

Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4ED

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Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Highways Committee held on Monday, 17 May 2021 at 6.15pm via Zoom.

Cllr G Archibald	Present	Cllr S Evans	Present
Cllr J Cornthwaite	Present	Cllr S Long	Present
Cllr J Dunlop	Apologies	Cllr J Owen (Chair)	Present
Cllr A Edwards	Apologies	Cllr C Rowley	Present
Cllr E Hennessey (Vice chair)	Present		

In attendance: Town Clerk, Project Manager.

Also present: Mr J Rushworth (Local Democracy Reporter)

E1/21/22 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs A Edwards and J Dunlop. Cllr Edwards has resigned from the Committee.

E2/21/22 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Rowley drew the Committee's attention to his membership of South Lakes Action on Climate Change (SLACC), who were involved in the development of the composting initiative.

E3/21/22 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues.

E4/21/22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Council received the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2021.

Resolved: To accept them as a true record.

E5/21/22 Highways and Infrastructure Proposals – Speed Indicator Device

The Committee considered a proposal for the replacement of the moveable Speed Indicator Device (SID), which was no longer serviceable. It was noted that the device had been returned to its manufacturer in Germany, prior to being assessed as unrepairable. The Council Project Manager presented a number of options for a replacement portable machine, which could be used at Burton Road, Milnthorpe Road, Aynam Road, Sedbergh Road, Appleby Road and Burneside Road. It was noted that Shap Road should also be included in this list, with the precise location to be confirmed.

Of the proposed suppliers it was noted that there appeared little to choose between two of them, with solar power options. A third supplier was notably more expensive.

Consideration was also given to the purchase of a second machine, however it was noted that this was not supported currently by available budget. There was some discussion concerning the fitting of permanent signs, like the one installed on Windermere Road. It was

suggested that this action would require the input of relevant County Council division members.

Resolved: That the Committee delegates the final decision to officers on choice of supplier between Message Maker and Simon Signs, their decision being informed by a range of factors including country of manufacture.

E6/21/22 Highways and Infrastructure Proposals - Underspend

The Committee considered some proposals from the Projects Manager to use Development Fund money remaining from the Castle Signage Project, which came in under budget in 2020. These included:

- A £450 contribution to the preservation of the pestle and mortar, and period pharmacy shop frontage at 41 Highgate.
- A £500 scheme to remove the K Village signage from various road signs, in partnership with Cumbria County Council.
- A £30 improvement to the wording on an interpretive panel on Stramongate, removing language which could be interpreted as unnecessarily demeaning and derogatory to women.
- The creation of a Signage Reserve Fund, to contribute to future small-scale issues of the same nature, with any remaining underspend (estimated at £1,925, if the committee agreed to the programme proposed).

The Committee felt these were all projects worthy of the Council's support, and suggested that there may be other historic shop fronts which required preservation. It was suggested that an audit of shop fronts and other historic architectural features might identify those that might be considered to be at risk. It was also suggested that some of the Signage Reserve might be allocated to the cleaning of road signs, which it was felt was badly needed in a number of areas of the town. It was suggested that the Signage Reserve might be spent on a further speed indicator device, but it was further suggested that this should form a discrete project in its own right, in due course.

Resolved: To allocate the underspend from the Castle Signs project as outlined above.

Resolved: To audit the extent of signs requiring cleaning and shop fronts and architectural features at risk, with a view to utilising the Signage Reserve to address the issues.

E7/21/22 Ivy Screening

The Committee ran through a brief report on the progress of the project to date. An illustration of the scheme planned for Blackhall Road was viewed and it was noted that this was budgeted at £3,200. Alternative suppliers had been identified who could deliver over twice the originally anticipated extent of hedging for a similar price. Councillors were asked to consider a variety of quotes for the work. On Longpool the project would require a renewed agreement from South Lakeland District Council for Locally Important Project funding.

There was some discussion about whether it was necessary to revisit the District Council funding permission, and that the Committee members felt there were benefits in pursuing both projects simultaneously.

Resolved: To delegate the decision on specific suppliers to officers, between quotes for 12m of Blackhall Road between £3,255 and £3,302.

Resolved: To proceed with Longpool on the same basis, subject to the necessary permissions and approvals from the principal authorities as appropriate.

E8/21/22 Solar Audit and Online Hub

The Committee considered a proposal from the Project Manager to utilise a grant of £2,000 from South Lakeland District Council's Community Climate Change Fund to address recommendations from the Climate Change Citizen's Jury on energy production, energy efficiency and publicly-available information on these matters. The first part of the proposal was to spend £800 developing a town-wide audit of available opportunities for solar power. This would use an algorithm developed by Lancaster University to map the town's roof spaces, using aerial photography and satellite imagery. The resulting data could inform further targeted work encouraging take up of solar energy systems.

The second part of the proposal was to develop an online hub, which mapped the town's various initiatives addressing climate change. The interactive element of the mapping would allow users to identify and be inspired by projects which are working towards reducing carbon and increasing biodiversity. This scheme was being developed with colleagues from South Lakeland District Council.

The discussion centred around the potential to develop solutions from the information gathered. It was noted that the solar mapping would produce street-level data from which targeted schemes could be initiated. The second part of the plan took the form of a behavioural nudge, which was one of the Town Council's few levers on a wide range of issues.

Resolved: To support both parts of the proposal, to be funded from the District Council's fund.

E9/21/22 Highways and Infrastructure Update

The Committee considered a report from the Project Manager on completed improvement schemes at Wattsfield Road (bench installation), Burton Road (bus shelter improvement) and Aikrigg Avenue (safety mirror installed). A review of some footpaths on Vicarage Drive with SLDC had resulted in SLDC scoping an improvement project to which the Town Council may contribute in due course.

Resolved: To note the report.

E10/21/22 Development Project Updates

The Committee considered a report from the Project Officer on a range of Action Plan Projects. Two particular issues were identified as being problematic. The Kendal Civic Society-led scheme to develop a new entrance into Noble's Rest appeared to be stuck on the matter of landowner's consent. The Pump Track project was still in search of a likely site. It was observed that existing bike facilities by the Castle were considered by many to be insufficient and ineffectual. It was noted that Cumbria County Council Local Area Committee had recently allocated funding to a multi-use path project on the Lancaster Canal. The Chair reported that the Mayor had expressed his disappointment that there was not more in the County Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) on the connectivity between the south of the town and the centre.

It was noted that there was a meeting on the coming Wednesday with the County Council to review next steps on 20mph.

Resolved: To note the report.

Resolved: To bring a definitive site search report for the Pump Track to the next meeting of the Committee.

E11/21/22 Kendal Composting Feasibility

The Committee considered a report on the progress made towards developing a community composting facility in Kendal. It was noted that there were many issues to consider relating to siting, legal powers and duties, business sustainability, scale etc, but there was an opportunity to develop a pilot at Pembroke Court, which would highlight some of the solutions. The next steps would be to identify potential sites and stakeholders, and make some assessment of the capacity required.

Resolved: To note the report.

E12/21/22 Climate Jury Recommendations Panel

The Committee received a report from the Project Manager on the creation of a Recommendations Panel to assist the Council in reviewing the town's response to the challenges of Climate Change, which it had begun to identify through the Citizen's Jury programme. The Recommendations Panel would be chaired by the Clerk and would consist mainly of stakeholders who were initially involved in the Jury's oversight panel. Concern was expressed about the initial meeting being held in person, and it was suggested that this should revert to a virtual context instead, since it was not a statutory council meeting.

Councillors thanked the Project Manager for her work on the agenda for the meeting, which they felt was detailed and comprehensive.

Resolved: To note the report.

Resolved: That the Project Manager will circulate and publish the list of names on the Recommendations Panel and that the first meeting of the panel should be held on Zoom, rather than face-to-face.

The meeting closed at 19.43