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, 24 January 2022 at 7.45 pm at Kendal Town Hall.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cllr G Archibald (Vice Chair) | Present | Cllr S Evans | Absent |
| Cllr J Cornthwaite | Present | Cllr S Long | Apologies |
| Cllr J Dunlop | Present | Cllr K Simpson | Present |
| Cllr E Hennessy (Chair) | Present | Cllr C Rowley | Present |

**In attendance:** Town Clerk (Chris Bagshaw), Project Manager (Helen Moriarty), Democratic Services Assistant (Ian Gordon), Resident of Gooseholme (Kate Holden), Kendal Conservation Volunteers (Terry Parr).

**E42/21/22 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Long

**E43/21/22 Declarations of Interest**

None

**E44/21/22 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)**

None

**E45/21/22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

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

Notes from the additional budget meeting held on 22 November were not included but they were approved at full council.

**Resolved:** To commend them as a true record. The Clerk agreed to send out notes from the budget meeting held on 22 November to members of the Committee.

**E46/21/22 E & H Budget and current spend to date**

The Committee considered the budget for the current year. The Clerk confirmed the new agreed budget lines will be reflected in the next budget statement.

**Resolved:** To note the report

**E47/21/22 Project Updates**

The Project Manager set out a written report on project updates and Committee members raised various questions.

**Gooseholme**

A working group met last week and agreed several recommendations for Councillors’ consideration.

1. **Improve Putting Green boundary** - To research costs and options for strengthening the existing putting green boundary hedge and extending it to replace the conifer removal at Aynam Road and along Thorney Hills.
2. **Enhance CCTV awareness via signage** - To allocate CCTV underspend (£1,500) to CCTV signage, locations and cost details to be confirmed. To revisit options for relocation post EA and new bridge completion.
3. **Confirm PSPO need** - To write to Cumbria Constabulary to confirm whether or not a PSPO would help to tackle ASB.
4. **Signpost to toilet facilities** - To highlight nearby toilets once footbridge is completed.
5. **Research potential marshal provision** - To better understand the costs and benefits of marshals based on The Glebe experience and consider how it could benefit the wider river corridor.

The Chair invited Terry Parr to speak regarding his concerns on Gooseholme. Mr Parr was disappointed that little effort was being made by the Council on biodiversity on Gooseholme and claims that the plans to mitigate anti-social behaviour is not a satisfactory response.

Councillor Archibald, who chaired the working group, stated the importance of biodiversity but there was a priority to ensure anti-social behaviour is addressed as an urgent matter and that where practical biodiversity enhancements should be implemented but not at the expense of efforts to reduce anti scoail behaviour. Councillor Rowley suggested both need to be treated with equally urgency at pace. A Councillor felt that a better contribution to anti-social behaviour would be the removal of the hedge on the putting green and use of a railing instead. Kate Holden was concerned about the idea of removal of the hedge but commented on the amount of human faeces along this hedge was a massive concern. The Project Manager reported that the hedge is owned by SLDC and is likely to make a contribution to biodiversity and it was SLDC’s plan to upgrade this boundary. Councillor Archibald asked to see Terry Parr’s ideas for the space and reiterated his support for increasing biodiversity and reducing anti-social behaviour.

Terry Parr suggested an opportunity to plant wildflowers considering topsoil is being removed to create the temporary access road to the bridge replacement site. The Clerk pointed out that it was CCC contractors building the replacement bridge to Gooseholme and separate EA contractors working on flood defence. It was agreed to approach CCC and SLDC to see if there was an opportunity to relandscape once the bridge works are complete.

There is a meeting of Natural Kendal on Wednesday where strategic plans to address biodiversity across all of Kendal’s green spaces will be discussed.

**Resolved:** To adopt the five recommendations and update the committee accordingly.

**Resolved:** To share Terry Parr’s Goosholme biodiversity plan with Cllr Archibald.

**Resolved:** To confirm CCC timescales and suggest wildflower idea to SLDC

**E48/21/22 Online Zero Carbon Inspiration Hub**.

Further property viewings have indicated that it is difficult to find a venue that can accommodate the needs of all hub partners. Councillors felt this initiative should not be completely dropped as this was seen as a welcome initiative. The Project Manager confirmed the desire to collaborate is still strong and this is reflected online via the Zero Carbon Kendal website in the meantime. The Project Officer noted that both Repair Café and Waste into Wellbeing are preparing funding proposals for the next Committee meeting which will reflect collaboration to keep elements of this alive.

**E49/21/22 Pumptrack**.

The Chair reported that SLDC had confirmed they would not be going ahead with any survey in advance of the LGR. The Chair felt that some progress should nevertheless be made by the Town Council for example, securing artist’s impressions to support a proposal to the Shadow Authority.

**Resolved:** To identify the cost of an artist’s impression and outline costs from contractors and commission following Councillor approval.

**E50/21/22 20 MPH**

The Project Officer provided an update from the working group who agreed a series of questions for Cumbria County Council to inform a proposal to the Shadow Authority. The Chair highlighted that the questions reflect that Kendal Town Council want to drive the initiative and they are designed to make intentions for the scheme clear. The Chair also noted that 20mph speed limits compared to 30mph speed limits reduce journey time by 8%. The committee were happy with the questions submitted in the agenda report from the 20mph working group meeting on 6 January 2022.

**Resolved:** To submit the questions to CCC

**E51/21/22 Kirkbarrow Connections Project**

Councillors strongly welcomed this report and the opportunity to make progress improving paths in and around Kirkbarrow and further felt this provided a template for other footpath initiatives throughout Kendal. Councillor Long had suggested via the Project Officer that No.2 Vicarage Drive to the Adventure should be adopted by Kendal Town Council and that No. 6 should also be a priority.

A Councillor suggested there should be a meeting on site with local councillors to confirm an action plan identifying priorities. It was felt important to identify sources of funding to enact improvements.

**Resolved:** To invite local councillors to walk round the proposed sites and seek their agreement on priorities.

**Resolved:** To prioritise No.2 and No.6 as suggested in the report including covering the costs of legal work to adopt path no2.

**Resolved:** To change report wording to ‘Consider’ applying for PROW status to reflect the pros and cons of adoption.

Councillors wanted to know how additional future potential projects could be brought to the committee. The Chair advised that demonstration of need and local support should be submitted for inclusion on a future agenda.

Councillors raised local initiatives to improve biodiversity areas on Kendal Green and land adjoining Horncop Lane and were advised to generate community support and bring proposals to Committee for consideration.

**E52/21/22 Infrastructure Maintenance Proposal**

Councillors considered the proposal to approve road signage via a new SLDC partnership initiative, railings and provision of a new bus stop. An extra application was tabled relating to improved railings at Sepulchre Lane and Kirkbarrow Lane.

**Resolved**: To approve the proposal en-bloc. The Project Manager to provide a list of each infrastructure maintenance project highlighting budget allocation and timescales.

**E53/21/22 Compositing Proposal**

The Committee considered the report to purchase and install two compositing facilities.

**Resolved**: To approve the request to install two compositing bins at Nobels Rest and Cemetery at a maximum cost of £1,000

**E54/21/22 Footpath Audit Commission**

Councillors considered options to increase active travel. A Councillor felt all Councillors should be invited to submit ideas in their area with photographs and information on how these paths are being used to aid prioritising. Another Councillor felt it important to prioritise the areas and reasons first of all before inviting all Councillors to submit proposals. It was suggested guidelines and criteria for projects that promote active travel was needed to help Councillors in each ward identify suitable projects and to provide a framework for this Committee to evaluate any submissions. Councillors were reminded that £12,000 is allocated in the next budget to support a footpath audit commission.

**Resolved**: To share with all Councillors the Kirkbarrow Connections work to invite similar proposals for their wards. To use Councillor feedback to inform the criteria and priorities of the footpath audit commission.

**E55/21/22 Appointments to Outside Consultative Groups**

The Committee considered appointments to the following outside consultative groups

**Resolved**: To appoint Councillor Dunlop as representative to the Kendal Northern Access Route working group with Councillor Hennessy as Deputy.

**Resolved**: To appoint Councillor Archibald as representative to the South Lakes Action on Climate Change (SLACC).

The Project Officer requested a standard agenda item be added reporting on working group attendance.

The meeting closed at 21.40