

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of
Kendal Town Council
held on Monday, 1st April 2019 at 8.00 p.m.
in the SLDC Council Chamber, the Town Hall, Kendal**

PRESENT The Mayor (G Tirvengadam) in the Chair;
G Vincent, G Cook, P Bramham, G Archibald, S Coleman, S Evans, A Finch, A Blackman, C Hogg, R Sutton, J Owen, D Rathbone, J Cornthwaite, J Dunlop, A Edwards, E Hennessy, H Ladhams, S Long, D Miles, M Miles and C Rowley

APOLOGIES Councillors J Brook, C Hardy, R Hogg and P Gibson

OFFICERS L Richardson (Town Clerk), J Lomax (Treasurer) and N King (Council Secretary)

1012/18/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

1013/18/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

1014/18/19 ORDER OF BUSINESSES

The Chair proposed that item 4 on the agenda (Presentation on People's Juries by Peter Bryant, Shared Future) be taken as the next matter. This was seconded by Councillor Hennessy and carried unanimously.

1015/18/19 PRESENTATION ON PEOPLE'S JURIES BY PETER BRYANT, SHARED FUTURE

Peter Bryant from Shared Future introduced himself to the meeting. Over the past 15 years he has organised approximately 30 Citizens Juries on various topics such as fracking. He said the task of putting together a plan to deal with an extremely complex topic such as climate change is challenging and many tools available (eg. focus groups) are sometimes inadequate. Peter Bryant talked about 'mini publics' of which there are two types (1) Citizens Assemblies and (2) Citizens Juries. Assemblies usually comprise of 50-200 randomly selected people and last 20-30 days Juries usually comprise of 20-30 randomly selected people working together for 25-30 hours. Facilitators work with juries to deliberate and come up with a set of recommendations. Letters setting out the question to be considered are sent to around 200 households. Members of juries are paid a £20 gift voucher for each session attended.

The profile of the jury (age, geography, ethnicity etc) needs to be decided as a first step and the question to be considered, eg. what should we do about climate change in Kendal? Following the first two sessions the jury put together a set of issues which they consider need addressing and this sets the agenda for future sessions. Commentators are called upon and the final session is concerned with writing the recommendations.

A launch event to stakeholders is normally organised and a key part of the process is building an oversight panel made up of stakeholders, to ensure the process is fair and methodology will be respected. It is recommended that the oversight panels comprises of key local politicians, chief executives, academics etc.

Peter Bryant summarised by saying that the idea is that, through the use of mini publics, you get a good idea of what the wider public would have come up with if they had the time and information available.

Councillor Bramham asked who pays for the process. Councillor Owen advised that Council have already voted to allocate £5,000 from their 2019/20 budget in the pursuit of carbon neutrality, however it was estimated that a Citizen's Jury would cost around £20k. He noted that it was the intention of the Carbon Neutral Kendal subgroup to seek Council's permission to pursue match funding later on in the meeting.

It was noted by Councillor Evans that the age range for members of the jury starts at 20 and asked how young people would be engaged. Peter Bryant explained that other juries have started from 16 and recommended this be the case. A youth worker is recruited to sit alongside young people to ensure their voice is heard. He added that it was vital the 16-19 age group were included in the process.

Councillor C Hogg had concerns about costs and said very clear outcomes would be necessary to justify the expenditure. He added that a clear implementable plan was needed.

Councillor Archibald was very supportive of the approach and the work of the sub-group. He considered it to be a very good initiative.

The Chair thanked Peter Bryant for a very informative presentation.

1016/18/19 ORDER OF BUSINESSES

The Chair proposed that item 6 on the agenda (Proposals for a Climate Emergency) be taken as the next matter. This was seconded by Councillor Blackman and carried unanimously.

1017/18/19 PROPOSALS FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Councillor Owen presented a paper which set out proposals for a climate emergency. It also sought support from Council for the Carbon Neutral Kendal subgroup to pursue match funding for the commissioning of a Citizen's Jury.

Councillor Owen talked about the School Strike for Climate, an international movement of school students who are deciding not to attend class and instead take part in demonstrations to demand action to prevent further global warming and climate change. He made the point that we need to act on young people's behalf. Councillor Owen observed that we are currently at a tipping point. In a negative way this will mean that inaction will send us in a catastrophic direction. In a positive way this means impediments are falling away.

He said that many Councils are passing declarations of climate emergency and commented that KTC need to move past mere words and make sure their house is in order to avoid greenwashing.

Five recommendations were set out in the proposal paper. Councillor Owen proposed that Council support those recommendations.

Councillor Archibald picked up on the point of the next generation and said we were likely to fail in leaving the world in a better state for young people than we found it. He said the seriousness of what is happening is being underplayed and it was important to do all we can to have the most impact. He considered that KTC had to follow through on the motion in order to influence businesses, residents and institutions and urged Councillors to support the motion.

The need to look inwardly was raised by Councillor Coleman. He said KTC and its Members should look at all aspects of their lives and make sure they are acting in an environmentally friendly way. Councillor Archibald agreed, adding that Council would need to consider how all future decisions would impact on the climate emergency.

Councillor Rowley seconded the proposal. He observed that public engagement is what KTC does. He commented that a parallel process was required to involve the youth and KTC needed to get the oversight group right in order to spread ideas to the wider public in Kendal. He commented that in doing this KTC could save considerable amounts of carbon in Kendal. He stressed that voting for this motion now would impact on all decisions made by KTC in the future, but there would be enormous benefits if Council got it right.

Councillor C Hogg referred to connections in Killarney, Rinteln and China and said KTC had an opportunity to make a global impact. He commented that Kendal has seen the impact of climate change first hand, when it had to deal with the crisis of flooding following Storm Desmond.

Councillor Owen then read out the 5 recommendations set out in the proposal paper:

1. That Kendal Town Council declare a 'Climate Emergency'.
2. Pledge to make Kendal carbon neutral by 2030.
3. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible.
4. Seek match funding for and commission a Citizen's Jury to provide insights from residents on how to reach net-zero by 2030; with the outcomes of the Jury forming the basis of a detailed action plan.
5. The Town council's Carbon Neutral sub-group are to report back in six months with an update on the actions being taken to address this emergency.

Members voted and the motion was carried with 1 Member against and 1 abstention.

RESOLVED

That Council support the 5 recommendations set out in the Proposals for Climate Emergency paper.

1018/18/19 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4TH MARCH 2019

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of full Council held on 4th March 2019.

Councillor Coleman proposed that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th March 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

1019/18/19 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor presented his engagements that had been previously circulated. He had no announcements.

1020/18/19 NOTIFICATION OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FOR MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR OF KENDAL 2019/20

The Town Clerk advised that she had received one nomination for Mayor of Kendal 2019/20, Councillor Finch, and one nomination for Deputy Mayor, Councillor Rathbone. The nominations had been made by Councillor Brook and seconded by Councillor C Hogg.

1021/18/19 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 18th March 2019 were presented by Councillor Coleman who proposed that they be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Cook and carried unanimously.

Councillor Cook referred to minute 971/18/19, Future of the Town Crier Role. He wished to pay thanks to the current Town Crier's predecessor, Michael Wilding, who recently passed away. Councillor Finch said he had known Michael very well, he was a lovely man and his sad passing had been unexpected. The Town Clerk added that Michael had been Kendal's Town Crier until about 11 years ago but since then he was better known as Father Christmas for the Christmas Lights switch on event. She informed Members that a card had been sent to his widow on behalf of KTC, along with a cheque for £50 to his chosen charity, The North West Air Ambulance. The funeral will take place on Friday 5th April at Barrow Crematorium at 12.45pm.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 18th March 2019 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

1022/18/19 MAYORALTY & ARTS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Mayoralty & Arts Committee meeting held on 25th February 2019 were presented by Councillor Tirvengadam who proposed that they be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Bramham and carried unanimously.

Councillor Coleman asked whether an update was available in respect of funding for condition survey work. The Town Clerk replied that the Mayor's Attendant was working through the report and implementing the smaller items of work. Larger items were in hand, some of which would need expert advice. She advised that at present there was sufficient funding available. Councillor Coleman questioned whether external funding was being sought. The Town Clerk said this could be considered at the appropriate time.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Mayoralty & Arts Committee meeting held on 25th February 2019 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

1023/18/19 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on 11th March 2019 were presented by Councillor D Miles who proposed that they be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Coleman and carried unanimously.

In light of the motion passed earlier in the meeting regarding Climate Emergency, Councillor Archibald suggested an item be added to the agenda of the next Allotments Committee, "How to Manage Allotments in an Environmental Way".

RESOLVED

1. That the minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on 11th March 2019 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.
2. That an item be added to the agenda of the next Allotments Committee, "How to Manage Allotments in an Environmental Way".

1024/18/19 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 4th and 18th March 2019 were presented by Councillor Rathbone who asked Council to receive these minutes.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 4th and 18th March 2019 be received.

1025/18/19 OUTSIDE BODIES – REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC)

Councillor Sutton presented a report following a meeting of the Cumbria Association of Local Councils held on 17th March. He said he was sad to learn that Windermere and Bowness were asking for more CCTV cameras due to serious youth anti-social behaviour. It was thought this may be due to rising numbers of visitors. Councillor Archibald remarked that there were proposals for a bulk purchase of CCTV cameras and asked whether KTC had considered extending the CCTV network in Kendal. Members agreed this should be considered at the next Management Committee meeting.

RESOLVED That Management Committee consider whether there is a requirement to extend the current CCTV network in Kendal.

Kendal Dementia Action Alliance

Councillor Sutton presented his report following a meeting of Kendal Dementia Action Alliance held on 19th March. It was highlighted that the next meeting on 14th May would be held at the new hub, Abbott Hall Social Centre. There was also mention of the Herbert Protocol introduced by Cumbria Constabulary.

1026/18/19 FINANCIAL MATTERS**1027/18/19 (a) Bank Payments Schedule: February 2019**

The Town Treasurer presented the Bank Payments Schedule for February 2019. It was proposed by Councillor Coleman that the Bank Payments Schedule for February 2019 be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Cook and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the Bank Payments Schedule for February 2019 be approved.

1028/18/19 (b) Invoices over £3,000

The Treasurer reported that there were 3 invoices over £3,000 which required approval as follows:

- Zurich – annual public liability insurance - £4,822.74 no VAT.
- Continental Landscapes – replacement trees - £3,350.00 plus VAT
- Xmas Plus – motifs (new Christmas lights for forthcoming year) - £3,537.60 plus VAT.

Councillor Blackman proposed that payment of the invoices be approved. This this seconded by Councillor Rathbone and carried unanimously.

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

1029/18/19 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Hogg and seconded by Councillor Coleman to move into Part II, this was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the press and public be excluded for the following items of business.

Part II

In accordance with Section 100(B)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, the following reports were excluded from inspection by members of the public as they contain exempt information as described in Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as follows:-

1030/18/19 STAFFING MATTERS [Paragraph 1]Permanent Appointment of Town Treasurer

At a meeting held on 18th March, Management Committee had recommended that the Town Treasurer be made permanent following her probation period. Councillor Rathbone proposed that the recommendation be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Finch

and carried unanimously.

Appointment of Town Crier

It was noted that the current Town Crier, Richard Matthews, would be retiring in May. Management Committee had recommended that the Town Crier should be replaced by advertisement and any replacement regalia required be funded. Councillor Bramham proposed that the recommendation be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Coleman and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

- 1. That The Town Treasurer be made permanent following her probation period.
- 2. That the retiring Town Crier should be replaced by advertisement and any replacement regalia required be funded.

1031/18/19

READMISSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Coleman to move out of Part II and re-admit the press and public. This was seconded by Councillor C Hogg and agreed unanimously.

Councillor C Hogg wished to thank the Mayor for all his work, noting that his mayoral year was coming to an end.

RESOLVED

that the press and public be re-admitted for the remainder of the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.16 p.m.

Signature

Date