

Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4ED
www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk



Minutes of the meeting of the Christmas Lights and Festivals held on Monday, 10 May 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Cllr A Edwards	Present	Cllr T Perkins*	Present
Cllr S Evans (chair)	Present	Cllr K Simpson	Present
Cllr H Ladhams	Present	Cllr R Sutton	Present

* arrived 7.15pm

In attendance: Council Services Officer, Town Clerk

Also present: J Rushworth (Local Democracy Reporter)

C1/21/22 Apologies

None

C2/21/22 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Edwards, Ladhams and Evans drew the Committee's attention to their membership of Sandylands Residents Association which was the accountable body for, though it played no part in the management of, the Walking Festival.

C3/21/22 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

It was noted that item 6 on the agenda related to a contract, and that the bids were commercially confidential.

Resolved: To exclude the Press and the Public from item 6 on the agenda because the matter under discussion was commercially confidential.

C4/21/22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Council received the minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2021

Resolved: To accept them as a true record.

C5/21/22 Christmas Lights Contract

The following item was considered following the exclusion of the Press and the Public

Resolved: To accept the tender from Christmas Plus for the installation, takedown, and storage of the Christmas lights for the coming year, as well as a range of other services specified in the tender document.

The press and the public were readmitted to the meeting.

C8/21/22 Switch On Event

The Committee considered the range of possible events to mark the switch-on of the Christmas lights. The Council Services Officer confirmed that the provisional date of the switch-on would be Saturday 27 November 2021. A number of ideas were considered as to how the switch-on by the Mayor and Father Christmas could be supported – a youth zone,

local choirs and stall holders were all suggested. It was also noted that there was a degree of uncertainty due to the pandemic, but that it would be important to make links with other interested parties such as the Kendal Market officer, Kendal BID and Kendal Futures.

Some thought was also given to the creation of a video of the lights, following on from the successful 'virtual' switch-on in 2020. It was noted that the current budget for the event would not necessarily cover both a physical and a virtual event, but that perhaps some external funding could be sought to bring the video version to a wider audience. Further work was clearly required in this regard, and this might require a further meeting of the committee sooner than the one currently scheduled (August).

Resolved: That the switch-on takes place on Saturday 27 November, 2021.

Resolved: That officers draw up ideas and speak to other parties concerned as soon as possible, liaising with the chair over the requirement for an earlier meeting.

C9/21/22 Festival Grants

The Committee considered the following small festival grants:

a) Kendal Whisky Festival

Amount requested: £1,000

A small festival on 3-4 December, celebrating the craft of whisky making, featuring distillers from around the world as well as local makers.

The Committee welcomed this innovative idea to the Christmas sales period, but observed that its grant offer to new festivals was for £500, and that would be the limit of its support in this instance. A suggestion had been made that the banner site outside the Town Hall might also be made available, however the Council Services Officer pointed out that the catenary in question would be supporting the Christmas lights at that time, and that removing them for a short period would be both expensive and not in the interests of the Council.

Resolved: To offer a grant of £500

b) Kendal Walking Festival

Amount requested: £500

The Committee noted that this concept had been developed previously and this was a welcome iteration of a worthy festival idea.

Resolved: To offer a grant of £500.

c) Kendal Fringe Festival

Amount requested: £5,000

A small festival to be held in the Bowness Brewery Yard on 24-26 September showcasing comedy, theatre, arts and music. The festival is promoted by Eskfest, based in Kendal but with prior experience of running festivals in Eskdale.

The Committee noted that the application for funding was in response to its request for bids from small/new festivals and exceeding the £500 grant limit would be contrary to the Council's stated policy in this respect. However, it welcomed the new festival and hoped it would be successful in finding the remaining funding sought from elsewhere.

Resolved: To offer a grant of £500.

C10/21/22 Infrastructure Upgrade

The Council Services Officer reported that the issue on Stricklandgate had been successfully resolved in 2020, but that other areas of the scheme would require replacement and/or maintenance. A particular area of concern was Stramongate where access to the supply switch was inside a private property. The Chair requested that a schedule of improvements be developed, so the available budget can be allocated effectively.

The Council Services Officer confirmed that a pull-testing schedule was now in place, and all fixtures had been effectively tested prior to the 2020 install. The Clerk reported that an incident had occurred recently on Allhallows Lane, with a catenary wire currently carrying bunting, being reported to be unattached on the highway. A call out to Christmas Plus had taken place within hours of the initial report, and the installation had been made safe. The Clerk believed a vehicle strike was the most likely cause, as the fixtures had been tested and the weather was not extreme. The clearance is around 5m and is compliant with highways regulations.

Resolved: To note the report.

C11/21/22 Newsletter

The Committee considered what items it should recommend for inclusion in forthcoming editions of the Council's newsletter. It was suggested that starter Festivals should be mentioned, with the Walking Festival featuring in the Summer edition. Torchlight should also be the subject a feature.

C12/21/22 Review of Expenditure

The Clerk apologised for the absence of a report in the committee paperwork but was able to share a copy of the current year's budget on-screen. He confirmed that to the end of April, no funds had been drawn on this year's budget, but the allocations of grant funding were as they appeared at the previous meeting. He was reviewing how grant allocations and budgets were reported to the Council, to ensure ongoing transparency and clarity.

Resolved: To note the report.

The meeting closed at 20.14.