

Kendal Town Council

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



Minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Arts Committee held on Tuesday, 11 July 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall, Kendal.

Cllr J Brook	Apologies	Cllr S Coleman	Present
Cllr J Dunlop (Chair)	Present	Cllr L Hendry	Apologies
Cllr D Rathbone (Vice-Chair)	Present	Cllr M Severn	Absent
Cllr G Tirvengadam	Present		

Also present: Cllr A Blackman.

In attendance: Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk) and Inge Booth (Democratic Services Assistant).

MA1/2022 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs J Brook and L Hendry.

MA2/2022 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised.

MA3/2022 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No items were considered for exclusion.

MA4/2022 Minutes from the Last Meeting

Resolved: To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Arts Committee held on 19 April 2022 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them as a true record.

MA5/2022 Twinning Matters

The Committee was being asked to consider any issues relating to the Town's twinning arrangements with Killarney and Rinteln, including the possibility of subsidised travel to Rinteln with the Lakes Gospel Choir this summer.

Cllr A Blackman, as Chair of the Kendal and Rinteln Twinning Association, addressed the Committee, first referring to the successful social event held in June which had been aimed at stimulating new interest. All present had been encouraged to provide suggestions on how things could be developed into the future and this feedback was awaited.

Cllr Blackman advised that things were now moving apace, invitations having been received by Members to attend Rinteln Altstadfest which ran from 12 to 14 August 2022 to celebrate their 30 years of twinning with Kendal and also with Slawno in Poland. A plaque was to be unveiled in Rinteln Town Hall and the Mayor of Slawno would be attending, together with

four representatives. Cllr Blackman felt that Kendal Town Council's Mayor should also attend along with a delegation of his own.

Cllr Blackman further informed the Committee that Rinteln intended to bring a group of 45 people, including carnival dancers, to the Kendal Torchlight Festival. It was hoped that the Kendal Hostel could be hired to accommodate some of the people. Cllr Blackman informed the Committee in detail of plans for the weekend in this regard, also advising that the Mayor of Rinteln required an official invite. Cllr Blackman also explained that he had contacted the German Consulate and had been advised that funding was available for certain aspects of such visits, for example, room hire. He had, therefore, applied for a £750 grant from the Consulate. Furthermore, the Consulate had indicated a keen interest in the Kendal/Rinteln relationship and he had, therefore, undertaken to ensure that an invitation to the Torchlight Festival was sent to the Consulate.

Cllr Blackman also referred to the fact that the Lakes Gospel Choir would be visiting Germany in October and had offered places on its coach, to which the Council might wish to contribute, to widen access to the Rinteln twinning community. It was also hoped that the Choir would perform to a group of Ukrainian refugees in Rinteln at the Mollenbeck Monastery and that a relationship could be formed between those refugees and the Ukrainian refugees in Kendal. It was expected that any travellers taking up this offer would stay with Rinteln families and pay their own travel costs, with the Town Council making a contribution by way of a subsidy. The Committee had twinning budget of £2,500 which had remained untouched in the previous year, but this year was expected to cover the cost of the Mayoral visit in October and any civic expenses associated with Rinteln visitors to Kendal. Cllr Blackman provided the financial details of the proposal, including those relating to both ferry and tunnel travel and options around dates.

Lengthy discussion took place around an appropriate level of support from the Town Council which, it was felt, should be made direct to the Kendal and Rinteln Twinning Association.

Discussion also took place with regard to the invitation to Rinteln Altstadtfest in August, particularly around travel and subsistence for the Mayor and, in addition, the question of consort and delegation. It was felt that the Mayor and Deputy, together with consorts, should attend the 30th Anniversary of the twinning in August 2022. Cllr Blackman indicated that, as Chair of the Kendal and Rinteln Twinning Association, although unable to attend, he wished to send someone in his place. The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council would fund two places and the Association two and also that delegates would be responsible for arranging their own flights. Accommodation would be arranged by the hosts and, likewise, Kendal would need to arrange accommodation for the Rinteln delegation attending the Torchlight Festival. It was further suggested that any other Members interested in attending the events would need to pay their own way.

Resolved:

- (1) to make a contribution of £1,000 to the Kendal and Rinteln Twinning Association to support residents of Kendal who want to participate in the coach trip to Rinteln in October 2022;
- (2) the Mayor and Deputy, together with consorts, to attend Rinteln Altstadtfest and the 30th Anniversary of the Kendal and Rinteln twinning in August 2022, to be funded by the Town Council, flights to be arranged by the delegates themselves; and
- (3) the Mayor and consort to attend the October event in Rinteln.

MA6/2022 Town Council Collection

The Town Clerk referred to Members' visit immediately prior to the meeting to the Mayor's Parlour and the Picture Store and provided the Committee with a brief verbal update on the care of the Council's collection of art and historic artefacts. He explained that, having just moved back into the building, it was now time to come up with a suitable plan. He informed the Committee that a number of actions from the previous meeting had yet to be acted on and that the Mayor's Attendant had already commenced on reconciliation work. The Town Clerk further informed Members that the Mayor's Attendant had booked the Mayor's Parlour for a number of days for the English Heritage Open Days between 9 and 18 September 2022.

Discussion took place on the idea of selling artwork in order to fund exhibitions around, for example, Kendal's links with the slave trade. The Town Clerk explained that he had been in contact with Art UK who were keen to have the Town Council as a Member and advised that he would bring a further report to the Committee on this subject. He referred to the possibility of Art UK promoting the Town Council's digital gallery. In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed Members that the Council's catalogue of artefacts was up to date although it did not currently marry up with the Asset Register; the Mayor's Attendant continued work in this regard. He further suggested the need for the District Council to be reminded of the fact that the artwork on display on the walls of the Town Hall belonged to the Town Council. He also stressed the need, following the Town Council's return to the Town Hall, for a strong focus on the municipal history of Kendal. He was keen to discuss with District Council colleagues the fact that the Town Council wished to become involved in what was displayed and suggested that this would be of greater importance as the Unitary Council moved forward. It was proposed that, with an aim to get people talking, a show and tell session be held on the rising of a Full Council meeting.

Resolved:

- (1) the Town Clerk to present a further report to the next meeting of the Committee;
- (2) the Mayor's Attendant to send to all Members of the Committee a copy of the catalogue of the Council's artefacts, including thumbnails; and
- (3) a tour of Mayor's Parlour and Picture Store be arranged for all Members on rising of next Full Council meeting, publicising the aim for Members to come back to the Mayoralty and Arts Committee with any suggestions.

MA7/2022 Mayor's Insignia

The Town Clerk provided a brief update on the repairs to the Mayor's Insignia, informing them that arrangements had been made for the chain to be repaired in August.

Cllr D Rathbone drew attention to the fact that the Town Council's motto was wearing off the chain.

Resolved:

- (1) to note the verbal update; and
- (2) Cllr D Rathbone to send to the Town Clerk a photo showing that the Town Council's motto is wearing off from the chain in order for him to establish whether or not this should also be restored.

MA8/2022 Roll of Honour

The Committee was asked to consider issues relating to the Council's role in maintaining the Town's Roll of Honour and War Memorial.

The Town Clerk referred to a recent story in the press regarding a Dutch man who had adopted war graves, one of which was that of a Kendalian man who had died on the Dutch border in 1945. The Town Council had been unable to offer any further information other than the fact that the individual's name was included on the War Memorial. This remained, therefore, an ongoing project and the Town Clerk asked whether further research should be commissioned on those who died in the Second World War.

The Town Clerk also informed Members that his attention had been drawn to the fact that the rolls of honour were missing from the Town Hall atrium. This, he felt, raised the importance of the need reassertion and for Kendal Town Council to take an active interest in the management of the building.

Members expressed an interest in seeing the list of names of those who had fallen in World War II and the Town Clerk advised that this could be provided, however, that the list did not include details of where the individuals had actually lived or where they came from. A Member having suggested that an appeal for information be included in the next Newsletter, the Town Clerk advised that space remained and that this could be raised under the last item on the agenda.

Resolved:

- (1) the Town Clerk to look into the matter of the rolls of honour and to ensure their reinstatement on the wall in the Town Hall atrium; and
- (2) the Town Clerk to provide Members with a copy of the list of names of those Kendalians who fell in World War II.

MA9/2022 Review of Spend against Budget

Resolved: To note the budget monitoring report (April to June 2022 expenditure) for 2022/23.

MA10/2022 Newsletter

Resolved: To offer the following item as an articles for the forthcoming newsletter:-

- An appeal for residents to come forward with information on those who died in service in World War 2.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.