

Kendal Town Council

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



Minutes of a meeting of Kendal Town Council held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal, on Monday, 3 October 2022, at 7.30 p.m.

G Archibald	Present	A Blackman	Apologies
K Blamire	Apologies	S Blunden	Present
J Brook	Present	D Brown	Present
A Campbell	Present	S Coleman	Present
J Cornthwaite	Present	J Dunlop (Deputy Mayor)	Present
L Edwards	Present	D Evans	Present
A Finch	Apologies	C Hardy	Apologies
M Helme	Present	L Hendry	Present
E Hennessy	Present	H Ladhams	Present
S Long	Present	D Miles	Apologies
T Perkins	Present	D Rathbone (Mayor)	Present
C Russell	Present	M Severn	Absent
K Simpson	Present	R Sutton	Present
P Thornton	Present	G Tirvengadam	Present

In attendance: Chris Bagshaw, Town Clerk, and Inge Booth, Democratic Services Assistant

Public Participation

No items were brought forward by the public.

There was a short presentation by Sergeant Suzanne Scott-O'Neill from **Cumbria Constabulary**. Sergeant O'Neill explained that she had not attended a Town Council meeting since before the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and informed Members of a number of changes which had taken place in Kendal's Police Team since that time as a result of a decrease in resources. She introduced David House and Ben Lawson, two new Community Beat Officers, also advising that a third Beat Officer was shortly due to join the Team covering Kendal. She explained that the three Beat Officers' email addresses would be provided to all Town Councillors via the Town Clerk in due course and that Members would be able to contact them at any time. In addition, three Police Community Support Officers would shortly be recruited to work alongside the three Beat Officers.

Sergeant Scott-O'Neill informed Members that the Police were aware of the current issues at Gooseholme. She acknowledged that the new bridge would soon be opening and explained that Police footfall and patrols would be increased in this location. She also advised that Police crime statistics would no longer be reported to the Town Council as Members would have direct contact with Beat Officers and so there would be no need to report statistics at meetings. She further drew attention to a link that she would send to the Town Council via which Members could find out detailed, localised information relating to crime and trends within Kendal. She reassured Members that the Policy Team continued to carefully examine their own statistics on a daily basis and at multi-agency meetings.

Members expressed strong appreciation to Sergeant Scott-O'Neill and the Police Force for their work in the community. Sergeant Scott-O'Neill answered a number of questions raised by Members.

There was a further detailed presentation by Miriam Randall, Chief Executive and Artistic Director from **Brewery Arts**. She introduced Heather Askew, the recently-appointed Director of Finance and Business Development whose key role was to assist the organisation to recover as it came out of the Covid-19 crisis. Ms Randall referred to the documents circulated to Members at the start of the meeting and the Guide covering September to December 2022 which demonstrated the events put on by the organisation around live music, theatre, cinema, comedy, dance, exhibitions, international festivals, outreach programmes and creative learning. She offered any Members who were interested to contact her for a tour of the site.

Ms Randall informed Members that Brewery Arts was celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2022, that the organisation was firmly established in the region and also had national significance and international reach. It worked in partnership across the arts, education and community sectors, and engaged almost 200,000 people each year in its programmes. The organisation's vision was for Kendal to be known internationally as a destination for world-class culture and creativity, an attractive and stimulating location for creatives to develop their practice and build careers, and for audiences to build a lifelong love of the arts. The organisation did this through accessible programmes developed in tandem with the communities it served. Its work reflected global issues, but had people and participation at its heart. Ms Randall spoke to Members about Brewery Arts' values and aims, its impact, partnerships, company structure, and business and financial models. She further talked about learning and community engagement and provided an activity plan overview for 2023-26, which stated that during this period, the organisation would increase its social impact in creative people, cultural communities and a creative and cultural county. Ms Randall further provided information on the Brewery Arts Strategy and details in relation to income and core grants, also taking the opportunity to thank the Town Council for its support and contribution which, she said, made a massive difference.

Ms Randall and Ms Askew responded to a series of questions raised by Members.

30/2022 Apologies

Resolved: To receive and accept apologies for absence from Cllrs A Blackman, K Blamire, A Finch, C Hardy and D Miles.

The Chairman advised Members that Cllr K Blamire, due to personal circumstances, had requested leave of absence from Council meetings for a six month period.

The Clerk provided clarification with regard to the relevant legislation under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, advising that Council needed to consider accepting Cllr Blamire's apologies for a six month period. In response to a query, he informed Members that the Chairman of the Management Committee had been made aware of and was in

agreement with the situation, and he undertook to explain Cllr Blamire's circumstances to Members confidentially outside of the meeting.

Resolved: To authorise a six month leave of absence from Council meetings for Cllr K Blamire, with immediate effect.

31/2022 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised.

32/2022 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

33/2022 Minutes of Last Meeting

Resolved: To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8 August 2022 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them as a true record.

34/2022 Mayor's Communications and Announcements

Members considered the latest report from the Mayor which was included within the Agenda.

The Mayor further referred to his recent visit to Rinteln to attend its Alstadfest and of the return visit to Kendal by representatives of Rinteln. These visits had been arranged in order to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of and to re-affirm the Kendal and Rinteln twinning. The Mayor called upon any Member with a keen hobby to come forward and establish if they might be able to link up with someone with a similar enthusiasm in Rinteln.

Resolved: To receive the report.

35/2022 Minutes from Committees

The Council was presented with the minutes from recent meetings of the Council's standing committees.

- (a) Audit, Grants and Charities Committee on 25 July and 8 August 2022 – Cllr J Dunlop as Chair of the Committee expressed strong disappointment at both the meeting of 25 July and a more recent meeting on 28 September having been inquorate, with both having had to be reconvened. She pointed out that the agendas for these meetings had included items of business importance which required discussion and decision. She further referred to the lack of apologies prior to the last meeting and the fact that, had they been received in a timely manner, then this could have avoided time and expense being wasted.

A query was raised regarding grant applications for £50 and as to whether the Committee continued to offer these small amounts. Cllr Dunlop explained that the

Town Council was there for both small and large organisations and that administration of the small grants did not take up a large amount of officer time.

A further query was raised regarding inquoracy of meetings and the potential for consideration of protocol to enable meetings to continue to discuss agenda items and to pass on the actual decision making to the next meeting of the Committee. Cllr Dunlop explained that the option to make recommendations to Full Council had indeed been considered on 28 September, however, that as the meeting was to be rescheduled and held prior to the next meeting of Full Council, this had been felt to be unnecessary. The Chair asked the Clerk to investigate the potential for appropriate protocol in this regard.

Resolved: The Clerk to investigate the potential for appropriate protocol regarding inquoracy of meetings and recommendations to be made to Council.

(b) Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee on 25 July 2022 –

Cllr K Simpson advised that whilst she was marked as having been absent and her apology having been received and accepted, she had, in fact, been present at the meeting.

Reference was made to CLF17/2022 and the potential for a reduction in the hours that the Christmas lights were lit in Kendal. This suggestion was supported by a Council Member who felt that support would demonstrate the Council's commitment to addressing the Climate Emergency. Cllr H Ladhams, Chair of the Committee, informed Council that a decision had already been made on 26 September in relation to the hours of lighting the Christmas lights.

Clarification was sought regarding CLF18/2022(b) and the grant to Kendal Torchlight. The Clerk explained that the Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee and the Audit, Grants and Charities Committee had different policies in respect of making grants. Cllr M Helme, Vice-Chair of the Committee, advised that two separate grants had been made by the Committee to Kendal Torchlight, one of £5,000 and one of £3,000 and the Clerk confirmed that this was appropriate and within the Committee's guidelines. He further explained that he planned to look into the Council's grants policies, explaining that he had previously hoped to draw together the Council's grant giving functions and of his intention to bring this proposal back to Council in a few months' time.

(c) Environment and Highways Committee on 12 September 2022 – Cllr E Hennessy, Chair of the Committee, advised that the Committee remained busy.

A Member queried whether he should raise an amendment at this stage and was advised to leave this until the Committee itself gave consideration to the minutes. Discussion took place on the process of Council receiving minutes and as to whether it was suitable for Council to make amendments to the minutes of Standing Committees. Discussion also took place regarding the process of recording late arrivals and early departures of Members attending meetings, which, it was felt, had

been formally abandoned some time ago. The Clerk explained of the need for the Council to follow guidance and of the need for it to be recorded where Members were present for decisions being made. He further pointed out that he felt that a number of the previous processes followed by Council may be ultra vires and suggested, therefore, that a number of protocols should be examined afresh.

Resolved: The Clerk to bring a report on Council meeting protocols to a future meeting of the Management Committee.

Cllr E Hennessy was asked if he agreed with an earlier comment by the Police that Kendal was a haven for cyclists, no bicycles ever going missing. Cllr Hennessy explained that he had also been surprised by this statement, as did other Members. Some, however, did not agree, and were of the opinion that locked bicycles were unlikely to be stolen in Kendal.

- (d) Kendal in Bloom on 27 July 2022 – Cllr R Sutton, Vice-Chair of the Committee, reported that Kendal in Bloom 2022 had been a great success.
- (e) Management Committee on 5 September 2022 – Cllr S Coleman, Chair of the Committee, advised that much consideration had been given to the office move to South Lakeland House and that the Committee was doing all it could to support staff. Cllr Coleman awaited an email from the Clerk in this regard.

A great deal of attention was drawn to a typographical error in Minute M36/2022 where “head” should have read “heat”.

- (f) Planning Committee on 1 and 15 August and 5 September 2022 –

A query was raised with regard to the minutes of the meeting of 1 August and Planning Application No.SL/2022/0663 (6 Gilthwaiterigg Lane, Kendal) and the Committee’s recommendation for refusal of solar panels. Cllr H Ladhams, Vice-Chair of the Committee, explained that this had been due to the fact that the proposed panels were to be installed on the side of the building resulting in impingement on the visual amenity of the area.

Resolved: To receive the minutes from the committees, with any the suggested amendments outlined above to be made to the receiving committees.

36/2022 Reports from Representatives

The Council received the following reports:-

- (a) Kendal BID (a written report from Cllr H Ladhams) – Members welcomed the report and acknowledged the new focus on getting things done. Members’ attention was drawn to the Kendal Music Festival which was due to take place on Saturday, 8 October.

- (b) Kendal Integrated Care Community - Cllr Sutton gave a brief verbal account of the informative sessions he had attended in the week prior to the meeting. These had focussed mainly on the cost of living crisis, and Cllr Sutton undertook to provide Members with a full written report in due course. Members felt that this was vital information and it was suggested that the Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee might pick up on some of the issues raised.
- (c) Kendal Rinteln Association (a written report from Cllr A Blackman) – It was acknowledged that the twinning weekend had been a great success, with attendance by both the Mayor of Rinteln and a representative of the German Consulate in Edinburgh.
- (d) SLACC Trustees Meeting (a written report from Cllr M Helme) – Cllr Helme commended the current work being carried out by the Group.

The Chair thanked representatives for their reports.

Resolved: To accept the reports from representatives on outside organisations.

37/2022 Property Transfers

Council was asked to consider authorisation of the sealing of contracts for the purchase of land by the River Kent at Mintsfeet for £25,000, plus a contribution to the vendor's legal costs, and for land at Vicarage Drive, for £1, plus a contribution to the vendor's legal fees.

The Clerk explained that the Council had previously approved both acquisitions, though this was the first public agenda item confirming this fact and formally authorising the completion of contracts. The contracts had been prepared by the Council's solicitors, Thompson Hayton Winkley.

Resolved: To authorise the sealing of contracts for the purchase of land by the River Kent at Mintsfeet for £25,000, plus a contribution to the vendor's legal costs, and for the land at Vicarage Drive, for £1, plus a contribution to the vendor's legal fees.

38/2022 Additional item - Schedule of Payments

The Clerk explained that the Schedule of Payments for the period to September 2022 had been omitted from the Agenda in error. Standing Orders required Council's attention to be drawn to payments over £10,000, and during that period, there had been a request from the Allotments Committee for a sum of £23,823 for work in relation to Canal Head which had already been carried out and paid for.

The Clerk, therefore, suggested that, with Council's leave, he would bring this issue before the meeting of the Audit, Grants and Charities Committee's reconvened meeting on 13 October and report on to the November meeting of the Management Committee.

Members, however, expressed appreciation for the work that had been carried out resulting in the need this payment and felt that due process had been followed prior to this meeting.

Resolved: To note the payment of £23,823 and proposals for onward reporting as outlined above.

The meeting closed at 9.24 p.m.