

Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4ED

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Minutes of a meeting of the Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee held on Monday, 24 April 2023, at 7.03 p.m., in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Cllr M Helme (Vice-Chair)	Present *	Cllr H Ladhams (Chair)	Present
Cllr C Russell	Present	Cllr K Simpson	Present
Cllr R Sutton	Present	Cllr P Thornton	Present

* Attended and took part via Microsoft Teams, joining part way through the meeting, however, did not vote on any of the items.

In attendance: Town Clerk (Chris Bagshaw), Council Services Officer (Janine Holt) and Democratic Services Assistant (Inge Booth).

CLF48/2022 Apologies

An apology for absence was received and accepted from Cllr M Helme (please see * above).

CLF49/2022 Declarations of Interest

Cllr P Thornton declared an interest under this item in Agenda Item No.9(a) (Festival Grant Applications – Gan Yam Brewery Co.) due to the applicant being his nephew.

CLF50/2022 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

CLF51/2022 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee held on 20 February 2023 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

CLF52/2022 Minute Action Sheet

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

CLF47/2022 (Community Resilience) – This item showed as not having yet been actioned and it was pointed out that the issue would be discussed as the last item on the agenda. The deadline for submission of the proposal for inclusion on the agenda for the Management Committee meeting scheduled to be held on 30 May would be 23 May 2023.

Resolved: To note the actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings.

CLF53/2022 Budget Monitoring 2022-23

The Committee considered its budget monitoring report for 2022/23 as at 1 March 2023.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk explained the reason for the Platinum Jubilee budget line appearing in both the 2022/23 Month 12 report and the budget for 2023/24, there being a carry-over of £1,000. In response to a further query suggesting that £1,726 remained in that budget line, the Town Clerk undertook to look into the matter. The Council Services Officer provided narrative in relation to a number of figures and answered questions raised by Members.

Resolved: To seek clarification regarding the carry-over figure in relation to the Platinum Jubilee.

Resolved: To receive the report.

CLF54/2022 Mountain and Sky Christmas Lights Switch On 2023

The Committee considered a report from the Events Officer and Development Manager. Following acceptance by the Committee on 20 February 2023 of the proposal for the format for the Switch On, provisional work has started, including Kendal BID having agreed to recruit four food stalls to be set up along Highgate and cow bells having been purchased and received. Details in relation to an initial meeting with Kendal Mountain Festival were provided, the focus having been on ice rink opportunities, a site meeting on 18 April to explore opportunities with potential providers and the Mountain Festival, incorporation of flags into the parade, performance ideas and host options, with the Mountain Festival willing to provide MC for the Market Place stage. The Events Officer would be starting work on the event application and road closure, and would continue work as outlined in the timetable included within the report.

It was suggested that clarification should be sought regarding the agreement by Kendal BID for four stalls to be set up along Highgate.

Members discussed the ice rink. It was pointed out that this would be built on a raised structure, so as not to damage grass. It would be situated on the lawn between Abbott Hall and the river, for a period of around six to seven weeks. Cllr M Helme had been tasked to explore the potential for the installation of a three phase electricity power source, terminating at building nearby the lawn and which could be used for all future festivals. It was suggested that the ice rink could be run off generators, however, pointed out that this was not desirable due to dirty power being against the Town Council's climate goals. It was raised that the installation of a three phase power source could be something that Westmorland & Furness Council may be willing to finance, and Cllr P Thornton asked for details to be sent to him so that he could look into the possibility. He suggested that if not possible this year, then there may be a good chance for the following year or the year after. He applauded the work being carried out in this regard.

Concern was expressed with regard to the incorporation of flags into the procession. It was, however, pointed out that it had been confirmed in the previous week that flag holders would not be used, due to the potential for conflicting flags and the Mountain Festival not wanting them. It had instead been suggested that people to make their own, non-controversial flags, possibly through a schools competition. Also suggested as an alternative was umbrellas, which would provide an excellent visual lift, with kits being available to light them up. In any

case, it was stressed that the road closure had been organised and that a procession must proceed.

Resolved: To seek clarification regarding the agreement by Kendal BID for four stalls to be set up along Highgate

Resolved: To provide Cllr P Thornton with details in relation to the outcome of research into the installation of a three phase power source to enable him to look into the potential of Westmorland & Furness Council providing finance for the project.

Resolved: To consider the potential for the incorporation of umbrellas as an alternative to flags into the procession.

Resolved: To approve the draft Event Delivery Timetable as set out within the report.

Resolved: To note the report.

CLF55/2022 Update on Coronation Grants and Garden

The Committee considered a report from the Development Manager which provided details in relation to Coronation grant applications which had been received and considered by the Working Group together with the relevant paperwork. The Committee was asked to note the grants which have been awarded by the Working Group, totalling £3,312, as follows:-

- Kirkbarrow Residents Association - £662;
- Heron Hill School - £750;
- Hallgarth Residents Association – £750;
- Fellside Forum - £400; and
- Sandylands Residents Association - £750.

In addition, an update was provided with regard progress on the Coronation Garden, including details in relation to the next steps which were to process grant applications, create a poster to promote all community coronation events and share the poster for comments and then promote. The Clerk provided further details in relation to issues around preparation work for the Garden, explaining that a meeting was due to take place on the site the following morning.

Resolved: To note the report.

CLF56/2022 Festival Grant Applications

The Committee was asked to consider three applications for grant funding:-

Gan Yam Brewery Co - £500

Note - Cllr P Thornton declared an interest in this application to the application being his nephew. He remained in the Chamber but took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

The fact was raised that this was a commercial, profit-making organisation and not a community group, and thus did not meet the Town Council's grants criteria. The application provided no detail in relation to the date of the event and, in addition, insufficient information on what the benefits of the event to the community would be.

Resolved: Not to make a grant to Gan Yam Brewery Co, however, to point out that no event date is included within the application and to enquire what the benefits of the event to the community will be.

Kendal Zine Fest - £488

Whilst Members expressed support for this application and the fact that the festival was likely to be held in Kendal Town Hall, concerns were expressed in relation to the lack of a constitution. It was further felt that clarity in relation to the applicant's bank account details, it being pointed out that any grant offered could not be paid into a personal account. In addition, the need to question the applicant on whether or not this was a profit-making event was raised, as well to seek a date for the event. It was suggested that, if the festival was indeed to be held in the Town Hall, then the Town Council could potentially offer to pay the hire fee. The fact that the applicant was trying to do something for both the community and local artists was stressed.

During consideration of the application, the fact that a suitable and consistent mechanism was required for making grants to individuals applying for grants, it being pointed out that the Kendal in Bloom Committee was able to do this.

Resolved: To defer making a decision regarding a grant to Kendal Zine Fest pending receipt of further information in relation to the applicant's constitution, bank account details, the date and venue for the festival and whether or not this will be a profit-making event, following which a decision on the application to be delegated to the Chair of the Committee.

Resolved: To give consideration to a suitable and consistent mechanism for the Town Council to have regard to in making grants to individuals applying for grants.

Kendal Torchlight Carnival - £10,000

Note – At this point in the proceedings, Cllr R Sutton declared an interest in this application due to being a volunteer for Kendal Torchlight, although not in a managerial role. He remained in the Chamber and took part in the discussion and voting on the item. Cllr H Ladhams (Chair), also at this point, raised an interest in this application due to being involved in the management of the Torchlight Carnival. She remained in the Chamber during discussion on the item, however, took no part in the voting thereon. This being the case, the Committee took a vote and elected Cllr K Simpson to take the Chair during consideration of the application.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the application was for a grant of £10,000 but that the maximum that could be offered was £5,000. Whilst some felt that the maximum grant payable had recently been altered to £10,000, it was pointed out that the Grants Criteria, stating a maximum of £5,000, had been noted at the last meeting of the Committee, with no changes having been proposed at that time.

Members expressed full support for the application, of the opinion that this was an event which was expected and enjoyed by the community each year. Raised was the fact that two separate grants had been awarded for the 2022 event. However, it was acknowledged that, the criteria not having changed, the Christmas Lights and Festivals could currently only make an award of £5,000 at this stage. This being the case, it was suggested that the matter be brought to Full Council for consideration at its meeting on 2 May 2023.

Resolved: To request Full Council, at its meeting on 2 May 2023, to allow the Committee to exceed its usual grant limit of £5,000 and offer a single grant of £10,000 to Kendal Torchlight.

Resolved: To bring back the Committee's grants criteria for reconsideration at a future meeting of the committee.

Note – Cllr Ladhams resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

CLF57/2022 Community Resilience

Prior to providing a short verbal update, Cllrs Ladhams and Russell handed out copies of papers which they had written to those Members of the Committee present in the Chamber. Cllr Ladhams' paper explained how a Christmas Lights/Community Committee would uphold the Council's values on which its priorities were based and provided details on decisions which would be made by such a committee. Cllr Russell's paper outlined suggested changes in committee responsibilities, details of which were to be submitted for consideration by the Management Committee on 30 May 2023. The main changes proposed within Cllr Russell's paper were with regard to a reformed Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee in the form of a Community Committee.

In presenting the papers, Cllr Russell stressed the importance for the Council to have a committee through which to give consideration to community matters. He further highlighted the need to establish a Council for Voluntary Services for South Lakeland, based within Kendal at Stricklandgate House. In addition, he felt strongly that all Town Council grants should be dealt with by the proposed Community Committee.

The fact that this was a matter for the Management Committee to discuss at its meeting on 30 May 2023 was reiterated. In addition, it was pointed out that other committees also needed to be taken into consideration, as well as have the opportunity to comment on the proposals. Suggested was the potential to consider the role of Westmorland & Furness Council and how the Town Council could work with them on some aspects or lobby them on others. In addition, it was pointed out that Westmorland & Furness may be willing to provide funding in relation to some areas.

Resolved: To note the verbal update and express support in relation to the general direction set out within the papers.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.