

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of
Kendal Town Council
held on Monday, 27th November 2017 at 7.00 p.m.
in the SLDC Council Chamber, the Town Hall, Kendal**

PRESENT The Mayor (Councillor A Blackman) in the Chair;
Councillors G Cook, J Brook, J Veevers, G Archibald, S Coleman, S Emmott, S Evans, M Severn, G Tirvengadam, L Oldham, J Robinson, R Sutton, K Teasdale and J Owen.

APOLOGIES Councillors T Clare, A Robinson, G Vincent, P Bramham, C Hardy, R Hogg, C Hogg, C Feeney-Johnson, D Evans

OFFICERS Liz Richardson (Town Clerk), Jack Jones (Town Treasurer) and Hazel Belshaw (Temporary Council Secretary)

700/17/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None

701/17/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

702/17/18 INVOICES OVER £3,000

The Treasurer presented one invoice over £3,000 for Council approval as follows:

Christmas Plus Ltd, for installing the Christmas Lights - £7,938.20 + VAT = £9,525.84.

It was proposed by Councillor Emmott that payment of the invoice be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Coleman and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That payment of the invoice over £3,000 be approved.

703/17/18 EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL
The Treasurer presented Members with the External Auditor's Report on the audit of the Council's Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017. He advised that the Accounts had been through internal and external audit and there were no matters arising to report to Councillors.

Councillor Cook proposed that the report be accepted and approved. This was seconded by Councillor S Evans and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the External Auditor's Report for year ended 31st March 2017 be accepted and approved.

704/17/18 BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT – SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2017

The Treasurer presented the Budgetary Control Statement for the six months ended 30th September 2017, being half way through the financial year. He reported an underspending of approximately £36,000, however this included £14,000 of unallocated budget for grants.

Councillor Cook proposed that the Budgetary Control Statement for six months ended 30th September 2017 be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Owen and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the Budgetary Control Statement for six months ended 30th September 2017 be approved.

705/17/18 DRAFT INVESTMENT POLICY 2018-19

The Treasurer presented a draft Investment Policy 2018/19 which had been considered by the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee at their meeting on 30th October 2017.

He reported that the Audit, Grants and Charities Committee had discussed the investment with Cumberland Building Society which was benefitting from a 1.5% interest rate. Members had accepted the policy.

Councillor Veevers proposed that the report be accepted and approved. This was seconded by Councillor Brook and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the Draft Investment Policy 2018/19 be approved.

706/17/18 AUDIT, GRANTS & CHARITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee meeting held on 30th October were presented by Councillor Cook who proposed that they be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Emmott and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee meeting held on 30th October be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

Councillor Cook then presented recommendations of the Committee as follows:

707/17/18 Budget Proposals (ref minute 555/17/18)
That the Committee maintain its Grants budget of £36,000 for 2018/19.

RESOLVED That the Grants budget of £36,000 for 2018/19 be maintained.

708/17/18 Grant Application 2017/18 – Kirkbie Kendal School (ref minute 558/17/18)
That a grant of £1,000 be awarded.

This was seconded by Councillor Emmott and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That a grant of £1,000 be awarded.

709/17/18 Grant Applications 2018/19 (ref minutes 564-585/17/18)
To consider 22 grant applications.

Abbott Hall – Lakeland Arts Trust

That, in view of the demands on the Council's grants budget, a grant of £1,000 be awarded.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to approve the grant of £1,000. This was seconded by Councillor Owen and carried unanimously

1127 Squadron (Kendal) Air Training Corp

That, in view of the demands on the Council's grants budget, a grant of £1,000 be awarded.

Councillor Veevers proposed an amendment to award a grant of £700 as he felt the Air Training Corp are supported by the forces and the grant is to pay for equipment damaged during storm Desmond and he suggested that Cumbria Community Foundation (CCF) were supplying grants for those affected by the floods. The Treasurer advised the Air Training Corp had received a settlement from their insurance company for the flood damage although it did not cover all the equipment lost. The Treasurer confirmed he did advise them they could apply for funding through CCF but was unsure if they had done so. There was no seconder for the amendment. Therefore it was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £1,000. This was seconded by Councillor S Evans and carried with two against and one abstention.

Great North Air Ambulance

That a grant of £1,000 be awarded.

The Town Treasurer advised that following suggestions by the Audit, Grants and Charities Committee he has contacted North West Air Ambulance and they are considering an application. He also advised Members that the Great North Air Ambulance have attended 6 incidents in the area since January and treated 7 patients.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £1,000. This was seconded by Councillor J Robinson and carried unanimously.

"One Voice" – Kendal and South Lakes Centre for Independent Living

That, in view of the demands on the Council's grants budget, a grant of £1,500 be awarded.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award the grant of £1,500. This was seconded by Councillor Oldham and carried with one abstention.

The Quaker Tapestry at Kendal

That a grant of £3,000 be awarded towards the Quaker Tapestry Roadshow.

Councillor Veevers queried why KTC are funding an event around the country. Councillor Cook advised that it is good publicity for Kendal.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £3,000. This was seconded by Councillor Coleman and carried with one abstention.

Kendal Community Theatre

That, in view of the demands on the Council's grants budget, a grant of £750 be awarded.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £750. This was

seconded by Councillor Emmott and carried unanimously.

South Lakes Citizen Advice

That a grant of £5,000 be awarded.

Councillor Brook queried that as they cover the whole of the South Lakes then have we made it clear that the grant is for the residents of Kendal. The Treasurer confirmed that we do request that every year and they provide a report annually.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award the grant of £5,000. This was seconded by Councillor Coleman and carried unanimously.

Sandgate Hydrotherapy Pool

That a grant of £3,000 be awarded.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £3,000. This was seconded by Councillor S Evans and carried unanimously.

Fairoak Housing Association

That a grant of £500 be awarded.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £500. This was seconded by Councillor J Robinson and carried unanimously.

Growing Well

That, in view of the demands on the Council's grants budget, a grant of £500 be awarded.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £500. This was seconded by Councillor Emmott with one abstention.

Kendal College

That, in view of the demands on the Council's grants budget, no grant be awarded.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook that no grant be awarded. This was seconded by Councillor Veevers with one abstention.

South Lakeland Equality & Diversity Partnership

That a grant of £100 be awarded.

Councillor Tirvengadam declared an interest at this point.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £100. This was seconded by Councillor Coleman and carried with one abstention.

Chestnut Community Events

That, in view of the demands on the Council's grants budget, a grant of £500 be awarded.

Councillor Brook asked for more detail on the suggested reduced figure. The Treasurer confirmed that the figure of £5,000 being sought by the group was ambitious for the first time of seeking a grant. He advised that the Committee had looked at this along with other grants and felt that £500 was the right amount. Councillor J Robinson proposed an

amendment to award an increased grant of £1,000. This was seconded by Councillor Oldham and carried with one abstention.

Abbot Hall Public Bowling Club

That a grant of £50 be awarded.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £50. This was seconded by Councillor Archibald and carried with two against and two abstentions.

Kendal Lads and Girls Club

That, in view of the demands on the Council's grants budget, a grant of £750 be awarded.

Councillor Severn proposed an amendment that the full amount of £920 be awarded. This was seconded by Councillor Owen and carried with one against and three abstentions.

Cumbria Festival Chorus

That, in view of the demands on the Council's grants budget, a grant of £200 be awarded.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £200. This was seconded by Councillor Archibald and carried with one against and four abstentions.

With Singing in Mind

That, in view of the demands on the Council's grants budget, a grant of £500 be awarded.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £500. This was seconded by Councillor Coleman and carried unanimously.

Kendal-Rinteln Association

That, in view of the demands on the Council's grants budget, a grant of £500 be awarded.

Councillor Emmott and Coleman declared an interest at this point.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £500. This was seconded by Councillor J Robinson and carried with four abstentions.

Dance Ability

That a grant of £100 be awarded.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £100. This was seconded by Councillor J Robinson and carried unanimously.

Kendal County Football Club

That, in view of the demands on the Council's grants budget, a grant of £250 be awarded.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £250. This was seconded by Councillor Archibald and carried with one abstention.

Kendal Millennium Playing Fields

That, in view of the demands on the Council's grants budget, a grant of £500 be awarded.

Councillor Severn proposed an amendment that the full amount of £1,000 be awarded. This was seconded by Councillor Archibald with 3 in favour, 3 against and 4 abstention. Therefore the original recommendation was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £500. This was seconded by Councillor Emmott and carried with one abstention.

Riversiders Trust

That, in view of the demands on the Council's grants budget, a grant of £1,000 be awarded.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to award a grant of £1,000. This was seconded by Councillor Emmott and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations made by the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee at its meeting on 30th October 2017 for grants to be awarded to organisations in 2018/19 (Minutes 564/17/18 to 585/17/18) to be approved, subject to the amendments agreed.

710/17/18

DRAFT BUDGET 2018/19

The Treasurer presented the draft budget for 2017/18 which had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting, and asked Councillors to consider his report in two stages: the base budget and proposals (bids) for growth.

The draft budget forecast the outturn position for 2017/18 and assumed a continuation base budget incorporating current committed levels of service, known or expected inflation and a precept based on a nil increase in Council Tax. Although the Council's finances were sound, the base included an increased contingency provision for several uncertainties: a pay award exceeding 3.0%, revisions to staffing arrangements and the possibility of re-tendering the Bloom contract.

The base budget identified an amount of £52,000 which was unallocated, with a further £20,900 in the Development Fund. The total resources available for new proposals were therefore £72,900.

The Treasurer's report on budget proposals summarised the 29 bids submitted by Committees and individual Councillors; these totalled £121,700 against the £72,900 available. He advised that the Budget Working Party had looked at and prioritised the bids using the action plan priorities, strategic fit, funding and deliverability. It was therefore suggested to:

- Defer £30,500
- Make minor adjustments of £3,450
- Not support bids of £8,500

Leaving bids which could be supported totalling £79,250. In view of the resources available in the base budget, the Working Party had recommended that 17 priority bids totalling £72,750 be included in the budget.

He further advised that the current Council Tax rate for a Band D property was £35.24 (the average home in Kendal is Band C). By way as a guide for Councillors the Treasurer advised that a 1% increase (34p) in Council Tax would raise approximately £3,600 in extra income. Alternatively a £1.00 increase would raise an additional £10,200 income.

Councillor Severn asked what percentage Council Tax would need to rise to cover the unsupported bids and the whole proposal. The Treasurer confirmed a 4% increase would enable the unsupported bids to go ahead and a 14% increase for the whole proposal.

Members discussed the options of a Council Tax increase. Councillor Cook commented that the Draft Budget was not set in stone and there would be further opportunity in January to amend the decisions made once the Taxbase figure had been confirmed by SLDC.

Councillor Owen proposed to agree the base standstill estimates in the 2017/18 Forecast and 2018/19 Draft Budget (Appendices A to C). This was seconded by Councillor Veevers and carried unanimously.

Councillor J Robinson proposed to agree the provisional transfers to and from reserves. This was seconded by Councillor Severn and carried unanimously.

Councillor Veevers proposed to confirm that the General Fund working balance be set at a minimum of £30,000 for 2018/19. This was seconded by Councillor S Evans and carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook to note the indicative amount of £52,000 available within the Draft Budget 2018/19, supplemented by £20,900 in the Development Fund, for allocation to growth bids. This was seconded by Councillor Severn and carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Councillor Emmott that the Treasurer prepare a proposed budget for submission to Council in January, based on a £1.00 increase in Council Tax to fund further projects in the town. This was seconded by Councillor Brook and carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Councillor Veevers to include the recommend first 17 bids in the proposed budget. This was seconded by Councillor Emmott and carried unanimously.

The Town Treasurer asked Members to consider the remaining recommendation of the Budget Working Party that the CIL Reserve is not to be used until its balance reaches £5,000, at which stage it may be appropriate to revisit the list of supported bids. This was proposed by Councillor J Robinson and seconded by Councillor Owen and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

1. That the base standstill estimates in the 2017/18 Forecast and 2018/19 Draft Budget be agreed.
2. That the provisional transfers to and from reserves be agreed.
3. That the General Fund working balance be set at a minimum of £30,000 for 2018/19.
4. That the indicative amount of £52,000 available within the

Draft Budget 2018/19, supplemented by £20,900 in the Development Fund, for allocation to growth bids, be noted.

5. That the 17 highest ranking bids, totalling £72,750, as summarised in the appendix to these Minutes, be included in the proposed budget to be submitted to Council in January 2018.
6. That the proposed budget assumes a £1.00 increase in Council Tax to fund further projects in the town.
7. That the CIL Reserve is not to be used until its balance reaches £5,000, at which stage it may be appropriate to revisit the list of supported bids which cannot be accommodated in the Base Budget.

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

Signature

Date

2018/19 Proposed Budget: Growth Items included in Budget					
Rank	Budget Priority	Priority Outcome	Proposal	2018/19 £	Overall Score max 100
1	Statutory Requirement	Meet legislative requirements	Data Protection - new legislative requirements	2,000	89
2	Green Space Enhancement	Support Pollinator Project	Continue support	1,300	85
3	Sustainable Connectivity	Regenerate Lancaster Canal	Continued membership of LCRP	250	80
4	Town Centre Vibrancy	Support Kendal organisations with similar Town Centre Vibrancy and wider Kendal regeneration goals	Funding support towards Kendal Futures role	8,000	80
5	Town Centre Vibrancy	Improve Kendal's Flood Resilience	Kendal Community Emergency Planning support	5,000	80
6	Health & Wellbeing	Support low income households	Eden & South Lakeland Credit Union	3,000	80
7	Business Continuity	Provide excellent allotment and planting services	Improve boundary wall/fences at Greenside/Rinkfield Allotments: Health & Safety/Business Continuity issue	10,000	80
8	Town Centre Vibrancy	Deliver high quality Public Realm Enhancement Projects to improve first impression & encourage investment	Green Wall at Longpool	3,000	77
9	Business Continuity	Continued support to Councillors and Officers	Increase Town Treasurer's hours by 2 to 18 per week	2,700	77
10	Sustainable Connectivity	Support Air Quality Improvement Actions	Strategic Transport Infrastructure Study	10,000	74
11	Town Centre Vibrancy	Promote Kendal to potential visitors and arrivals	Support Kendal TIC	5,000	74
12	Town Centre Vibrancy	Promote Kendal to potential visitors and arrivals	Continue Kendal Leaflet Series (including Group Travel if required)	2,500	73
13	Town Centre Vibrancy	Support Kendal organisations with similar Town Centre Vibrancy and wider Kendal regeneration goals	Funding towards Kendal Futures Projects (in line with Action Plan)	10,000	73
14	Green Space Enhancement	Support Play Area Improvements	Abbot Hall Play Area Improvements	5,000	69
15	Green Space Enhancement	Support Play Area Improvements	Kendal Parks Play Areas - renovation (reduced from £5,000)	3,500	67
16	Town Centre Vibrancy	Deliver high quality Public Realm Enhancement Projects to improve first impression & encourage investment	Blackhall Road Bus Shelters	1,000	66
17	Internal KTC Projects	None identified	Small exhibition in November 2018 to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One (reduced from £1,000)	500	60
Total Growth Items				72,750	