

Kendal Town Council

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



Minutes of the meeting of the Christmas Lights and Festivals held on Monday, 9 August 2021 at 7.00pm via Zoom.

Cllr A Edwards	Present	Cllr T Perkins	Present
Cllr S Evans (chair)	Present	Cllr K Simpson	Present
Cllr H Ladhams	Apologies	Cllr R Sutton	Present

In attendance: Council Services Officer's (Janine Holt and Florence McMahon), Town Clerk (Chris Bagshaw), Democratic Services Assistant (Ian Gordon), Craig Russell (Kendal Torchlight)

C13/21/22 Apologies Councillor H Ladhams

C14/21/22 Declarations of Interest
None

C15/21/22 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

Resolved: No items to exclude

C16/21/22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting
The Council received the minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2021

Resolved: To accept them as a true record.

C17/21/22 Presentation by Torchlight Festival Chair – Craig Russell

Work on this year's torchlight procession is going well. Mr Russell gave an overview of last year's limited torchlight and signposted councillors to a video that had been made of the 'tiny torchlight' using shoe boxes. There was also a series of workshops to encourage people in their networks and make their own carnival at home and celebrate. They also organised a convoy and took them on trailers round the estates of Kendal. Last year, the emphasis was on encouraging people not to meet in crowds but still take part in the festival whilst social distancing. The Torchlight Festival Committee were extremely grateful for the support from Kendal Town Council. In response, councillors felt the event had been a very positive experience and credit to Craig and the team bringing it all together and producing a high-profile event for Kendal.

Mr Russell reported that for this year they are responding to the challenge on how to reduce the carbon footprint. The Torchlight Committee decided this was the year not to have vehicles in the procession. As a result, a large part of the festival will be static. However, on Friday evening, there will be four 'fire chariots' converging on Abbott Hall from four areas – the Stag from Oxenholme/Kendal Parks, the Crayfish from Kendal College/Kirkbarrow, the Dragon from Hallgarth/Dockray and the Bee from Sandylands. There will be a lantern garden in Abbott Hall with a fire garden and lots of entertainment.

All day Saturday there will be a series of events around Abbott Hall including theatre performances presented by Kendal College. There is also a Fringe programme more aimed at adults. Green Door is also having an open day plus other events. Sunday is a quieter day

but allows for those still wishing to keep isolated to view the fire garden at Abbott Hall. There will be a tour of care homes and WGH with dance troupe and one of the fire chariots.

Mr Russel was delighted to be able to report that Kendal Torch Light has been recognised by the Arts Council. As a result, Kendal Torchlight Festival will make a five-year commitment to environmental sustainability and promoting the green agenda. Propose having a green week every year in September, The Green Gathering. Next year the focus will be on scrap, recycling, charities and upcycling. Following year propose focusing on the river and celebrating its contribution to the town.

Details of the plan will be in the public domain shortly pending agreements with various stakeholders.

Anyone can volunteer via the website to help as stewards or marshals for Friday night and/or Saturday. People can still make a float for the Garden of Delights. There will be a wheelbarrow parade. They can join one of many workshops in dance, fire management, and puppetry.

The chair thanked Craig for his update and felt it was an exciting programme of events.

C18/21/22 Christmas Lights Display

Council Services Officer Janine Holt gave a verbal report on her meeting with Christmas Plus in May. Councillor Evans (Chair) was keen for extra baubles for the tree, probably ten. Councillors also discussed the New Shambles and their excellent Christmas display last year. Christmas Plus did discuss putting one of their lamps at the entrance but councillors felt if New Shambles were decorating there was no need for the additional lamp. Also discussed maybe doing something at the Library but as it is a listed building, this might be difficult. Another suggestion was battery operated lights in the trees in tubs. We have 12 trees. The cost would be £1,386. Lights in the trees in the birdcage need replacing and now awaiting a price. Considered replacing the festoons (lights across the street). New ones are like a cluster. KTC currently have 30 festoon strings which cost about £230 per festoon. It would be too much to change immediately but maybe trial. Happy with Market Place. Councillors thought Wildman Street would be a good idea to trial new coloured festoons. Councillors also felt they should be looking at carbon footprint and reducing energy consumption.

Resolved: Extra baubles on the trees, trial with battery powered lights for trees in tubs and trial festoons across Wildman Street. Agreed if new Shambles are decorating their street no need for Christmas Plus to add anything.

C19/21/22 Infrastructure Report

The Committee considered the infrastructure report produced by Christmas Plus circulated by Janine Holt earlier today.

Resolved: To act immediately on all Grade 1 repairs listed in Christmas Plus's report (5) to ensure KTC complies with health and safety regulations. Agreed to contact previous contractor first then obtain two other quotes.

Depending on the cost, to also look if any of the Grade 2 repairs could be included, especially where they are in the same area.

C20/21/22 Switch on Event 2021

Wanted to see a simple round the tree event this year as there may yet be covid related issues to deal with. Councillors wish to be cautious with creating a crowd. Councillors agreed with the report produced by officers identifying a simple process centred on Market Square. Kendal Youth Zone would be happy to use their solar powered PA system.

Councillors also discussed how we could produce another Christmas film this year. The clerk indicated that funding may be available from other committees towards this.

Resolved: Councillors endorsed the outline plan submitted and authorised officers to move forward with this and also look into producing a Christmas film.

C21/21/22 Grant Applications

There were no grant applications to consider. Councillors shared insights on grant funded activities especially Kendal Walking.

C22/21/22 Budget Monitor

Chair felt this was much easier to follow.

Resolved: To note the report.

C23/21/22 Newsletter

Clerk updated councillors on the current status of the newsletter. The June newsletter is due by end of August followed by the next one hopefully in time for the Christmas lights switch on event.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

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