

# KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of  
Kendal Town Council  
held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 at 7.30 p.m.  
in the SLDC Council Chamber, the Town Hall, Kendal**

**PRESENT** The Mayor (Councillor A Finch) in the Chair;  
Councillors G Vincent, G Cook, G Archibald, S Coleman, S Evans, A Blackman, R Sutton, J Owen, D Rathbone (Deputy Mayor), J Cornthwaite, J Dunlop, A Edwards, E Hennessy, H Ladhams, M Miles, C Rowley and T Becker

**APOLOGIES** Councillors J Brook, M Severn, G Tirvengadam, C Hardy, C Hogg, R Hogg, P Gibson, S Long and D Miles

**OFFICERS** L Richardson (Town Clerk) and N King (Council Secretary)

**797/19/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Two members of the public had requested to address Council on the subject of the Environment Agency's (EA) proposed flood defence works and the removal of trees on Aynam Road.

Mr David Fone asked Council to consider whether, in order to fully gauge public opinion on this subject, it would now be prudent to hold a Parish Poll.

Mr Ian Kell regarded the issue as sensitive but crucial for the Town. In his opinion objectors to the EA's proposals were endeavouring to prevent a valuable, practical and legal project on the grounds of aesthetics. He said a budget of £75.6 million, being part of central Government planned national spend of at least £2.6 billion, underpins the certainty of the completion of the work. The proposals are necessary to ensure a safer place to live and work for future generations. He commented that the EA have, over 4 years of planning, consulted all interested bodies and have spelled out the limitations of the proposed scheme. He asked Council to use their influence to help expedite the EA plan in full and as soon as possible.

**798/19/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Edwards declared an interest in item 16 on the agenda (Wainwright Achievement Award) as he is involved with one of the nominees, Sandylands Residents Association.

**799/19/20 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of full Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be

approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **800/19/20 QUARTERLY POLICE REPORT**

Police Sergeant (PS) Scott-O'Neill presented the police report update. She thanked Council for supporting and funding the new CCTV camera to be installed at Gooseholme.

Councillor Coleman highlighted one issue that the report did not cover relating to the removal of vehicles which were not road worthy. PS Scott-O'Neill advised that an external company assists DVLA with the removal of such vehicles and therefore there is an issue as to how often they can attend Kendal. The more vehicles that can be dealt with at the time the better. She urged Councillors to advise her if they become aware of illegal vehicles in their Wards. Councillor Coleman commented that it is possible for individuals to check with DVLA whether a vehicle is taxed, MOT'd and insured before reporting it to the police. Suzanne advised that vehicles can also be reported direct to DVLA who will issue a fine to the owner.

Councillor Archibald raised 3 points:

- He said it was disturbing to see an increase in domestic violence and asked whether KTC could do more as a Council to address this problem.
- He was concerned about drug dealing in certain areas of town and asked what could be done as a community.
- He queried whether it would be possible as a town to fund additional resources for the police and asked for suggestions as to how this might work.

PS Scott-O'Neill said domestic violence numbers are uplifting. There is a desire within the police force to look at different deployment of officers and increasing the number of officers in rural areas. There are a number of different schemes ongoing to tackle domestic violence. With regard to drug dealing, this is a problem on most streets and Councillors were urged to report any particular problems. There is a general concern regarding lack of facilities for youths and various ideas are being investigated, including establishing a youth café which would hopefully provide diversionary tactics and provide a place for young people to congregate. Talks are ongoing with various establishments to reintroduce a nightclub to the town with the possibility of college bands playing etc. She advised that there was to be recruitment of more police officers.

Councillor Evans expressed thanks for police assistance with the recent incident on Sandylands. She commented that residents were seeking reassurance from a greater police presence. She also requested an update on the situation at Morrisons car park. PS Scott-O'Neill replied that she had endeavoured to follow up the MPR camera but had received no response. The matter would now be referred back to SLDC to discuss the way forward.

Councillor Hennessey raised the matter of shed burglaries and the theft of several pedal cycles. It had previously been suggested that offenders were using Strava to target cycles and asked whether this was suspected in these cases. This was not thought to be the case.

Councillor Rowley queried cutbacks in numbers of community police officers. Suzanne replied that there has been a loss as some were applying for police officer posts as part of that recruitment drive. At present this is the focus of recruitment and so there was no recruitment drive currently for PCSOs.

Councillor Sutton mentioned that Kendal Leisure Centre offer a good football club for youths. PS Scott-O'Neill replied that this was good but didn't always attract the youth she was targeting. She was optimistic funding for a suitable facility could be sourced if the right venue could be found. Youth cafes seem to work well and attract the right individuals.

Councillor Edwards also thanked the police for dealing with recent events on Sandylands in a swift and efficient manner. He said there was a current desire to set up a facility for youths on Sandylands which would offer a safe environment and the possibility of VR technology to attract them to use the facility. It was hoped this would also offer an opportunity to tackle mental health issues, crime, parental problems etc.

Councillor Cornthwaite referred to a vehicle on Shap Road which had been recently involved in an accident and left in a dangerous position. He commented that it will delay ongoing works to widen the footpath along Shap Road if it is not removed soon. PS Scott-O'Neil requested that details be sent to her so she could action its removal.

The Mayor thanked PS Scott-O'Neill for her attendance.

## **801/19/20**

### **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor presented his engagements that had been previously circulated. He reported that the Bake Off event by Positive Recovery at Kendal College had been very successful.

He reminded Members that the Mayor's Charity Dinner will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> March at Carus Green. Tickets are selling fast and Councillors were urged to purchase tickets as soon as possible if they wished to attend.

## **802/19/20**

### **COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION**

#### **(a) Adoption of Councillor Co-Option Policy**

Members were asked to consider a draft Co-option Policy which had been considered by the Management Committee at their last meeting. Public Notice of the current vacancy for a Councillor in Strickland Ward has been given, however no by-election was called. KTC is now required to fill the vacancy by co-option as soon as practical, however there is currently no policy in place.

Councillor Vincent asked whether Council should be trying to encourage representation from non-political, well-meaning people. The Town Clerk replied that it is open to anybody to apply and encouraged Councillors to promulgate to their contacts and networks.

Councillor Cook commented that he would like to see a follow up exercise once the co-option process for the Strickland Ward vacancy was complete to learn any lessons.

Councillor Coleman proposed that the Councillor Co-Option Policy be adopted. This was seconded by Councillor Cook and carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED** That the Councillor Co-Option Policy be adopted.

**(b) Agreement to proceed to co-option of a Councillor to fill the Strickland Ward Vacancy**

Following approval of the Councillor Co-Option Policy, Councillor Coleman proposed that the Town Clerk proceed to co-option of a Councillor to fill the Strickland Ward vacancy. This was seconded by Councillor Owen and carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED** That the Town Clerk proceed to co-option of a Councillor to fill the Strickland Ward vacancy.

**803/19/20 INVITATION TO JOIN THE RURAL/MARKET TOWNS GROUP OF THE RURAL SERVICES NETWORK**

The Town Clerk informed Members that Kendal had been invited to join the (RSN). Full details had been previously circulated. A fee of £150 per annum is payable and a response is required by the end of March.

A general discussion ensued. Councillor Cook advised that he had received feedback from the Network as a County Councillor and was favourable to KTC's involvement in principle. He commented that there could be potential travel costs incurred as well as the annual fee to attend conferences/meetings. Councillor Vincent commented that KTC needed to be sure about why they wished to be involved and clear about the benefits. Councillor Coleman was also supportive in general but added that consideration would need to be given to Councillor/Officer time. Councillor Rowley referred to the list of achievements by the group so far. He commented that it is a pressure group on Government and proposed that KTC should be involved. This was seconded by Councillor Coleman and carried with three abstentions.

**RESOLVED** That KTC agree to Kendal joining the Rural Market Towns Group proposed by the Rural Services Network.

**804/19/20 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 was presented by Councillor Cook who proposed that they be approved as a correct record.

Councillor Archibald referred to minute 675/19/20 in the minutes and was delighted to note plans to establish a biodiversity nature trail. He asked whether a map/further information was available. Councillor Blackman explained that it was an embryonic scheme at the moment but a route approximately 7 miles long had been trialled which links up all the green areas of Kendal. Cumbria Wildlife Trust are involved and are very keen on the idea. He offered to conduct a walk for Councillors if desired. Councillor Sutton added that it would also hopefully form part of the Kendal Walking Festival.

Councillor Cornthwaite seconded the proposal to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and this was carried unanimously.

The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 was presented by Councillor Coleman who proposed that they be approved as a correct record.

Councillor Blackman seconded the proposal to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and this was also carried unanimously.

Councillor Finch referred to minute 763/19/20 in the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Following the suggestion of Councillor Edwards to nominate a young person for a 'reward' following an exemplary act of behaviour, the individual had been invited to attend the Mayor's Parlour.

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the Management Committee meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be approved as a correct record of the meetings.

**805/19/20 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were presented by Councillor Rathbone who asked Council to receive these minutes.

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be received.

**806/19/20 ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Environment & Highways Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were presented by Councillor Owen who proposed that they be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Dunlop and carried unanimously.

Members were advised that the crowd funding appeal was now live and donations can be made during this calendar month. Support of £2,725 has been pledged so far, which equates to 45% of the target, on this day 3 since the launch.

Councillor Cornthwaite asked when handover to the Project Manager would take place following her return from Maternity Leave. The Town Clerk advised that she had returned to work today and the temporary Project Manager would be handing over this week.

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the Environment & Highways Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

**807/19/20 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & FESTIVALS COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee meeting held

on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were presented by Councillor Evans who proposed that they be approved as a correct record. Two points were highlighted:

- Minute 731/19/20 – grant application for Kendal Poetry Festival. Due to uncertainty over the figure agreed, Committee will reconsider this application at the next meeting in March.
- Minute 736/19/20 – Switch-On Event 2019. Typo noted “The event received **possible** feedback.....” should read “**positive**”.

Councillor Edwards seconded the proposal to approve the minutes as a correct record, subject to the amendment highlighted, and this was carried unanimously.

## RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be approved as a correct record of the meeting, subject to the amendment highlighted.

Councillor Evans then presented the following recommendation of the Committee and proposed approval:

## 808/19/20

### **Grant Applications (Minute 731/19/20)**

To approve the grant applications as agreed.

Councillor Vincent declared an interest in respect of the application from Cumbria Opera Group.

#### **Cumbria Festival Chorus - £500**

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Sutton and carried unanimously.

#### **Cumbria Opera Group - £500.00**

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Edwards and carried with 1 abstention.

#### **Kendal Rugby Club - £1,500.00** (for the firework display)

Councillors Owen and Vincent declared an interest in this item as members of the Rugby Club. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Ladhams and carried with 4 abstentions.

#### **Torchlight - £5,000**

It was highlighted that a further £1,000 had been agreed (Minute 735/19/20) towards the cost of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Becker and carried unanimously.

#### **Kendal Wool Gathering - £1,500**

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Edwards and carried unanimously.

#### **Unity Festival - £1,500**

Councillor Rowley declared an interest in this item as he is on the organising Committee. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Owen and carried with 1 abstention.

Councillor Evans advised that a further £1,000 had also been agreed for the Mountain Film Festival towards the cost of the anniversary celebration (Minute 735/19/20). A sum of £1,500 had also been allocated toward the costs of the VE 75 Commemorative Event.

## RESOLVED

That the grant applications be approved as per the Committee's recommendation.

**809/19/20 OUTSIDE BODIES – REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**South Lakes Dementia Community (Formerly Kendal Dementia Action Alliance)

Councillor Sutton presented a paper following a meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Trustees felt the new name was more representative of the group. Kendal Dementia Action Alliance will be retained as the charity name. The Trustees' plan is to encourage more integration into the community through the Hub, pop-up hubs etc.

Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership

Councillor Rowley updated Members on two parts of the towpath – the Natland section and Burton Road. It may not be possible to undertake the hoped for improvements and the use of the funds elsewhere may need to be discussed. He referred to SLDC's contribution, which was confirmed as £140k by Councillor Archibald. Aqueduct work has commenced but not yet finished. A Heritage Lottery Grant application is underway. There was a proposal as part of the grant application for a 'light event' in Hincaster tunnel, however he understood this is unlikely to be possible and may now be linked to the Torchlight event. There is a new website and the Partnership are looking for a Chair for the Committee.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS****810/19/20 (a) Budgetary Control Statement: 9 Months Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

The Town Clerk presented the Budgetary Control Statement. She advised that this had been approved by Audit, Grants & Charities Committee at their recent meeting. She further advised on known direct expenditure mainly for grants in the final financial year quarter.

Councillor Coleman proposed that the Budgetary Control Statement for nine months ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Dunlop and carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED** That the Budgetary Control Statement for nine months ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 be approved.

**811/19/20 (b) Bank Payments Schedule: December 2019**

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

**RESOLVED** That the Bank Payments Schedule for December 2019 be approved.

**812/19/20 (c) Petty Cash Payments: October-December 2019**

The Town Clerk presented the Petty Cash Payments Schedule for October-December 2019. It was proposed by Councillor Coleman that the Petty Cash Payments Schedule for October-December 2019 be

approved. This was seconded by Councillor Archibald and carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED** That the Petty Cash Payments Schedule for October - December 2019 be approved.

**813/19/20 (d) Invoices over £3,000**

The Town Clerk reported that there was one invoice over £3,000 which required approval. This was from Christmas Plus for the dismantling of the festive display in the sum of £3,225.00 plus VAT of £645.00, totalling £3,870.00 (being 30% of the total contract figure).

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

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

**814/19/20 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Coleman and seconded by Councillor Rathbone 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:-

- Information relating to any individual [*Paragraph 1*]

**815/19/20 STAFFING MATTERS [Paragraph 1]**

Councillor Coleman advised that the working group now had clear views with regard to the staffing and structure review. These would be discussed with the Town Clerk before moving forwards.

**816/19/20 WAINWRIGHT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The Town Clerk presented three nominations for the Wainwright Award, details of which had previously been circulated to Members, and highlighted that it is for work done in 2019.

Members voted on ballot slips ranking the three nominees in order of preference. The Mayor announced that Growing Well at Sizergh Barn was the winner.

The Town Clerk advised that she would invite the winner to the March Council meeting for a small presentation at the start.

**RESOLVED** That Growing Well be presented with the Wainwright Award 2019.

**817/19/20 READMISSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Coleman to move out of Part II and re-admit the press and public (none were present). This was seconded by Councillor Owen and agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be re-admitted for the remainder of the meeting (none were present).

The meeting ended at 8.53 p.m.

Signature .....

Date .....