

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of
Kendal Town Council
held on Monday, 4th May 2020 at 7.30 p.m. (Via Teleconferencing)**

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

APOLOGIES L Richardson (Town Clerk)

OFFICERS J Lomax (Treasurer) and N King (Council Secretary)

1021/19/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

1022/19/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

1023/19/20 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2ND MARCH 2020

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of full Council held on 2nd March 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 with 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2nd March 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

1024/19/20 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 16th March 2020 were presented by Councillor Coleman who proposed that they be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Blackman and carried with one abstention.

Councillor Coleman brought to Members' attention minute reference 929/19/20 regarding urgent items of business related to the Coronavirus pandemic. The main decisions taken were:

- Committee and Council Meetings be suspended.
- That the Town Clerk explore that certain meetings be held on a virtual basis.
- Annual Town Assembly be suspended.
- Mayor Making be cancelled and the Town Clerk explore Options.

Members were informed that the Town Clerk requested advice from CALC and NALC in respect of virtual meetings. Following Government

guidance Committee meetings have been taking place remotely. The Annual Town Assembly has been suspended for the current year and will not take place until May 2021 at the earliest.

With reference to the Mayor Making ceremony, this too has been cancelled and the minutes stated that the Town Clerk would explore options and discuss the situation with the current Mayor. Clarification received from CALC was that it was within our remit to allow the current Mayor and Deputy Mayor to continue in office for a second term. This option was discussed at the Management Committee meeting and it was felt unsatisfactory for a new Mayor to take up position and have no capacity for any of the civic duties that would normally prevail. Councillor Coleman advised that the proposal was for the current Mayor and Deputy Mayor to continue in position for a second year and advised that both parties have confirmed their agreement that this is the right course of action. Councillor Coleman has asked the Town Clerk to compile a list of future events so the impact of Coronavirus on these events can be fully assessed.

Councillor Brook also referred to Minute 929/19/20 and requested clarification in respect of cancellation costs for the Walking Festival. Councillor Blackman replied that it cost very little to cancel the event. As a goodwill gesture The Brewery Arts Centre did not charge for the ticketing work undertaken by them. He advised that there was a surplus from last year's festival so KTC should remain in profit.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 16th March 2020 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

Councillor Coleman then presented the following recommendations of the Committee:

1025/19/20 **Independent Remuneration Panel Report** (Minute 931/19/20)
That KTC Councillors do not accept the Parish Basic Allowance of £30 per annum.

Councillor Coleman proposed that Council approve the recommendation. This was seconded by Councillor Blackman and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That Councillors do not accept the Parish Basic Allowance of £30 per annum.

1026/19/20 **Campaign for the Local Electricity Bill** (Minute 932/19/20)
That KTC support the Local Electricity Bill.

Councillor Coleman proposed that Council support the Local Electricity Bill, which is an initiative for any generation of electricity to go to local people and empower local communities to sell locally generated energy. This was seconded by Councillor Evans and carried unanimously.

Councillor Archibald expressed his support for the initiative and requested that our MP and the press be informed KTC have supported the Bill. Councillor Vincent also reinforced the value of having such a proposition and remarked that it was a valuable thing to do in his opinion to ensure the local value of producing power is not lost within communities. Councillor Rowley added that he would be interested to

know more about the context of the Bill, commenting that the grid is likely to be fundamentally changed in the next 10-20 years such as most of our energy is locally generated. He hoped that SLDC would look at this in their Local Plan but it could have big implications for the area. Councillor Coleman said he would forward further information to the office.

RESOLVED

1. That Council support the Campaign for the Local Electricity Bill.
2. Councillor Coleman to forward further information of the Bill to the office.

1027/19/20**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 2nd March, 16th March, 16th April and 20th April 2020 were presented by Councillor Rathbone who asked Council to receive these minutes. The following matters were highlighted:

Flood Relief Scheme Working Group

Councillor Rathbone referred to Minute 949/10/20 regarding the Kendal Flood Relief Scheme Working Group. The minute contains a recommendation to Full Council in respect of clarification of KTC's total commitment of £150k. He advised that this recommendation would be presented to Council at the next meeting in June.

SLDC Local Plan Review (Minute 950/19/20)

The deadline for comments in respect of the SLDC Local Plan Review consultation has been extended to July. Councillor Rathbone advised that Committee Chairs would be contacted and invited to let him know if they wished to have input.

Burneside Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation Application – Public Consultation

At their meeting earlier this evening, the Planning Committee discussed the above consultation. The application is for variation of an area of the Burneside Neighbourhood Plan to include an area near to Hallgarth and land north of Laurel Gardens. Councillor Rathbone advised that the Planning Committee have objected to the proposals and recommend Councillors submit individual objections to SLDC if they are minded to do so. Committee will also be requesting the Management Committee consider the application. Councillor Coleman commented that he had requested this matter be added to the agenda of the next Management Committee meeting.

Councillor Simpson queried the reasoning behind Committee wishing to advise against the extension of the Burneside area. Councillor Rathbone explained the reasons included lack of justification for the application and there being no engagement with KTC in this respect and the fact the proposals would involve infrastructure from Kendal.

Minute 872/19/20 – Planning Permission within the Conservation Area

Councillor Coleman referred to discussion that took place regarding the issues faced by residents in the Conservation Area wishing to change their windows from single to double glazed (same design but not 'like-for-like' as it is double glazed). In such circumstances residents are expected to apply for planning permission, even though double glazed

windows are better for the environment. Committee had agreed that a strategic change was needed in light of the climate emergency and Councillor Rathbone was to write to Dan Hudson at SLDC and Councillor Brooks, the Housing portfolio holder for SLDC, to request that this area is updated and rewritten. Councillor Coleman asked whether there had been any feedback. Councillor Rathbone advised that he had not yet received a response from Dan Hudson and would be speaking to Councillor Brook to raise the matter.

Aikrigg Farm, Parkside Road, Kendal – SL/2020/0205

Councillor Blackman referred to the above application which had been considered at the meeting held on 6th April 2020. He noted that Committee had registered material objections to the application and asked what the procedure was after registering the objection. Councillor Rathbone replied that the Planning Committee is advisory only and has no determining powers after comments are submitted.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 2nd March, 16th March, 16th April and 20th April 2020 be received.

1028/19/20 ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Environment & Highways Committee meeting held on 9th March 2020 were presented by Councillor Owen who proposed that they be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Archibald and carried unanimously.

Councillor C Hogg declared an interest in respect of Minute 906/19/20 relating to 20's Plenty.

Councillor Coleman referred to Minute 901/19/20 regarding the defibrillator at Oxenholme and requested an update. Councillor Owen will check the current situation. Councillor Rathbone asked to be kept up to date as he is liaising with the people who are organising that on the ground.

Councillor Edwards mentioned the growing problem of fly tipping and asked whether there was anything KTC could do to help. Councillor Archibald remarked that any fly tipping should be reported immediately to SLDC. He added that green waste collection had been restarted on a once a month basis and it was hoped household waste and recycling centres may be able to reopen shortly.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Environment & Highways Committee meeting held on 9th March 2020 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

Councillor Owen then presented the following recommendations of the Committee:

1029/19/20 Citizen's Jury Update (Minute 907/19/20)
That £900 be allocated from the Committee's Biodiversity budget to make up the shortfall of the cost of the Citizens' Jury.

Councillor Cook raised his disappointed with the recommendation that the money be taken from the biodiversity line of the budget and queried whether the Citizen's Jury is likely to even go ahead given the current

situation. Councillor Owen commented that they are clearly related topics and confirmed that the Jury will be going ahead online.

There was a discussion regarding what affect an online Jury may have on costs and whether this would be reduced. Councillor Rowley said any saving on hiring rooms would be more than taken up by the extra effort of producing an online package which entails a lot of extra work for the facilitator and additional software etc. Councillor C Hogg said it would be useful for Council to have a breakdown of the new costs and Councillors Owen and Rowley agreed to make this information available.

Councillor Brook asked for clarity regarding how the process will be communicated back to Councillors (progress, outcomes etc). Councillor Owen replied that the Project Manager and himself would provide such feedback.

Councillor Rowley mentioned a development since the meeting of the Oversight Panel last week. It is now hoped to develop an expanded support group which will be largely voluntary using skills from across Kendal. This will hopefully enable the Citizens Jury to go beyond some of the others being undertaken in the country as hopefully we will be able to engage a far wider sample of the town. The small amount of extra funding would help support this process also.

Councillor Archibald advised that an Environment & Highways Committee meeting was scheduled for next week and it was intended to discuss how we will deepen what we are doing and make it even more relevant to the crisis currently faced. He explained that the additional £900 was needed to ensure the go ahead for the Jury could be given.

Councillor Edwards suggested the proposed KTC Facebook page would be an ideal platform for recruitment for the jury, advertising, live video blogs, discuss ideas etc.

Councillor Owen proposed that the recommendation be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Archibald and carried with one abstention.

RESOLVED

1. That £900 be allocated from the Committee's Biodiversity budget to make up the shortfall of the cost of the Citizens' Jury.
2. Councillors Owen and Rowley to make available a breakdown of new costs for an online Citizens Jury to Council.

1030/19/20

OUTSIDE BODIES – REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

As Councillor Sutton was not available to present the report following the Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) meeting held on 5th March 2020, it was agreed to add this to the agenda of the next Full Council meeting.

It was noted that a vacancy remains for an outside body representative for CALC.

RESOLVED

That the report following the CALC meeting held on 5th March 2020 be added to the agenda of the next Full Council meeting.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

1031/19/20 (a) Bank Payments Schedule: March 2020

The Town Treasurer presented the Bank Payments Schedule for March 2020. It was proposed by Councillor Coleman that the Bank Payments Schedule for March 2020 be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Brook and carried unanimously.

Councillor Coleman queried payment of 50% deposit for grandstand hire for Torchlight and asked whether this would be refundable if it was necessary to cancel due to Coronavirus. The Treasurer will clarify the situation.

Councillor C Hogg advised that Torchlight is unlikely to go ahead this year and is currently considering moving to a more digital event. Councillor Evans added that minutes of the recent Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee would be presented at the next Full Council meeting in June. That Committee are discussing ways of supporting festivals and keep them going into next year.

Councillor Brook clarified that 'outdoor gym equipment for Beck Park Centre' referred to the Beck Community Centre trim trail.

RESOLVED That the Bank Payments Schedule for March 2020 be approved.

1032/19/20 (b) Petty Cash Payments: January - March 2020

The Town Treasurer presented the petty cash payments for January - March 2020. It was proposed by Councillor Coleman that the petty cash payments for January - March 2020 be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Brook and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the petty cash payments for March 2020 be approved.

1033/19/20 (c) Invoices over £3,000

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

- Zurich Municipal – insurance premium for next year - £4920.18
- AK Fencing Ltd – £10,446 (inc VAT)
- Early payment of grant for the Brewery Arts Centre - £10k

Councillor C Hogg proposed that the 3 invoices over £3,000 be approved for payment. This was seconded by Councillor Coleman and carried unanimously.

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

The meeting ended at 8.32 p.m.

Signature

Date