

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Kendal in Bloom Committee

**Tuesday 28th April 2020 at 7.00 pm
(Via Teleconferencing)**

- PRESENT** Councillors Andy Blackman (Chair), Richard Sutton (Vice Chair), Adam Edwards and Chris Rowley
Co-opted: Mandy Nicholson
- APOLOGIES** Councillor Carol Hardy and Lynne Oldham
- OFFICERS** Janine Holt (Assistant to the Town Clerk), Pierre Labat (Townscape Manager) and Nicky King (Council Secretary)
- 996/19/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None.
- 997/19/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None.
- 998/19/20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH JANUARY 2020**
The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2020, which had been approved by full Council on 2nd March 2020.
Councillor Blackman proposed that the minutes be approved as a correct record of the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Edwards and carried unanimously.
- RESOLVED** That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28th January 2020 be accepted as a correct record.
- MATTERS ARISING** (Not on Agenda)
- 999/19/20** Ghyllside Residents (Minute 777/19/20)
Janine had contacted Ghyllside residents to ascertain whether Highways' permission had been granted to site the planters. They were no further forward therefore this item will be carried over and Janine will follow up again.
- RESOLVED** Janine to follow up again and item to be carried over to the next meeting.
- 1000/19/20** Tree Planter Cladding (Minute 779/19/20)
A sample planter had been situated outside the Town Hall. Positive comments have been received from both the Environment & Highways Committee and Kendal in Bloom Committee. The Project Manager was organising for the other tree planters to be cladded, however this work is now on hold due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

1001/19/20Natural Heritage Project (Minute 780/19/20)

Janine Holt was organising signage for the planters but unfortunately this could not be progressed as the contractor stopped work due to the pandemic. The money has been accrued and will be carried over, therefore this work can be picked up as and when the contractor returns to work.

Mandy Nicholson asked why one of the planters is full of stones/boulders. It was explained that the project lead, Terry Parr, wished the planters to follow a chronological sequence (eg. ice age, limestone age, Roman age etc). This particular planter replicates a limestone quarry and, whilst it is not particularly attractive, there is a meaning behind it which the signage will explain when in place. It is proposed to move the planter to the edge of Dowker Lane which is a less prominent position. During competitions the meaning behind the planter and why it looks like it does will be explained to judges.

1002/19/20Development of a Nature Trail (Minute 782/19/20)

This initiative has been put on hold for the time being due to Coronavirus.

Councillor Rowley mentioned a sunflower competition that is advertised in some Kendal front gardens. He suggested that a link could be included on the proposed Facebook page with an invitation to submit photographs.

1003/19/20Great British Spring Clean (Minute 782/19/20)

At the last meeting Pierre was tasked with checking the litter pick equipment and advising if any replacement equipment was required. He advised that there is sufficient equipment.

Councillor Blackman noted that litter picks are currently on hold. Pierre commented that there is a lot less litter in town currently, although there is a big invasion of rats. It was thought this could be connected to the lack of rubbish in town which is causing the rats to seek food elsewhere.

1004/19/20Planting at Briarigg (Minute 783/19/20)

Committee had previously agreed to support funding of £300 to a resident from Briarigg for bluebell bulbs to plant at Briarigg. Councillor Blackman asked whether this money had been paid. Janine advised that this funding should have been paid before the end of the financial year, along with funding for Nobles Rest and the Natural Heritage Trail etc. She will confirm with the Treasurer that this is the case.

RESOLVED

Janine to check with the Treasurer whether the funding for planting at Briarigg has been paid.

1005/19/20Pollinator Project Final Report (Minute 785/19/20)

Following on from the findings of the final report, it had been suggested that KTC Planning Committee request that, on large building projects, some land is cleared/scraped off, thereby reducing the fertility of the soil to provide a suitable area for wild flower planting.

Councillor Rowley will raise this with the Planning Committee as a Member of that Committee himself.

RESOLVED

Councillor Rowley to raise the suggestion of providing a suitable area for wild flower planting on large building projects with KTC Planning Committee.

1006/19/20

KENDAL IN BLOOM AND CUMBRIA IN BLOOM COMPETITIONS 2020

The Cumbria in Bloom competition has been cancelled due to Coronavirus. It was noted that many people have been working hard in their gardens during the lockdown and it was suggested that people could be invited to submit pictures of their gardens for the proposed social media page once this is up and running. Janine will liaise with the Project Manager regarding the social media page.

Councillor Blackman confirmed that the Britain in Bloom competition has also been cancelled. The earliest chance of being invited to enter will now be 2022.

RESOLVED

Janine to liaise with the Project Manager regarding the proposed social media page.

1007/19/20

PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

Janine presented the Project Update report and the following matters were highlighted:

Civic Planting

Janine has spoken to both Continental and Horticare and advised that, as it stands at the moment, the civic planting will go ahead as scheduled. Continental will undertake planting, however Horticare may not be able to do so in which case Pierre will help if necessary. Planting will take place late May, early June.

Cumbria in Bloom Competition & Kendal in Bloom Initiative

Both have been cancelled for this year. Janine advised that a couple of schools have been in touch to say they thought the initiative was a good idea and were sorry it had not gone ahead.

Social Media

Janine will liaise with the Project Manager to help set up a Kendal in Bloom Facebook page.

Townscape Manager

Pierre returned to work on 30th March following a successful operation on his shoulder. There could be a potential problem with the watering of hanging baskets due to his recent operation. Members were asked to consider two options:

- Identify an alternative individual to help with the watering of the hanging baskets.

- Utilise the flowers from the hanging baskets in either an alternative location or produce pots that can be distributed to the community to boost morale after the lockdown.

Following a general discussion Councillor Blackman proposed that the plants be used in hanging baskets to make the town look nice and identify an alternative individual to help with watering if necessary. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and carried unanimously.

Boundary Signs and Rings

Pierre raised a previous idea which had been discussed to clean out boundary signs and rings, emptying and replacing the soil for new planting to go in. He advised that the quality of the soil is currently poor and they are not looking their best. Repainting the boundary signs had also been discussed. He asked whether Members wished to go ahead with the extended work or keep to standard planting. Janine advised that if a contractor could be secured, the money was available and this work could proceed. Pierre had spoken to Continental who may not be able to undertake the planting as they are currently short staffed. He added that if an alternative contractor had to be sought it might be difficult to achieve the work this year. Janine commented that if we are not in a position to carry out the extended work by the second week of June it would probably have to wait until next year.

Councillor Blackman proposed that the extended work proceed if it is possible. This was seconded by Councillor Edwards and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

1. That the plants be used in hanging baskets to make the town look nice. An alternative individual to be identified to help with watering if necessary
2. That extended work to clean boundary signs and rings proceed if a contractor can be found in the required timeframe.

1008/19/20

WESTMORLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

Members were asked to consider whether they wished to make the standard annual grant to Westmorland Horticultural Society for their summer show. Councillor Sutton proposed that the grant of £75 be awarded. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and carried unanimously. Janine will check with the Society that the show is going ahead as planned on 5th July 2020.

RESOLVED

That Committee will grant £75 to the Westmorland Horticultural Society for their summer show.

1009/19/20

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Summer edition:

- Promote Facebook page (Janine to liaise with the Project Manager)
- Sunflower competition (Councillor Rowley to supply details)

- Edible vegetable planters (Councillor Rowley to write an article)

Mandy Nicholson informed members that co-opted Member Lynne Oldham and herself had planted some daffodil bulbs along Shap Road at the beginning of the year which are still in flower. She thanked SLDC Councillor Peter Thornton for the money to make that project possible. There are some bulbs remaining and volunteers are needed to help plant those in the spring. Mandy will provide an article for the newsletter and photographs of the flowering daffodil bulbs.

Pierre mentioned that Horticare will be holding a sale of surplus plants. It was too late for inclusion in the newsletter, however Mandy will pass details to Pierre of a Facebook page which may be a suitable site to advertise the sale. Details will also be on Horticare's own website.

1010/19/20

REVIEW OF SPEND AGAINST BUDGET 2019/20

Members considered the Financial Statement as at the end of March 2020 (the end of the financial year).

It was noted that there was a surplus at the end of the financial year. Janine advised that some money had been carried over for signage for the fern planters and gift cards for the competition, however this had only be possible due to the unique circumstances with the pandemic.

1011/19/20

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Town Badge Outside Rugby Club

Mandy raised the matter of the town badge outside the Rugby Club on Shap Road which was instated in 2016 after Storm Desmond. She advised that it is looking untidy and needs a little work to improve its appearance. Janine advised that the beds are owned by SLDC, however KTC carried out the planting so this could be planted up again if required. After a general discussion it was agreed Mandy and Pierre would lead on this matter, split the existing plants and tidy up the area as Continental and Horticare are unlikely to have the resources currently to carry out the work.

Pierre suggested the possibility of using the town badge as a location for a fern project. He advised that Terry Parr was considering a further fern project, possibly at Nobles Rest, but he hadn't spoken to him for a while.

Fertiliser

Pierre will be using fertiliser in troughs, planters and around trees for the first time this year.

1012/19/20

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

That the next meeting will be held on Monday 8th June 2020 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.43pm.

Summary of Information, Resolutions and Recommendations to Council

Min	Subject	Information/Resolution/Recommendation to Council	
999	Ghyllside Residents	RES	Janine to follow up again and item to be carried over to the next meeting.
1004	Planting at Briarigg	RES	Janine to check with the Treasurer whether the funding for planting at Briarigg has been paid.
1005	Pollinator Project Final Report	RES	Councillor Rowley to raise the suggestion of providing a suitable area for wild flower planting on large building projects with KTC Planning Committee.
1006	Kendal in Bloom and Cumbria in Bloom Competitions	RES	Janine to liaise with the Project Manager regarding the proposed social media page.
1007	Project Update Report -	RES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the plants be used in hanging baskets to make the town look nice. An alternative individual to be identified to help with watering if necessary 2. That extended work to clean boundary signs and rings proceed if a contractor can be found in the required timeframe.
1008	Westmorland Horticultural Society Summer Show	RES	That Committee will grant £75 to the Westmorland Horticultural Society for their summer show.