

# Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4ED  
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**Minutes of a meeting of the Audit Committee held on Friday, 22 March 2024, at 3.00 p.m. in the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.**

Cllr S Coleman	Apologies	Cllr J Dunlop	Present
Cllr L Edwards	Present	Cllr D Evans	Present
Cllr M Helme	Absent	Cllr C Russell (Chair)	Present
Cllr D Rathbone (Vice-Chair)	Present		

**In attendance:** Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk).

## **A24/2023 Apologies**

**Resolved:** To receive and accept apologies for absence Cllr Coleman

## **A25/2023 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

## **A26/2023 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)**

There were no items marked as being excluded on the agenda, however, the Town Clerk drew attention to Agenda Item No.4 (Internal Auditor) and explained that it may be necessary to move into Part II during consideration of that item.

## **A27/2023 Internal Auditor**

### **Part Two**

*Members voted to exclude the Press and Public for the following item of business, due to the confidential nature of the discussion.*

The Town Clerk reported that he had invited suitably qualified candidates to submit a fee proposal for the Internal Audit role. Members expressed dissatisfaction that they were not being presented with a wide choice of potential candidates, noting that the existing Internal Auditor had not managed to submit a fee proposal in time for the meeting. The Clerk apologised for the shortage, explaining that he had been in touch with the wider network of Cumbrian parishes, but had not identified any suitable candidates. There was a period of debate about the importance of the role and whether sufficient information had been considered by members, but on a vote on whether to proceed or adjourn, the Committee decided to proceed, albeit with safeguards to ensure that the Council was not leaving itself open to criticism. The Clerk explained that although the candidate was known to him, this was only in the role of clerk and Internal Auditor to other Cumbrian councils, and didn't amount to a personal relationship.

**Resolved:** To recommend the appointment of Julie Hartley as the Council's Internal Auditor, in initially for a year, and then in three year blocks as required, subject to appropriate review.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk circulate a draft letter of engagement to members, for comment by Wednesday 27 March.

The meeting closed at 5pm.