

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of
Kendal Town Council
held on Monday, 2nd November 2020 at 7.30 p.m.
(Via Zoom)**

- 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, R Sutton, 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 Perkins and K Simpson
- Jason Rushworth, Newsquest
Peter Thornton, SLDC Councillor
- APOLOGIES** Councillor C Hardy
- OFFICERS** C Bagshaw (Town Clerk) and N King (Council Secretary)
- 386/20/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- None.
- 387/20/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- Councillors Coleman, Finch and Rowley declared an interest in agenda item 8.1 (Allotments Committee – Annual Rent Review) as they are allotments holders. These Councillors did not vote on this item.
- 388/20/21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (PUBLIC BODIES ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT 1960)**
- Council agreed there were no agenda items during consideration of which the press and public should be excluded.
- 389/20/21 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5TH OCTOBER 2020**
- Members considered the minutes of the meeting of full Council held on 5th October 2020.
- It was proposed that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Coleman and carried with one abstention.
- RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th October 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- 390/20/21 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- The Mayor advised that he had no announcements. He had attended a meeting regarding Remembrance Sunday, arrangements for which are still under discussion following the impending National lockdown announced by Government.

391/20/21 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 19th October 2020 were presented by Councillor Coleman who proposed that they be received. This was seconded by Councillor Blackman and carried unanimously.

Councillor Coleman requested an update in respect of Remembrance Sunday. The Town Clerk advised that in light of latest Government guidelines, the church service was unlikely to go ahead. An announcement from the Prime Minister stated outdoor services/wreath laying could proceed, but the exact format remains unknown. The format proposed was for groups of six, however further guidance is awaited before arrangements can be finalised.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 19th October 2020 be received.

392/20/21 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & FESTIVALS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee meeting held on 14th September 2020 were presented by Councillor Evans who proposed that they be received. This was seconded by Councillor Edwards and carried unanimously.

Councillor Evans provided the following update:

Minute 240/20/21 – Tree Pruning along Jenkin Rise
CCC have agreed to carry out the necessary tree pruning.

Minute 241/20/21 – Christmas Lights ‘Trader trees’
Janine Holt has obtained permission from 5 out of the 6 businesses to be approached for the installation of ‘trader trees’ on premises between the Town Hall and the Bird Cage.

Minute 242/20/21 - Christmas Lights Switch On
A local firm has been approached to produce a short film of the Christmas lights switch on. Discussions are ongoing.

Minute 243/20/21 – Events and Festivals – Armed Forces Day
The Mayoralty & Arts Committee are to discuss this matter at their next meeting.

Councillor Finch passed on information from Janine Holt that filming of the Christmas Lights switch on will take place on 18th November when the Christmas tree goes up. A voice over is to be recorded.

The Town Clerk mentioned a request from traders to switch the lights on early. Certain shops will be offering late night shopping in the last few days before the second national lockdown and were keen to promote a Christmas atmosphere. Councillor Evans agreed to explore this possibility.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee meeting held on 14th September 2020 be received.

393/20/21 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on 28th September 2020 were presented by Councillor Finch who proposed that they be received. This was seconded by Councillor Coleman and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on 28th September 2020 be received.

Councillor Finch then presented the following recommendation of the Committee:

394/20/21 Annual Rent Review (Minute 279/20/21)

That allotment rent be increased by 1p per square metre.

Councillor Archibald proposed the increase of 1p per square metre. This was seconded by Councillor D Miles and carried with 3 abstentions.

RESOLVED That allotment rent be increased by 1p per square metre.

395/20/21 ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Environment & Highways Committee meeting held on 29th September 2020 were presented by Councillor Owen who proposed that they be received. This was seconded by Councillor Cornthwaite and carried unanimously.

Councillor Owen highlighted the following points:

- There had been a presentation from Jack Ellerby of Friends of the Lake District on the Cumbria Dark Skies Project. Committee agreed funding of £1,000 towards the production of a Lighting Audit and Action Plan.
- A resident had attended the meeting to make a presentation in respect of a proposal to develop cycle sport facilities.
- The last session of the Citizens' Jury was held on 22nd October. The Jury are due to vote on their final recommendations.
- A Crowd Funder with a £1.8-£2k target has a few days left to run. It is intended to use the money to produce a short film.
- The launch of the Biodiversity Grants is about to go live.

Councillor Hennessy talked about the cycle sport facilities proposal. He commented that there is a definite appetite for a cycle pump track in Kendal. A Facebook group has been formed which attracted 250 members in a couple of weeks. A local businessman has offered to contribute to the initiative financially. Discussions are currently ongoing regarding a suitable location.

Councillor Rowley advised that the Crowd Funder is on target. The proposal is to produce a short online TED talk featuring Jurors. The film will focus on the recommendations of the Jury and how those recommendations may be responded to. Councillor Owen commented that the recommendations were likely to be along the lines of the experts the jurors had requested.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Environment & Highways Committee meeting held on 29th September 2020 be received.

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

396/20/21 Request for Funding by the KTC Flood Relief Scheme Working Group (Minute 294/20/21)

That full Council assign £1,500 of the Castle signage underspend towards Cllr Cornthwaite's flood recovery group.

Councillor Owen advised that the request has been made to ensure the flood relief scheme has the best possible community input. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Rathbone and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That £1,500 of the Castle Signage underspend be assigned to the Flood Relief Scheme Working Group.

397/20/21 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 5th October and 19th October 2020 were presented by Councillor Rathbone who asked Council to receive these minutes.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 5th October and 19th October 2020 be received.

398/20/21 KENDAL IN BLOOM COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Kendal in Bloom Committee meeting held on 12th October 2020 were presented by Councillor Blackman who proposed that they be received. This was seconded by Councillor Edwards and carried unanimously.

Councillor Blackman advised that Committee were supporting a project by a young man from Kendal to make Rinkfield Allotments the first site in the UK to be hedgehog friendly. Councillor Coleman asked whether the scheme could be extended to other sites if successful. It was noted that this was the intention of the young man behind the project.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Kendal in Bloom Committee meeting held on 12th October 2020 be received.

399/20/21 NOTICE OF MOTION FROM CLLR JULIA DUNLOP

That Kendal Town Council writes a letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick MP, indicating that:

Kendal Town Council does not believe that there is an appetite for local government reorganisation in Cumbria at this time, given the need for Cumbrian authorities to focus on the urgent, ongoing response to the COVID-19 emergency.

Councillor Dunlop addressed Council to present a motion in respect of Local Government reorganisation. She commented that it felt inappropriate in the current climate to attempt to engage in a process of Local Government reform in the short timeframe given and proposed the motion be approved.

A general discussion ensued, during which several Councillors expressed their support for the motion presented. Councillor Coleman agreed it was totally inappropriate given the current situation with Covid. Councillor Evans considered all the energy of Councillors and Officers were required to support residents during the pandemic.

Councillor Vincent put forward a different opinion. He talked about proposals for Morecambe Bay and the potential for this to produce the 6th largest economy in the North West. He felt it would be inappropriate and inaccurate to put forward the motion at this time.

Councillor Owen asked whether the motion was referring to an appetite at resident level. Councillor Dunlop confirmed this was the case.

Councillor Archibald commented that the key words in the motion are “at this time”. It was not saying there would not be an appetite at another point in the future. It was proposed by Councillor Archibald to hold a recorded vote. This was seconded by Councillor Finch.

It was suggested by Councillor Brook that any letter sent to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick MP, be copied to Luke Hall MP, Minister of State for Regional Growth and Local Government. Councillor Dunlop was in agreement.

The result of the vote was as follows:

Votes in favour of the motion:

Councillors Brook, Archibald, Coleman, Evans, Finch, Tirvengadam, Blackman, Sutton, Owen, Rathbone, Cornthwaite, Dunlop, Edwards, Gibson, Hennessy, Ladhams, Long, D Miles, M Miles, Rowley, Perkins and Simpson.

Votes against the motion:

Councillor Vincent

There were 22 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 1 abstention (Councillor Cook).

RESOLVED That KTC writes a letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick MP, indicating that:

Kendal Town Council does not believe that there is an appetite for local government reorganisation in Cumbria at this time, given the need for Cumbrian authorities to focus on the urgent, ongoing response to the COVID-19 emergency.

400/20/21 OUTSIDE BODIES – REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Sutton presented a report from a meeting of Kendal Brewery Arts Centre Trust Limited held on 24th September.

The Centre has received a Government Culture Recovery Fund grant of £237,000 which will cover day to day costs such as cleaning, salaries, overheads etc until around April 2021.

The cinema is running at approximately 30% of pre-Covid levels.

Councillor Sutton commented that these are very uncertain times for the Brewery, particularly with a second national lockdown.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

401/20/21 (a) Bank Payments Schedule: September 2020

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

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

402/20/21 (b) Invoices over £3,000

The Town Clerk reported that there was one invoice over £3,000 which required approval for the 20mph study in the sum of £3,073.

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

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

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

Signature

Date