

Kendal Town Council

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



Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Highways Committee held on Monday, 14 November 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Kendal.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------|
| Cllr G Archibald (Vice-Chair) | Present | Cllr S Blunden | Present |
| Cllr D Brown | Present | Cllr J Cornthwaite | Present |
| Cllr M Helme | Present* | Cllr E Hennessy (Chair) | Present |
| Cllr S Long | Apologies | Cllr C Russell | Present |
| Cllr K Simpson | Absent | | |

* arrived 7.25 in item 7.

In attendance: Development and Delivery Manager (Helen Watson-Moriarty), Projects Officer (Anne-Marie Sanderson) and Town Clerk (Chris Bagshaw).

E28/2022 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S Long.

E29/2022 Declarations of Interest

No additional declarations of interest were raised.

E30/2022 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

E31/2022 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

A Councillor suggested that the minute referring to solar installations did not reflect the breadth of points raised, particularly an issue relating to the requirement for solar to be fitted to new build. An amendment was made to the minute to reflect this.

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September, 2022, with the amendment cited above, and to authorise the Chairman to sign them as a true record.

E32/2022 E&H Budget 2022/23

The Committee considered a budget monitoring report for 2022/23, the Development and Delivery Manager providing details in relation to a number of items. A query was raised about the accuracy of forecast figures and whether this indicated underspends that could be redistributed. It was suggested that Natural Kendal should be made aware of a potential underspend in the biodiversity grants budget. The Chair noted that £500 had been spent on supplying bulbs for Fletcher Park.

Resolved: To receive the budget report.

E33/2022 Budget Proposals Current Year

The Committee considered proposals for the following budget allocations from the current year.

- a) The virement of £3,000 Windermere Road Railings allocation to the Ivy Screens budget allocation (following CCC commitment to fund railings improvements)
 - b) The rewording of budget headings to show CCTV / Defib / SID under the same budget line.
3. The virement of £500 Infrastructure Maintenance to New Infrastructure – To cover shortfall in current New Infrastructure Budget to meet the quotes of x4 handrails at Fountain Brow, Triangle Community Garden, The Crack and Vicarage Drive.

Resolved: To accept all three proposals as stated.

E34/2022 Budget 2023-24

The Committee considered proposals for its core budget for the coming financial year. It was suggested that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) should be used to increase the Council's support for footpath maintenance, and purchasing of bins and seats. It was also suggested that the CIL be used to supplement the budget set aside for general infrastructure maintenance and that this might include funding changes in the town centre. It was noted that there was some cross over with the projects budget, considered under the next item, and some of these suggestion would be dealt with under that heading.

Resolved: That the Committee propose the following core budget.

| Item | | Proposed 2023-24 | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| New infrastructure | | 2,500 | Particularly to cover apparent need in Hallgarth, subject to agreement with SLDC/W&F |
| Infrastructure Maintenance | Maintenance | 10,000 | To be supplemented by request for £40k from CIL for footpath improvements |
| | CCTV, SID and Defib | 3,000 | |
| SLDC service charges | Footway lighting | 4,200 | |
| | Somervell Gdn | 0 | Maintenance now with KiB budget |
| | Bins | 3,000 | |
| Core budget (ex CIL proposals) | | 22,700 | |

E35/2022 Project Update Report

The Committee considered a report from the Development and Delivery Manager on the progress of the Committee's extensive programme of projects. Whilst most projects were proceeding along previously agreed lines, a number of additional projects were cited by members as also requiring budgetary consideration. The Chair allowed these to come forward on the basis that this was effectively a budget-setting meeting, and that Councillors would have to remember that the budgetary process required a number of stages, and would not be conformed until Full Council approved a complete budget at its meeting in February 2023.

The Chair advised members that Town Council would be expected to make a contribution toward the implementation of the 20mph project. He has made a request via the Management Committee for these funds to be made available via the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

There was some discussion about how the Council could bring resource to bear to improve the Market Place and the Birdcage. It was noted that these were not Town Council assets but they were issues that the Council had strategic views on. It was further noted that officers were actively meeting colleagues in other tiers and stakeholders to discuss how improvements to this area of public realm could be delivered. This was also considered to be an issue for which the CIL should be deployed.

On this basis it was proposed that the Committee seek the council's approval to draw down £100,000 of the available CIL funding and divide it as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Footpath maintenance | £40,000 |
| Town Centre Public Realm | £30,000 |
| 20 m.p.h. | £30,000 |

A number of additional projects were also brought forward, for which councillors were broadly sympathetic.

A scheme to develop the old Highways Depot at Mintsfeet was discussed. It would create a multi-use sport and education hub, subject to ongoing discussions with Westmorland FA, a range of local schools and the Environment Agency (in regard to their new nature reserve, which will be adjacent to the site). A second project was to develop a sustainable drinking water programme for the town centre, both promoting the use and extension of an existing scheme for the public to refill water bottles in local businesses, and installing two new public drinking water supply points. For the Mintsfeet project a sum of £7,500 was considered for the development of a project towards Planning. Water fountains might require £5,000.

A proposal for Kendal Town Council's own sustainability accreditation was considered, with criteria including issues such as dark sky compliant lighting, water refills and closing doors at appropriate times to prevent heat loss. The Development and Delivery Manager observed that this could be delivered through partnership with an existing accreditation scheme delivered by a Green Small Business via a 'white label' approach to enable it to be delivered as a Zero Carbon Kendal initiative. It could be funded by the application of funding from existing budget lines, eg current unspent funds in Public Realm and Biodiversity allocations to a total of £4,000.

An additional project was also discussed – the benchmarking of the Town Centre against those of other comparable towns. A sum of £5,000 was mooted to support familiarisation visits. Ilkley in West Yorkshire was cited as an exemplar which might be visited. Following debate, which considered the value for money of such an exercise and the necessity in this

context, this was reduced to £2,000, contingent on support for the scheme being forthcoming from other stakeholders, particularly Kendal Futures.

Resolved: To receive the project update report.

Resolved: To propose to Management Committee that the Council's allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy is apportioned as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Footpath maintenance | £40,000 |
| Town Centre Public Realm | £30,000 |
| 20 m.p.h. | £30,000 |
| Total | £100,000 |

Resolved: To make the following allocations and proposals.

| | | | |
|---|---|--------|--|
| Mintsfeet Depot development | Existing Green Space Improvement budget | £7,500 | Contingent on support coming from Cumbria County Council as well as other stakeholders |
| Water bottle refilling and public water supply points | New scheme | £5,000 | |
| Sustainability accreditation | Existing Climate Change budget | £4,000 | Vired from existing allocations for Public realm (£2k) and Biodiversity (£2k). |
| Public realm benchmarking | Public realm improvement | £2,000 | Contingent on support from Kendal Futures and others |
| | | | |
| | | | |

E36/2022 Suspension of Standing Order 3x

The committee considered a motion from the Chair to suspend Standing Order 3x and allow the meeting to run on to 10 p.m., so as to ensure the business of the Committee was completed.

Resolved: To support the motion and suspend Standing Order 3x.

E37/2022 Dockray Seat Virement

The Development and Delivery Manager drew the Committee's attention to the item relating to the repair of a seat near Dockray Hall. She alerted them to the fact that the repairs were likely to exceed the available funding in Infrastructure Maintenance and requested that the cost be supported by additional funding from the New Infrastructure budget line, which had more headroom.

Resolved: To support this request to the required amount (WHICH IS????)

E38/2022 Nobles Rest

The Committee heard that a plan to develop a new entrance to Nobles Rest from the front of Marks and Spencer had been abandoned due to legal difficulties with the original 1929 covenants. It was now proposed that the funding the town council had offered towards this project be diverted to the plan to build a new path across the grass from the Maude Street entrance to the park's new central feature.

Resolved: To approve this diversion of the £5,000 funding from the entrance project to the new path.

E39/2022 Serpentine Alphabet Trail

The Development and Delivery Manager reported that Kendal Conservation Volunteers have identified which sculptures from the Alphabet Sculpture Trail need repairing, and have requested that they be able to draw down the allocated funding of £1,000. In addition, the initiative to improve 'natural play' facilities in Serpentine Wood was progressing, following a design competition and site visit with key stakeholders. Volunteers, particularly from Kendal Conservation Volunteers, had done tremendous work in the woods. Councillors asked that their contribution be celebrated in a future edition of the newsletter.

Resolved: To note the report and accept the proposal for expenditure.

E40/2022 Sustainability Hub

The Committee received a report from the Development and Delivery Manager that the project to create a Sustainability Hub at Stricklandgate House was progressing well with strategic partners – South Lakes Action on Climate Change (SLACC), Waste into Wellbeing and Stricklandgate House itself. They were awaiting the outcome of a bid to the Shared Prosperity Fund and planning a series of events to engage the wider public.

Resolved: To note the report.

E41/2022 Zero Carbon Kendal

The Committee received a report from the Development and Delivery Manager that the Zero Carbon Kendal website and social media engagement was progressing well with good take-up on Instagram and Facebook. Content creation for the programme was taking around 4 hours of staff time per week, currently.

Resolved: To note the report.

E42/2022 Biodiversity Funding Proposals

The Committee considered the following proposed allocations from the Biodiversity Projects budget.

- a) Living Roof Bus Shelters (£2500)
- b) Wildflowers at Kendal Green (£500). It was noted that this would be supported by SLDC and delivered in partnership with their grounds maintenance contractor.
- c) Fruit tree espaliers and willow screening at Dean Gibson School (£300) It was suggested that these must be native and preferably local varieties. The chair asked that the school be invited to request further funding if required to meet these preferences.

Resolved: To accept these proposed budget allocations and expenditure.

E43/2022 20 m.p.h.

The Chair reported that progress on this matter was starting to be seen, but that the oversight group had agreed to the measures being introduced in a phased manner due to Highways staff capacity and budget constraints to deliver traffic calming measures. The scheme will be town wide and mandatory. Though the precise scope of the scheme is not yet in the public domain, Town Councillors may look at the proposed scheme boundaries in the Council's office by making an appointment with the Development and Delivery Manager. Cumbria County Council have requested £1,000 to be drawn down from the allocated £19,400 to support additional data collection to extend the scheme boundary in some areas.

Resolved: To approve the report and expenditure.

E44/2022 Carbon Literacy Training

The Committee considered a proposal from the Development and Delivery Manager for the Council to spend £345 from the £1,519 remaining in the Climate Change Projects budget on supporting five Kendal-based third sector representatives to attend the Carbon Literacy training offered by Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAFS).

Resolved: To support the proposal.

The meeting closed at 10p.m.