

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, 19 March 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	Absent	C Stuart-Smith (Horticulture)	Present
A Yates (Kendal Civic Society)	Present		

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

B29/2023 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

B30/2023 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

B31/2023 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

B32/2023 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on 13 February 2024 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

B33/2023 Minute Action Sheet

The Committee considered a report on actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings.

Ref. No.3 – Development of Civic Planting Strategy – The Council Services Officer reported that she had been in contact with Lakeland Gardens who hoped to start work with immediate effect.

Ref. No.4 – Police Yard Installation – The Council Services Officer reported that she would initially be seeking permission, followed by an application for planning consent, from Westmorland and Furness Council with regard to the installation of a metal display arch.

Ref. No.5 – Civic Planting Maintenance – The Town Clerk reported that he had had sight of the drawings for the sculpture. He understood that there were some issues with regard to the installation thereof and health and safety. The matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the Flood Group.

Ref. No.7 – Civic Planting Maintenance – The Town Clerk referred to the Levelling-Up Fund money that was due to be spent on the indoor and outdoor markets, Kent Street and connectivity to Miller Bridge. He referred to the concordat with Kendal Futures with regard to the planting scheme.

Ref. No.8 – Civic Planting – The Council Services Officer advised that she would start soon to look at capacity and finance with regard to future projects.

Resolved: To note the report.

B34/2023 Review of Spend against Budget 2023/24

The Council Services Officer presented a review of spend against budget 2023/24 as at 11 March 2024. The Committee discussed the need to try to spend the remaining money before the end of this financial year. The Council Services Officer explained that she hoped that her recent contact with Lakeland Gardens would result in making a start on this and, in addition, drew attention to plants for the Jubilee Bed for which Toni Yates was seeking funding. The Council Services Officer was of the opinion that the 2023/24 budget would be fully spent.

The Town Clerk further drew attention to planting by the Town Council in 2000 of daffodils at the corner of Miller Bridge and Aynam Road and the need for these bulbs to be replaced following work which had been carried out there by the Environment Agency; whilst bluebells were being planted there, these would take some time to come to anything. It was, however, pointed out that daffodil bulbs could not realistically be purchased until August/September, and so could not come out of the 2023/24 budget.

Resolved: To note the report.

B35/2023 Kendal in Bloom 2024

The Council Services Officer presented the draft Kendal in Bloom 2024 initiative which had been developed by the working group. The Chair explained how the contents were aimed at inspiring the community to join in and contribute. The 2023 Bloom Portfolio would be included within the documentation as an example. The Council Services Officer confirmed that the event would be publicised through schools, businesses and community groups, and through Facebook, and that a link to the 2023 Portfolio would be included. Also suggested was the potential to include a link to the Royal Horticultural Society's "Community Sewing Seeds" scheme, which provided many good ideas for these types of community events.

The Chair referred to his recent walks through the Town during which time he had, on two consecutive Mondays, seen Toni Yates weeding the Jubilee Bed and the Coronation Garden. This had led him to consider whether the Committee might wish to promote a Bloom Gardening Group; a group of volunteers who could work together with Toni. The Council Services Officer undertook to post a call out for volunteers on Facebook.

Resolved: To post a call out for volunteer for a Bloom Gardening Group on Facebook.

Further discussed was the need for visuals within the Kendal in Bloom 2024 documentation, and the Town Clerk explained that this work would be carried out within the office. Attention was also drawn to inclusion within the document of information on the availability of Bee Houses made by Men in Sheds. The Town Clerk took the opportunity to refer to the Mayor's recent visit to Kendal's Twin Town of Killarney at which she had been presented with a wooden pen made by their Men in Sheds; she had also come back with a number of ideas passed on to her on community gardens.

Discussion led to the topic of companion planting and the need to find someone to lead a workshop on the subject. To this end, it was suggested that Lakeland Gardens may be able to assist.

Resolved: To approve the Kendal in Bloom 2024 initiative, subject to the inclusion of appropriate visuals, as outlined at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.25 p.m.