

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of
Kendal Town Council
held on Monday, 3rd August 2020 at 7.30 p.m.
(Via Teleconferencing)**

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

SLDC Councillor Peter Thornton was also in attendance.

APOLOGIES Councillors G Cook, C Hardy, C Hogg, R Hogg, D Miles, M Miles and K
Simpson

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

184/20/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

185/20/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

186/20/21 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6TH JULY 2020

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of full Council held on
6th July 2020.

Councillor Brook referred to minute 113/20/21 and requested further
amendment as follows:

*“The resolution should clarify that the funding commitment for the Kendal
Flood Relief Scheme was always £150k, but clarification was needed
that 2 payments of £40k for **the financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24** is
required to achieve that amount”.*

It was proposed by Councillor Brook that the minutes be approved as a
correct record, subject to the amendment discussed, and signed by the
Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Coleman and carried
unanimously.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th July 2020 be
approved as a correct record, subject to the amendment discussed, and
signed by the Chairman.

187/20/21 MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had attended the opening of Fryday’s chip shop. He advised
that £158k had been invested back into the business and commented
that this was a fantastic achievement.

A gift was presented to Liz Richardson who had recently left employment with KTC as Town Clerk. The Mayor thanked Liz for the 12 years of fantastic service she had given to KTC.

188/20/21 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 20th July 2020 were presented by Councillor Coleman who proposed that they be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Blackman and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 20th July 2020 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

189/20/21 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on 22nd June 2020 were presented by Councillor Finch who proposed that they be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Archibald and carried unanimously.

Councillor Sutton referred to minute 088/20/21 and requested further information in respect of verbal abuse received by the Townscape Manager from an allotment holder. Councillor Finch explained the circumstances. An apology has been made and the matter has been resolved.

Councillor Finch provided an update advising that no rabbits have been sighted on Town View for the past 3/4 weeks. Notice of termination has been issued to 3 or 4 plots. The demand for plots has been very high since the pandemic and the waiting list is now full. Some plots are to be split on Rinkfield to create additional sites.

Councillor Rathbone referred to the rat problem and asked whether this is generic around Kendal. Councillor Finch advised that it is a generic problem, however it is being dealt with by pest control.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on 22nd June 2020 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

190/20/21 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & FESTIVALS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee meeting held on 29th June 2020 were presented by Councillor Evans who proposed that they be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Ladhams and carried unanimously.

Committee had considered comments received from various festivals regarding the payment of grants. Organisers were using the funds for various purposes.

Members of the Committee have met with Councillor Blackman to discuss the possibility of Sandylands Residents Association acting as an umbrella organisation for the Kendal Walking Festival.

The Christmas lights switch on event will be discussed at the next meeting in September. There will be Christmas lights and a tree regardless of whether the switch on is able to proceed. Councillor Finch expressed his wish for a switch on event to take place. Councillor Evans commented that Committee will endeavour to ensure this happens if at all possible.

Councillor Coleman thanked the Committee for all the work undertaken by them during the recent difficult times.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee meeting held on 29th June 2020 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

191/20/21 PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 6th July and 20th July 2020 be received.

192/20/21 ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

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

Councillor Archibald noted part attendance had been recorded for himself and Councillor Long and questioned the practice for recording late arrival at meetings. Following discussion it was agreed to record attendance regardless of time of arrival.

Councillor Evans commented on the very attractive planting around town and central planting in Nobles Rest. It was agreed Councillor Archibald would pass on KTC's gratitude to SLDC and the Friends of Nobles Rest in respect of the planting there. Councillor Blackman endorsed the comments made by Councillor Evans.

A request was made by Councillor Blackman that Continental Landscapes be asked to be mindful of hedgehogs when strimming. Councillor Hennessy advised that he had noted this issue and has contacted SLDC who will ensure Continental receive training and be made aware. Hedgehog Highway signage for the area at the back of Archers Meadow has been requested. There will also be an article in the Westmorland Gazette this week encouraging everyone to be mindful of hedgehogs in general.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Environment & Highways Committee meeting held on 13th July 2020 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

193/20/21 OUTSIDE BODIES – REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Sutton had recently attended a trial Zoom meeting of the Integrated Community Care Group and gave a verbal update as follows:

The group were very pleased to see a thank you paragraph in the recent KTC newsletter and passed on their thanks.

The effect of lockdown on some older, frailer people had been discussed. A lack of exercise has increased frailty in some cases and caused a decline in some dementia sufferers. Some people who have had Covid are experiencing neurological problems. Neuro rehab was lost during the early stages of the pandemic so hopefully that will return soon. The Kendal Community Emergency Planning Group has used over 200 volunteers in the community. That has declined a little recently as people have returned to work and the need is a little less at present.

The Care Quality Commission has been providing PPE and extra care for pharmacists, as well as supporting GP hubs.

The Lighthouse Community Health Group has been organising drop in sessions for people with mental health issues, a volunteer run and a remote befriending service.

Age UK is concentrating on providing IT support and has funding to help people get online.

Issues that have emerged for future consideration include the economy and its effects on people, the effects of lockdown on young people (there appears to be a slight increase in antisocial behaviour in certain areas of Kendal). Help will be needed to keep people active, especially older people, and help people with mental health problems. A Covid Support Group is going to be targeted, training in IT technology (especially where this is not normally used) and new mothers need the support of a health visitor team again which has been lacking due to Covid. A Covid Fund has been raised by the Community Foundation.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

194/20/21 (a) Bank Payments Schedule: June 2020

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

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

195/20/21 (b) Invoices over £3,000

The Treasurer reported that there was one invoice over £3,000 which required approval as follows:

Continental Landscapes – summer planting, hanging baskets and planters - £9190.20 plus VAT (total £11,028.24).

Councillor Finch proposed that the invoice be paid. This was seconded by Councillor Coleman and carried unanimously.

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

196/20/21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Evans 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*]
- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) [*Paragraph 3*]

197/20/21 STAFFING MATTERS [Paragraph 1]

Councillor Blackman advised that interviews had been held for the position of Town Clerk two weeks ago. A conditional offer of the position has been made and accepted, subject to satisfactory references being received. The selected candidate has been Town Clerk at Workington Town Council since 2013. He was previously the Lead Training Officer with CALC and is currently the Chair of the Cumbria Branch of the Society of Local Clerks. Due to a notice period of 12 weeks there will be a period of time before he is able to take up the role.

The contract of employment is in the process of being finalised. Councillor Ladhams will assist Councillor Blackman in this respect. The matter of holiday entitlement was raised and further advice is being sought in respect of the accrual of additional entitlement.

198/20/21 FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS [Paragraph 3]

Councillor Coleman updated Councillors in respect of Fantastic Kendal and tourist information services for Kendal. Following dialogue with Fantastic Kendal he advised that it is likely they will be closing down. There are two aspects to this, one being heavy reliance on public funding and the other being problems associated with the volunteer base. Both of which have been affected by the pandemic.

A general discussion ensued regarding what tourist information services might be delivered in the future. Councillor Archibald suggested that there might be an opportunity for a 'bare bones' tourist information facility within the space which will house the new reception area in the Town Hall following refurbishment. He will request that SLDC consider this possibility. Support for such a facility was expressed amongst Councillors.

199/20/21 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 Ladhams and agreed unanimously.

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

The meeting ended at 8.27 p.m.

Signature

Date