

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of
Kendal Town Council
held on Monday, 23rd 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 Evans, M
Severn, G Tirvengadam, A Blackman, C Hogg, R Hogg, R Sutton, J
Owen, D Rathbone (Deputy Mayor), J Cornthwaite, J Dunlop, E
Hennessy, H Ladhams, C Rowley and T Perkins

Jason Rushworth, Newsquest

APOLOGIES Councillors A Edwards, D Miles, M Miles, S Coleman and C Hardy

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

430/20/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

431/20/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Brook declared an interest in item 7.2 on the agenda, Grant Applications, specifically relating to Manna House as he carries out work on their behalf on a consultant basis. Councillor Severn also declared an interest for the same item as his wife is employed by Manna House.

Councillor Ladhams declared an interest relating to the grant application from Outside-In.

432/20/21 INVOICES OVER £3,000

The Treasurer reported that there was one invoice over £3,000 which required approval from Markides Associates for the 20mph study in the sum of £4,628.71 exc VAT

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

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

433/20/21 EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

The Town Clerk advised that the report had only been received today. It was agreed to defer the item to the next Full Council meeting.

RESOLVED That consideration of the External Auditor's report be deferred to the next Full Council meeting.

**434/20/21 BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT – SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH
SEPTEMBER 2020**

The Treasurer presented the Budgetary Control Statement for the six months ended 30th September 2020. She informed Council that the statement had been presented and accepted at the Audit, Grants and Charities Committee meeting on 26th October 2020. The following points were highlighted:

- A Government funded grant of £10,000 has been received. This has been offered to eligible entities during the Covid-19 pandemic. There are no restrictions on how the grant can be spent.
- Staff salaries have not followed the usual profile due to the departure of the Town Clerk in June and her replacement not starting until October.

Councillor Sutton proposed that the Budgetary Control Statement for the six months ended 30th September 2020 be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Owen and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the Budgetary Control Statement for the six months ended 30th September 2020 be approved.

435/20/21 DRAFT INVESTMENT POLICY 2021-22

The Treasurer presented the draft Investment Policy 2021/22 and informed Council that there were no changes proposed to the existing policy. She informed Council that the draft Investment Policy 2021/22 had been discussed and accepted with no changes proposed at the Audit, Grants and Charities Committee meeting on 26th October 2020.

Councillor Severn advised that the Town Clerk is researching an investment scheme run by the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) and will provide further information to the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee in due course.

Members noted the Policy.

436/20/21 AUDIT, GRANTS & CHARITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee meeting held on 26th October 2020 were presented by Councillor Severn who proposed that they be received. This was seconded by Councillor Dunlop and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee meeting held on 26th October 2020 be received.

Councillor Severn then presented recommendations of the Committee as follows:

437/20/21 Draft Reserves Policy 2021/22 (Minute 374/20/21)

That Council approve the Draft Reserves Policy for 2021/22 without amendment.

This was proposed by Councillor Severn, seconded by Councillor Cornthwaite and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That Council approve the Draft Reserves Policy for 2021/22 without amendment.

438/20/21**Grant Applications 2021/22**

To consider 15 grant applications.

Council considered the 15 grant applications for 2021/22 as recommended by the Audit, Grants and Charities Committee at the meeting held on 26th October 2020.

The matter of the additional £10k Government Covid grant was raised. Councillor Dunlop explained that the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee had earmarked 3 applications for additional funding, should Council be in agreement. The 3 applications were:

Manna House - £2,500
1127 (Kendal) Squadron - £500
Outside-In - £2,500

The Treasurer advised that there were no conditions attached to the grant and it did not have to be spent on Covid related matters. It was noted that Council could decide to use it for other purposes than grants if they chose. The Audit, Grants & Charities Committee had simply asked Council to consider using £5,500 of the additional £10,000 for the earmarked applications.

Councillor C Hogg noted an application for £50 and asked whether there was a minimum amount. He also expressed his opinion that the £10k grant could be used for a Covid recovery programme. Councillor Dunlop recalled the matter of small grants being discussed last year and a decision was made to continue offering such amounts. She also added that the 3 applications earmarked for additional awards had all mentioned Covid related difficulties or loss of funding in their applications.

It was decided to consider the 15 applications en bloc, with the exception of Outside-In and Manna House. Councillor Severn proposed that Council approve all the grants as put forward by the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Archibald and carried unanimously.

Manna House

Councillor Archibald proposed that the grant be awarded as per the recommendation. This was seconded by Councillor Evans and carried with 2 abstentions.

Outside-In

Councillor Severn proposed that the grant be awarded as per the recommendation. This was seconded by Councillor Owen and carried with 1 abstention.

A general discussion then ensued regarding expenditure of the additional £10k Government grant. Whilst the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee had made a recommendation as to how it felt this money should be spent, it was for Council to make the final decision. Different opinions were expressed, with some Councillors suggesting there should be an open process to apply for additional funding from the grant. Others supported the recommendation made by the Audit, Grants & Charities

Committee to award additional funds to the 3 earmarked applications. It was pointed out that none of the applicants were aware of the additional monies since it was awarded to KTC following receipt of applications. Councillor Rowley expressed his view that there was a case for withholding the £10k for a real need. Councillor C Hogg agreed, stating that he considered all charities should be given a chance to apply for monies from this fund.

Councillor Cook proposed Council agree to spend £5,500 from the Covid grant on the 3 applications earmarked. Councillor Archibald seconded the proposal. Members voted with 8 in favour and 9 against.

Councillor C Hogg put forward an alternative proposal, to open up a Covid related fund and invite organisations to apply. It would be referred back to the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee at their next meeting in January to open up the process. It was highlighted that the first opportunity to vote on such a recommendation would be at Full Council in February. The Town Clerk suggested Council could decide to delegate the decision to the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee.

Councillor Rowley proposed delegating the decision to the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee at the meeting in January. This was seconded by Councillor Cornthwaite and carried with two abstentions.

Councillor Archibald was concerned about the timescale. The Town Clerk said it should be possible to prepare an application form for distribution by the end of the week and allow applicants 6-8 weeks to apply.

Councillor Tirvengadam raised the matter of the Unity Festival and whether money would be available for next year. He was advised that a bid would need to be submitted as part of the normal process.

RESOLVED

1. That all grant applications, with the exception of Manna House and Outside-In, be approved as recommended by the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee as follows:
 - Growing Well - £500
 - North West Air Ambulance Charity - £1,000
 - Great North Air Ambulance Service - £1,000
 - South Lakeland Equality & Diversity Partnership - £150
 - 1127 (Kendal) Squadron RAF Cadets - £1,500
 - Kendal Windows on Art - £750
 - Cumbria Alcohol and Drug Advisory Service - £5,850
 - South Lakeland Hydrotherapy Trust - £3,000
 - Fairoak Housing Association/Friends of Fairoak - £500
 - Abbot Hall Bowling Club - £50
 - Dance Ability - £100
 - Kendal Lads and Girls Club - £600
 - Lakeland Canoe Club - £2,450
2. That the application from Manna House for £2,500 be approved as recommended by the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee.
3. That the application from Outside-In for £2,500 be approved as recommended by the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee.
4. That the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee be delegated to open up a Covid related fund using the £10k government grant and invite applications for funding.

439/20/21 DRAFT BUDGET 2020/21

(a) Base Budget

Members considered the Draft Base Budget 2021/22 paper that had previously been circulated. The Treasurer explained that the Draft Base Budget has a forecast outturn for 2020/21 and a draft standstill base budget for 2021/22 with allowance for inflation where appropriate.

Councillor Brook commented that budget cannot be finalised until key information, principally the Council Taxbase and related grant, are notified by SLDC. These figures are expected to be available late December, allowing Council to confirm its budget at the meeting in January. He highlighted that Council has been engaged in a process looking at the structure of meetings and wished this matter to be included in those discussions. He proposed that all recommendations in Section 5 of the Draft Base Budget 2021/22 and Budget Proposals 2021/22 be noted. This was seconded by Councillor S Evans and carried.

RESOLVED That Council note the recommendations in Section 5 of the Draft Base Budget 2021/22 and Budget Proposals 2021/22.

The meeting ended at 8.37 p.m.

Signature

Date