

# Kendal Town Council

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



## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Kendal Town Council held on Monday, 4 May 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

G Vincent	Present	J Owen	Present
G Cook	Present	D Rathbone (Deputy Mayor)	Present
J Brook	Present	J Cornthwaite	Present
G Archibald	Present	J Dunlop	Present
S Coleman	Present	A Edwards	Present
S Evans	Present	P Gibson	Apologies
A Finch (Mayor)	Present	E Hennessy	Present
M Severn	Apologies	H Ladhams	Present
G Tirvengadam	Present	S Long	Present
A Blackman	Present	D Miles	Present
C Hardy	Apologies	M Miles	Present
C Hogg	Present	C Rowley	Present
R Hogg	Present	T Perkins	Present
R Sutton	Present	K Simpson	Present

**In attendance:** Town Clerk

**Also present:** J Rushworth (Local Democracy Reporter), Paula Scott, Nick Taylor (Kendal Futures), Cllr P Thornton (Cumbria County Council), 1 member of public

### Public Participation

There were no items brought before the Council. A scheduled presentation from Kendal Futures was moved to the end of the meeting because the officers were unable to attend at the beginning.

### 1/21/22 Election of Mayor for 2021-22

Noting the Council's decision to accept the signing of the Declarations of Acceptance of Office within the next few days, rather than as previously suggested, the Mayor asked for nominations for the office of Mayor for the coming year. Cllr D Rathbone was proposed by Cllr A Blackman, and seconded by Cllr S Evans. In proposing Cllr Rathbone, Cllr Blackman also praised the work of Cllr Finch as Mayor for the last two years, raising the reputation of both the Mayoralty and the person. No other members were nominated for the position.

**Resolved:** That Cllr D Rathbone be Mayor of Kendal for the municipal year 2021-22.

Cllr Rathbone then assumed the Chair for the rest of the Meeting.

### 2/21/22 Election of a Deputy Mayor

Nominations were requested for the office of Deputy Mayor for the coming year. Cllr Julia Dunlop was proposed by Cllr G Archibald and seconded by Cllr S Evans. No other nominations were forthcoming.

**Resolved:** That Cllr J Dunlop be Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2021-22.

**3/21/22 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs C Hardy, P Gibson and M Severn

**4/21/22 Declarations of Interest**

None

**5/21/22 Exclusion of Press and Public**

No items required.

**6/21/22 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Council received the minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2021.

**Resolved:** To accept them as a true record.

**7/21/22 Election of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees**

The Council considered the offices of Chair and Vice Chair of its various committees. A proposal was made for the following:

**Management Committee**

**Chair:** Cllr S Coleman

**Vice Chair:** Cllr G Cook

**Allotments Committee**

**Chair:** Cllr A Finch

**Vice Chair:** Cllr G Archibald

**Audit, Grants and Charities**

**Chair:** Cllr J Dunlop

**Vice Chair:** Cllr R Hogg

**Kendal in Bloom**

**Chair:** Cllr A Blackman

**Vice Chair:** Cllr R Sutton

**Christmas Lights and Festivals**

**Chair:** Cllr S Evans

**Vice Chair:** Cllr H Ladhams

**Environment & Highways**

**Chair:** Cllr J Owen

**Vice Chair:** Cllr E Hennessy

**Planning**

**Chair:** Cllr D Rathbone

**Vice Chair:** Cllr H Ladhams

**Resolved:** That the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Committees be as set out in the list above.

**8/21/22 Election of Membership of Committees**

The Council reviewed the membership of its committees. It was noted that the Chair of the Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee was requesting an additional member. The list set out in the appendix to these minutes was proposed.

**Resolved:** That the complement of the Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee be increased to six.

**Resolved:** That the Committee membership is as set out in the table attached to these minutes.

### **9/21/22            Schedule of Meetings 2021/22**

The Council considered the Schedule of Meetings for the coming year. There was considerable concern expressed about the Council losing the power to hold meetings remotely due to the lapsing of the conditions specified in the Coronavirus Act 2020. Disappointment was expressed at the government's lack of clarity in allowing the enabling legislation to lapse while the Pandemic regulations still applied. It was noted that whilst the Council had no power to meet remotely after 7 May, neither did it have the power to meet fully in public session until at least 17 May.

A number of alternative arrangements were explored, though it was generally agreed that the Council should not wilfully contravene the conventions of the 1972 Local Government Act and continue to meet remotely regardless of the changed legal position.

Councillors noted that the Council had a duty of care to members of staff and the public, as well as to Councillors, and that it was invidious to suggest it infringes this duty in attempting to remain compliant with other duties. The special circumstances of Planning Committee meetings were raised as an issue – Planning deadlines required a response on the tight timetable required by the Planning Authority, and any system that attempted to delegate the decision of this meeting to a subsequent ratification panel would probably over run on the deadlines for submitting observations.

It was noted that the circumstances were expected to improve dramatically by the first week in July, when the full council was scheduled to meet next. It was expected that by this date there would be a general acceptance of public gatherings, inside and out, with restrictions mostly lifted across the board. The Council therefore sought a short-term solution which satisfied both the need for decision making to be legally compliant, and for effective social distancing arrangements in what should amount to the back end of the pandemic.

It was proposed that formal meetings of most Committees between 17 May and 5 July be suspended. In their place, at the scheduled meeting times, there should be a non-statutory virtual meeting, serving as a working group to consider Council business. The working groups will make recommendations to a meeting of the Management Committee, which will be delegated the necessary powers to enact recommendations which would normally be the business of the Committees themselves. Meeting in a physical format, with necessary social distancing and other Covid security measures, the Management Committee will assume all powers usually preserved to other committees or the meeting of the Full Council, in so far as it is necessary to enact, accept, authorise or otherwise ratify the recommendations of the Committees, meeting as non-statutory working groups. The arrangements would be subject to review by 5 July 2021, by which time it was assumed that the Covid restrictions will be formally lifted.

**Resolved:** To suspend formal Committee meetings with the exception of the Management Committee, from 17 May to 4 July. Non-statutory working groups will continue to operate through Zoom, with public attendance available. The working groups will report to a meeting of the Management Committee, meeting face-to-face, or to the next meeting of the Full Council as appropriate. Arrangements for the Planning Committee will be a matter for the Planning Committee to resolve within this framework.

**Resolved:** With the provisos noted above, to accept the Schedule of Meetings.

**10/21/22 Representation on Outside Bodies**

The Council reviewed its representation on Outside Bodies. It noted that there was still a vacancy for a second representative to attend CALC District Association meetings, but there were no nominations for the role from the floor. It was noted that Kate Simpson had taken up the role of representative to Kendal Lads and Girls Club.

**Resolved:** To accept the appointments to Outside Bodies as appended to these minutes.

**11/21/22 Minutes from Committee**

The Council received the Minutes from the meetings of the Planning Committee on 6 April 2021 and 19 April, 2021, and of the Management Committee on 19 April 2021.

**Resolved:** To accept the Minutes.

**12/21/22 Schedule of Payments**

The Council received the Schedule of Payments for March 2021

**Resolved:** To accept the schedule.

**13/21/22 Kendal Vision**

The Council received a presentation from Paula Scott and Nick Taylor from Kendal Futures on the development and delivery of the Kendal Vision.

The Vision, which was private-sector funded, was the product of a wide-ranging consultation about where Kendal should be 'going' in the next 20 years. Designed 'to inspire change', it was published in early 2020 to coincide with South Lakeland District Council's Town Centre Strategy. Councillors heard about the current management and funding arrangements for the Vision and for Kendal Futures. They were then invited to take part in the development of a series of action groups on key areas: Arts, Culture, Leisure and Tourism; Placemaking; Transport; and Housing and Workspace. It was explained that the Vision sought passionate people to drive it.

The next steps would be honing in on the Markets and the Market Place through a series of workshops to develop larger project plans and identify budgets. There was also a lot of work being done around movement, with consultants advising on methods of addressing the notorious Kendal traffic system, which many respondents to the initial survey had commented on as being a significant barrier to Kendal's prosperity.

Councillors' questions and comments included observations about the Town Council's involvement in markets, the likelihood or otherwise of a Northern Development Route ever being built and comparisons between Kendal and other places with similar issues, such as our twin town of Rinteln in Germany.

The Mayor thanked Kendal Futures for its presentation and expressed a hope that much further work would be done.

The meeting closed at 21:21.

## Appendix 1

### Committee Membership 2021-2022

4 May 2021

#### Management Committee 7.30pm unless otherwise stated

S Coleman (Chair)
G Cook (Vice chair)
A Blackman
J Dunlop
S Evans
A Finch
J Owen
D Rathbone
S Long
G Tirvengadam

#### Mayoralty and Arts Committee 7pm unless otherwise stated

D Rathbone (Chair)
J Dunlop (Vice chair)
J Brook
G Cook
A Finch
P Gibson
C Hogg
R Sutton
G Tirvengadam

#### Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee 7pm unless otherwise stated

S Evans (Chair)
H Ladhams (Vice chair)
A Edwards
T Perkins
K Simpson
R Sutton

#### Allotments Committee 7pm unless otherwise stated

A Finch (Chair)
G Archibald (Vice chair)

S Coleman
C Hardy
D Miles
M Miles
Plus three co-opted members

**Environment and Highways Committee 7.30pm unless otherwise stated**

J Owen (Chair)
E Hennessy (Vice chair)
G Archibald
J Cornthwaite
J Dunlop
A Edwards
S Evans
S Long
C Rowley

**Kendal in Bloom Committee 7pm unless otherwise stated**

A Blackman (Chair)
R Sutton (Vice chair)
A Edwards
C Hardy
C Rowley
Plus five co-opted members

**Audit, Grants and Charities Committee 7pm unless otherwise stated**

J Dunlop (Chair)
R Hogg (Vice Chair)
G Cook
J Cornthwaite
P Gibson
D Rathbone
M Severn
G Vincent

**Planning Committee 6.30pm unless otherwise stated**

D Rathbone (Chair)
J Cornthwaite (Vice chair)

P Gibson
H Ladhams
S Long
D Miles
M Miles
C Rowley
G Vincent

## Appendix 2

### Appointments to Outside Bodies 2021-2022 - 4 May 2021

ORGANISATION	Number	REPRESENTATIVE(S)	REPORTS TO
Air Quality Working Group (SLDC)	1	Cllr G Archibald	Environment & Highways
BID Board	1	Cllr J Dunlop	Management & Council
Brewery Arts Centre	1	Cllr R Sutton	Council
Cumbria Association of Local Councils	2	Cllr R Sutton <b>Vacancy</b>	Council
Emergency Plan (Kendal Community Emergency Plan Group)	1	Cllr J Cornthwaite	Management & Council
Flood Working Group	2	Cllr S Evans and Cllr A Blackman	Management
Integrated Care Community/Healthy Towns Status (CCC)	1	Cllr P Gibson	Council
Lakes Line User Group	1	Cllr S Coleman	Council
Kendal Bus User Group	1	Cllr E Hennessy	Council
Kendal Dementia Action Alliance	1	Cllr R Sutton	Council
Kendal Futures Board	1	Cllr S. Long	Management & Council
Kendal Lads and Girls Club	1	Cllr K Simpson	Council
Kendal Mountain Festival	1	Cllr R Sutton	Christmas Lights & Festivals
Kendal Relief in Need Charity	2	Mayor and Deputy Mayor	Council
Lancaster Canal (Northern Reaches)	2	Cllr C Rowley Cllr A Blackman	Council
One Voice	1	Cllr R Sutton	Council
Rinteln Town Twinning Association	4	Mayor and Deputy Mayor Cllrs J Brook & A Blackman	Mayoralty & Arts



South Lakeland Action on Climate Change & Transition South Lakes	2	Cllr J Owen Cllr E Hennessy	Environment & Highways
South Lakes Equality & Diversity Partnership	1	Cllr G Tirvengardum	Council