

Kendal Town Council

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



Minutes of a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on Tuesday, 13 February 2024, at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Kendal Town Council Members

Cllr A Blackman (Chair)	Present	Cllr D Brown	Present
Cllr L Hendry	Present	Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair)	Present

Co-optees

J Cottam	No present	C Stuart-Smith (Horticulture)	Present
A Yates (Kendal Civic Society)	Present		

In attendance: Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk), Janine Holt (Council Services Officer) and Pierre Labat (Townscape Officer).

B20/2023 Apologies

No apologies were received.

B21/2023 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

B22/2023 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

B23/2023 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on 17 October 2023 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

B24/2023 Minute Action Sheet

The Committee considered a report on actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings. Under item 4, the Townscape Officer reported that he had looked at some potential designs for Finkle Street/New Police Yard. It was noted that these would require various consents from property owners and Planning, so had a way to go yet. Finance would be considered later in the meeting.

Under item 5, the plug plants were still with KCV and EA were hoping to 'soft' open the new area this spring.

Under item 6, the Probation Service had replied that the work discussed was not ideally suited to their practices, but they might consider doing other tasks such as renovating bus shelters.

Under item 7 the Clerk confirmed that he was still awaiting news of the management arrangements for the 'Heart of Kendal' scheme.

Resolved: To note the report.

B25/2023 Review of Spend against Budget 2023/24

The Council Services Officer presented a review of spend against budget 2023/24 as at 29 January 2024. It was noted that there was around £14,000 yet to be spent, but a number of items which would require expenditure coming up.

Resolved: To note the Committee's spend against budget at 29 January 2024.

B26/2023 Kendal in Bloom 2024

The Council Services Officer introduced the item, asking the Committee to consider ideas for the Kendal in Bloom initiative 2024. It was noted that the Environment Committee had struggled to gain engagement with schools over a bee house project, and perhaps the Kendal in Bloom committee could use its historically more successful access to achieve this aim – and use the bee house project as a starter for a theme.

A variety of possible other themes were proposed: the river, biodiversity, unity etc. The Chair suggested the matter would best be sorted out by a sub group. Cllr Sutton, Brown and Hendry agreed to join him in this deliberation.

Resolved: That a working advisory group meets at 9.30am on Thu 22nd Feb at the Town Council offices.

B27/2023 Civic Planting

- (a) The Committee considered a report on the current maintenance schedule and the extent of the Townscape Officer's capacity. It was noted that in high season, the council had found it necessary to supplement the workforce to get ensure the watering was completed. The Committee asked about the success of the various wildflowers planting initiatives. The Townscape Officer reported that the location of the planting seemed to be critical. Somervell Garden now looked a little ragged, whereas Aynam and Kendal Green looked more promising. This was related to the relative quality of the soil and their aspect. Slugs were reported as a problem on the delphiniums on the Coronation beds. The ivy screens had proved very difficult to maintain at the right moisture level, and were looking very distressed.

It was noted that Projects passed down from elsewhere in the Council or by the principal authority often lacked cohesive or realistic maintenance plans. The Clerk explained that it was not sufficient for others to assume that Kendal in Bloom could pick up the ongoing maintenance of geographically and horticulturally diverse sites around town without any contribution to their long term upkeep. Several examples were cited, where the presence of a Town Council crest implied an expectation from the public that was not matched with funding from the Project originators.

Resolved: Future projects would require a great deal more thought prior to any adoption. Memoranda of Understanding would be required from third parties, explaining the terms under which any future management would be taken by the Town Council, and the likely ongoing cost.

- (b) The Council Services Officer reported that she had received costs from suppliers for a review of the Council's Planting and Maintenance Strategy, with a view to creating a more sustainable model of civic planting.

The Townscape Officer reported that a new display structure on Finkle Street could be built and installed for around £1,600. It was noted that this would be subject to legal and planning permissions, which may also incur costs.

The Townscape Officer requested £180 to improve the promenade planter by the station.

Resolved: To allocate around £6,000 to generate the report and management plan

Resolved: To allocate £1,600 plus reasonable legal costs for an installation on Finkle Street/ Police Yard.

Resolved: To allocate £180 for promenade planters.

B28/2023 Date of Next Meeting

Consideration was given the date of the next meeting of the Committee which was currently scheduled to take place 19 March 2024.

Resolved: To hold the next meeting of the Committee as scheduled.

The meeting closed at 19.24.