears that tenants are reluctant to use the troughs, the Townscape Officer confirmed that the water troughs would be in addition to the existing taps and not a replacement.

The Council Services Officer reported that whilst on recent site visits, she noted the poor state of the main pathway at Town View allotments. She felt that the extent of the work would not fall within the scope of the Townscape Officer but would need a dedicated groundworks contractor. It was suggested that she try the community payback scheme which may be able to assist.

Resolved: To note the updates.

A43/2023 Allotment Statistics Report

The Council Services Officer presented a report which showed that the waiting list currently stood at 81 individuals. The list had decreased by 33 individuals since the last meeting. 9 plots were vacant, details of which were provided within the report. 34 plots had been let since February.

The site representatives stated that it would be useful to know when plots had been let. The Council Services Officer agreed to include site representatives in the correspondence she sends out confirming the allocation of a plot.

Resolved: Council Services Officer to include the site representatives in the correspondence confirming the allocation of plots.

Resolved: To note the report.

A44/2023 Site Representatives

Chris Rowley, Underley Road representative, reported that he had seen rabbits on Kendal Green footpath and that they appeared to be moving outwards towards Underley Road allotments. The Council Services Officer thanked Chris Rowley for sharing his observation.

The site representatives thanked Town Council Officers for their continued support.

Resolved: To note the verbal reports from Site Representatives.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.