

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of
Kendal Town Council
held on Monday, 5th October 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, M Severn, G Tirvengadam, A Blackman, C Hogg, R Sutton, J Owen, D Rathbone (Deputy Mayor), J Cornthwaite, A Edwards, P Gibson, E Hennessy, H Ladhams, S Long, D Miles, M Miles, C Rowley and K Simpson

Also in attendance:
Peter Thornton, SLDC Councillor

APOLOGIES Councillors T Becker, J Dunlop, C Hardy and R Hogg

OFFICERS C Bagshaw (Town Clerk), J Lomax (Treasurer) and N King (Council Secretary)

Councillor Finch welcomed the new Town Clerk, Chris Bagshaw, to the meeting. Chris Bagshaw replied that it was a pleasure to be present and hoped it would be the start of a long and fruitful relationship.

313/20/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

314/20/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

315/20/21 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of full Council held on 7th September 2020.

Councillor Coleman proposed that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Cornthwaite and carried with one abstention.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th September 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

316/20/21 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on the virtual Torchlight event held on 26th September. The convoy of floats around the estates had been a big success and well supported, especially around Sandylands, Hallgarth and Kirkbarrow. Thanks were passed on to all Councillors involved.

The High Sherriff visited on 30th September for a tour of the town, accompanied by the Mayor, Mayor's Attendant and Town Crier. The

Mayor passed on thanks from the High Sherriff for the bottle of Lakeland Gin gifted to her.

The performances scheduled for 3rd and 17th October by Kendal Community Theatre Group have been postponed until December.

The Mayor advised that a further meeting was held on 22nd September to discuss arrangements for Remembrance Sunday. Details are still to be finalised and it is not clear whether the march will be permitted under current Covid guidelines. A further meeting is to be held on 15th October which the Town Clerk will attend. Clive Sumpter, Secretary of the Royal British Legion, will not be able to attend. The Town Clerk advised that advice received today was that the march would not be possible.

The virtual Lakes International Comic Arts Festival will take place 9-11th October.

317/20/21

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 21st September 2020 were presented by Councillor Coleman who proposed that they be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Cook and carried unanimously. .

Minute 261/20/21 – Report on Work Programme

Councillor Vincent noted that the Project Manager was to be asked to attend the next Management Committee meeting. He requested that Management Committee secure a report discussion document from the Project Manager on the subject of Kendal Vision. He said the Town Centre Strategy should also be the subject of significant discussion, along with exciting economic prospects with the Morecambe Bay Economic Region. He felt these three items are extremely important to Kendal and hoped Management Committee would be discussing them further.

Councillor Coleman thanked Councillor Vincent for his comments. He said it had been a difficult period not having a town clerk and apologised if some matters had not been pursued due to that. He added that the three points raised would certainly something Committee wished to enliven for the future.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 21st September 2020 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

318/20/21

MAYORALTY & ARTS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Mayoralty & Arts Committee meeting held on 1st September 2020 were presented by Councillor Finch who proposed that they be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Cook and carried unanimously.

Councillor C Hogg advised that he had met with Simon Unsworth in respect of the K-Shoes Heritage Collection and provided the information Simon requires to progress this matter. The lead Officer for this project needs to be established. It was suggested a working group be established comprising the various individuals involved. Item to be

added to the agenda of the next meeting.

It is proposed to hold the KTC exhibition in 2021 subject to Covid restrictions at that time.

Councillor Severn referred to the purchase of 10 wooden shields and asked for further details. He was advised that they are KTC shields which are presented to people for various reasons. The shields were purchased and have now been received.

Councillor Cook made the point that various items of work have been on hold pending the commencement of the new Town Clerk. At the last meeting Simon Unsworth was tasked with checking progress of previous action points in order that progress can be made at the next meeting.

- RESOLVED**
1. That the minutes of the Mayoralty & Arts Committee meeting held on 1st September 2020 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.
 2. K-Shoes Heritage Collection to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

319/20/21 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 7th and 21st September 2020 were presented by Councillor Rathbone who asked Council to receive these minutes.

- RESOLVED** That the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 7th and 21st September 2020 be received.

Councillor Rathbone then presented the following recommendation of the Committee:

320/20/21 Government White Paper on Planning (Ref Minute 254/20/21 - 21st September 2020)

That the amended response to the White Paper (attached) be presented to Full Council at the next meeting on 5th October, confirmed by separate resolution that it is to be issued by the Council to the Secretary of State as an official KTC reply by the deadline of 29th October.

It was proposed by Councillor Rathbone that the proposed response to the Government White Paper on Planning be issued by Full Council to the Secretary of State as an official KTC response.

Councillor Rathbone talked about the paper, which attempts to address the delays and lack of transparency in the current planning process, as well as aiming to increase community involvement. He expressed Committee's opinion that it is a "one size fits all urban development plan which does not address local needs and should be opposed". He added that the potential result of the central government changes when viewed as a whole would appear to be more expensive, lower quality housing with greater density, in the wrong place for local needs and with no affordable housing. He highlighted that the local MP has spoken against the proposals in the House of Commons and proposed that Council vote in favour of the motion.

A general discussion ensued during which several Members thanked the

Planning Committee for their diligence and hard work on this important piece of work.

Councillor Archibald highlighted two issues:

Affordable Housing – to raise the threshold for the requirement of affordable housing would be extremely damaging in the Kendal area and beyond in terms of affordable housing being delivered.

Biodiversity Loss – the requirement for biodiversity gain needs to be clear in Planning policies. The White Paper is inadequate in this respect. Councillor Archibald emphasised the importance of biodiversity in a planning context.

It was requested by Councillor C Hogg that the heritage aspect of the White Paper be strengthened in the response. He commented that advice received from Historic England and other professionals on these matters must be emphasised. The historic environment and what that adds to our town is absolutely crucial and must be protected. He suggested that Councillor Rathbone be delegated to strengthen this area in the response and this was agreed.

Councillor Coleman shared the concern in respect of affordable housing and hopes National Government will listen to KTC's response. He commented that a lot of hard work has been undertaken locally to get affordable housing. The White Paper would make it easy for developers not to include any affordable housing which would undermine the hard work carried out.

Councillor Brook expressed his support for the motion and welcomed the contents of the proposed response. He felt it struck a good balance between the aspirations of speeding up the planning process and the lack of sufficient detail likely to be necessary for Government to form an understanding of the requirements of a town such as Kendal with its unique characteristics, environment and history. He commented that a "one size fits all" approach is not appropriate to Kendal. He hoped the response would be noted by members of the public and others because anyone can respond to the proposals.

The issue of CIL money was raised by Councillor Evans who expressed concern that this would only become available on the sale of property. She also shared concern on the availability of affordable housing, commenting that this could be very disturbing and sad for the people of Kendal.

Councillor Coleman seconded the proposal made by Councillor Rathbone and this was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

That Council approve the motion to issue the response on the Government White Paper on Planning to the Secretary of State as an official KTC reply by the deadline of 29th October.

321/20/21

OUTSIDE BODIES – REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Integrated Community Care Meeting – Cllr Sutton

Councillor Sutton presented notes from the Integrated Community Care

meeting held 17th September. There are currently many issues being faced including mental health, poverty, food sufficiency, unemployment and social isolation.

The Gateway Church has received funding towards initiatives to help people manage their finances.

A Well Community group has provided family support for those struggling with drug or alcohol addictions.

Thanks were passed on to the many volunteers who helped out at the start of the pandemic and to those that are still helping now.

Councillor Coleman thanked Councillor Sutton for a thorough report. He highlighted reference to The HARRI bus and requested further information. This is a wellbeing resource on wheels which travels around Cumbria and is available for general health enquiries (non-specific for Covid). It is proposed that it visits Kendal next year (possibly located in the Market Place) but will be dependent on the situation with Covid at that time.

Councillor Finch thanked Councillor Sutton for all the work he undertakes on Outside Bodies.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

322/20/21

(a) Bank Payments Schedule: August 2020

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

Councillor Cook referred to the monthly fee of £25 plus VAT in respect of DocuSign. He explained that moving to this electronic system has enabled the signing off of invoices to continue during the pandemic. Whilst it is an ongoing expense, continuity of this financial aspect would prove impossible without it.

Reference was made to payment of £450 to The Quirky Coach for Facebook training delivery and an update was requested. The Treasurer advised that the Project Manager had been waiting for the new Town Clerk to take up position before proceeding with this item. Councillor Coleman confirmed that the matter will be discussed at the next Management Committee meeting. Chris Bagshaw commented that it was hoped to get something out in the next couple of weeks.

RESOLVED

That the Bank Payments Schedule for August 2020 be approved.

323/20/21

(b) Invoices over £3,000

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

- Shared Future – Citizens Jury payment 2 of 3 – 25% of total project cost - £4,955 plus VAT totalling £5,946. This was confirmed to be in

line with the expected cost.

Councillor Owen proposed that the invoice be paid. This was seconded by Councillor Sutton and carried unanimously.

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

Councillor Blackman thanked the Treasurer for bridging the gap whilst KTC was without a Town Clerk.

The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.

Signature

Date