

Kendal Town Council

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



Minutes from the Audit, Grants and Charities Committee meeting held at 6.00 p.m. on Monday, 8 August 2022, in the Council Chamber at Kendal Town Hall, Highgate. This was a reconvening of 25 July's meeting which had been adjourned due to the Committee having been inquorate.

Cllr K Blamire	Present	Cllr J Dunlop (c)	Present
Cllr D Evans	Present	Cllr M Helme	Absent
Cllr T Perkins	Apologies	Cllr D Rathbone (vc)	Present
Cllr C Russell	Apologies		

In attendance: Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk)

AGC 01/2022 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr T Perkins and C Russell

AGC 02/2022 Declarations of Interest

None at the time.

AGC 03/2022 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

None

AGC 04/2022 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Council received the minutes of the Audit, Grants and Charities meeting held on 25 April 2022. It was noted that the Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee had also considered a grant application from Kendal Community Theatre, and the Council had now agreed to fund the organisation from two budgets. This was not good practice and should be avoided in future. The Clerk reported that he expected the recent changes which had been made to the grants system, with a single point of contact, would prevent this from happening in the future.

Resolved: To accept the minutes as a true record.

AGC 05/2022 Budget Monitoring

The Committee considered a budget monitoring report to 30 June 2022. There were no particular issues raised, though the van costs were queried, as they appeared to be forecast to exceed the budget significantly. The Clerk explained that the fuel element was an unknown variable and that repairs had been more expensive than anticipated.

Resolved: To note the report.

AGC 06/2022 Grants Funding

The Committee considered the following grant applications

- a) Abbot Hall Bowling Club
Sum applied for £50
Purpose: To assist in the reinstatement of the Alexander Cup Festival
Committee Comment: Scale and purpose meets criteria
Grant offered: £50

- b) Hallgarth Senior Citizens
Sum applied for £500
Purpose: To take members on a bus trip
Committee comment: The Committee queried whether it was appropriate that the Town Council should be asked to pay the full amount for this trip, with no other sources of income shown and the amount requested a seemingly arbitrary figure. It resolved to offer a grant of £250 towards the trip.
Grant offered: £250

- c) Kendal Debt Centre
Sum applied for £5,000
Purpose: Debt advisory service in Kendal
This application was held over from the previous meeting subject to legal advice on the power of the Town Council to fund a religious foundation. NALC's solicitor had confirmed that this was within the Council's powers under ss137 and 142 of the Local Government Act, 1972. The previous committee meeting had recommended that (subject to this advice) the Council do not offer the full amount requested so as to safeguard future grant funding capacity in the current financial year.
Grant offered: £3,000

- d) Kendal and District Lions
Sum applied for £5,000
Purpose: To re-establish a second-hand bookshop in Kendal
Committee comment: The Committee did not feel able to support this application as it stood. It felt there was insufficient information submitted for a grant of the size requested, with some fields in the application form left largely blank. In deferring the consideration, they invited the applicant to submit the proposal again, but this time with more information and an analysis of how the Council's grant would be multiplied by the project.
Grant offered: application deferred for further information

- e) Kendal South Choir
Sum applied for £500
Purpose: To support a performance of 'Feel the Spirit' and 'Mass in Blue' at St Thomas's Church
Committee comment: The amount requested was specific and targeted to deliver an outcome.
Grant offered: £500

- f) Kendal Youth Zone
Sum applied for £500
Purpose: To assist in developing a 'Youth' night at The Venue.

Cllr D Evans withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item due to a previously declared Other Registerable Interest.

Committee comment: Targeted and aligned with Council's criteria.
Grant offered: £500

- g) Meals for Ukrainian Refugees
Sum applied for £1,000
Purpose: To support the provision of good, nutritious meals to Ukrainian refugees in Kendal.
Committee comment: An additional condition of funding should be for the applicant to show how the Meals for Ukrainian Refugees project is financially separate from the Gateway Church's ordinary accounts.
Grant offered £1,000

- h) South Lakeland Hydrotherapy Trust
Sum applied for: £3,000
Purpose: To support the work of the trust.
Committee comment: The Council has been a long-term supporter of the Trust since its inception and it ought to be considered a 'core' fundee.
Grant offered £3,000

- i) Lakeland Arts
Sum applied for £5,000
Purpose: To support the MART project
Committee comment: It was unclear whether the money would be required every year for three years, or divided over a three-year project.
Grant offered: £5,000

- j) South Lakes Citizen's Advice
Sum applied for £5,000
Purpose: To support the work of the Advice Service.
Committee comment: Core funding
Grant offered: £5,000

Resolved: To offer the grants and/or appropriate feedback as listed above.

AGC 07/2022 Future Grant Funding

The Clerk reported that the process of grant funding was being unified under a single point of contact and anticipated that this would address several of the issues members had raised previously about inconsistency.

Resolved: To note the report

AGC 08/2022 Finance System

The Clerk reported that the new Omega finance system was bedding in, with the purchase ordering system now being introduced. Some further work was required to finally replace the old systems, but it was anticipated this would be cleared by the end of September.

Resolved: To note the report

AGC 09/2022 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The Clerk reported that the Council was now using the new Standing Orders and that his review of the Financial Regulations should be complete in time for the Autumn budget setting.

Resolved: To note the report

AGC 10/2022 Audit of Assets and Internal Audit

The Clerk reported that this was proving more complex than anticipated, but that headway was being made on the external assets, and on identifying gaps in the internal asset list and accounting for anomalies.

Resolved: To note the report

The meeting closed at 18.54