

Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4ED
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Minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Arts Committee held on Monday, 19 June 2023, at 7.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

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

In attendance: Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk), Simon Unsworth (Heritage Officer), Inge Booth (Democratic Services Assistant) and Cllr C Russell, who took part in discussion in relation to Agenda Item No.9 (Kendal Museum), however, took no part in the voting thereon.

MA1/2023 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs J Brook, J Cornthwaite (Vice-Chair) and G Tirvengadam.

MA2/2023 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

MA3/2023 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

The Committee considered whether to exclude the press and the public from any items related to a confidential matter and attention was drawn to Agenda Item No.9 (Museum Provision), discussion on which, it was felt, should not take place within the public domain.

Resolved: To vote on moving into Part Two prior to consideration of Agenda Item No.9 (Museum Provision).

MA4/2023 Minutes from the Last Meeting

Cllr C Russell, who was present at the meeting, raised the fact that he had also attended the meeting of the Committee held on 27 March 2023 but that this had not been recorded within the minutes.

Resolved: Subject to the inclusion of the amendment detailed above, to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Arts Committee held on 27 March 2023 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them as a true record.

MA5/2023 Minute Action Sheet

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

MA18/2022 (Town Council Collection) and MA41/2022 (Minute Action Sheet) - With regard to signage for the Mayor's Parlour, the Heritage Officer informed Members that he had spoken with the relevant officer at Westmorland and Furness Council who had advised on the appropriate style and on the contact details for the person who had made all the other signs in the Town Hall. He had, in turn, contacted the sign maker who had quoted £355 for a sign for the Mayor's Parlour door and a finger sign for the Town Hall foyer. It was suggested that Westmorland and Furness should be approached in this regard, having omitted to include these signs during the redevelopment of the building.

Resolved: To write to the relevant officer at Westmorland and Furness, copying in the relevant Portfolio Holder, to ask them to purchase the signage for the Mayor's Parlour, at a cost of £355.

MA18/2022 (Town Council Collection) – The Town Clerk reported that there was a wider piece of work to carry out with regard to solidifying the Town Council's relationship with Westmorland and Furness and use of the Town Hall building, e.g. display of works on the walls. He would copy the relevant Portfolio Holder into any correspondence. Discussion led to disappointment being expressed in relation to the lack of an invitation to Kendal Town Council to attend the flag raising ceremony to mark Armed Forces Day, the Town Clerk drawing Members' attention to the relevant law of 1973 and parish property regulations.

Resolved: To correspond with Westmorland and Furness in relation to use of the Town Hall building, copying in the relevant Portfolio Holder.

MA49/2022 (Newsletter and Publicity) – It was reported that around 50 staff from Westmorland and Furness Council had taken up the opportunity to attend the Parlour Talks. They had found the sessions of value, not previously having known about or seen the Parlour.

Resolved: To note the report.

MA6/2023 Review of Spend against Budget 2023/24

The Town Clerk presented the Committee's budget monitoring report, explaining that the report having been produced on 9 June 2023, some bills had not yet been paid; he made particular reference to the costs in relation to Mayor Making.

Resolved: To note the budget monitoring report as at 9 June 2023.

MA7/2023 Acquisition and Discard Policy

Members were reminded that the Committee had sought a review of the Council's Acquisition and Discard Policy following its viewing of the Council's Collection earlier in 2023. The Heritage Officer presented a draft Policy which was the first stage in a process that would simplify the rationale behind the Council's Collection, make strategic decisions on retention or disposal easier and assist the Council in bringing more of the Town's heritage into an accessible position. In presenting the Policy, the Heritage Officer drew particular attention to Appendix 1, Ranking of Items for Retention/Discard, and provided an explanation in relation to each of the categories shown. He further pointed out that these rankings could be reversed in relation to acquisitions.

The Committee welcomed the draft Policy and the Heritage Officer answered questions raised by Members, suggesting that changes could be made as felt necessary. Attention was drawn to the fact that the Policy was something which had been under consideration by the Committee for a while and to the fact that it related mainly to the desire to ensure that more items from the Council's Collection were put on public display. The Policy would also assist in being able to politely decline offers of

items which did not meet the criteria stated within the document. The Town Clerk further drew attention to the existence of the Kendal Archives at Busher Walk and their statutory role in the archiving of Local Government documents. The potential to include an additional sentence at Bullet Point (5) (Archival Holdings), to state the Town Council also recommended other organisations that may be better suited to house some archives, was raised.

It was felt that amendments should be made to the draft Policy around the inclusion of ranking of items for acquisition and around direction to other organisations that may be better suited to housing acquisitions, prior to the draft Policy being put forward for recommendation to Council for adoption. It was suggested, therefore, that these amendments could be made and emailed to Members of the Committee for agreement to move forward in this manner.

Resolved: Subject to the amendments raised and outlined above being made and emailed to Members, and written agreement being received, the draft Policy, as amended, to be recommended to Council for adoption.

MA8/2023 Slavery and Kendal Exhibition

The Heritage Officer reported on progress on planning for the Slavery and Kendal Exhibition. Included within the agenda were first drafts of two of the exhibition panels – “The Sum of all Villainies: Kendal and the Transatlantic Slave Trade” and “Ecroyde Claxton: Helping to End the Transatlantic Slave Trade”. In addition, attached was a draft flyer for the exhibition, which, it was hoped, would be ready in time for the Unity Festival in July. The Heritage Officer sought guidance from Members on whether to progress in this manner.

Members thanked the Heritage Officer for his work and welcomed the emphasis and approach being taken in relation to this delicate subject. Discussion took place around what stage to involve Anti-racist Cumbria and it was felt that this should be done when most of the slides had been drafted, which was likely to be mid-July. The need, however, already to flag up plans for the exhibition to the organisation was acknowledged, and the Heritage Officer undertook to do this, also with a view to enquiring if the organisation had any initial thoughts. The Committee would then be provided an opportunity to take on board any of their suggestions. The Heritage Officer further proposed that the organisation’s contact details could be added to one of the panels to indicate that the exhibition had been endorsed by Anti-racist Cumbria, subject to the organisation’s agreement. Proposals were made to replace the word “dark” with “sad” and “secret” with “little known” within the draft flyer.

During discussion attention was drawn to an excellent heritage talk by the Heritage Officer which had taken place at the Parish Church on the previous Saturday evening and Members wished to place on record their appreciation.

Resolved: To contact Anti-racist Cumbria and draw attention to the forthcoming exhibition, seeking initial thoughts.

Resolved: To share the slides, once drafted in mid-July, with Anti-racist Cumbria.

Resolved: To provide the Committee the opportunity to take on boards any suggestions made by Anti-racist Cumbria.

Resolved: To include Anti-racist Cumbria’s contact details on one of the panels, subject to the organisation’s agreement.

Resolved: To make the changes proposed at the meeting in relation to replacing the word “dark” with “sad” and “secret” with “little known” within the draft flyer.

Resolved: To note the verbal update.

MA9/2023 Twinning

The Town Clerk provided a brief verbal update on the activities and affairs of the Town's twinning relationships. He explained that there was nothing further to report in relation to Killarney, pointing out that the current relationship seemed only to exist on Facebook. He drew attention, however, to an informal relationship between Kendal and Chengdu which had arisen from that Town in China's involvement with the Kendal Mountain Festival. The Town Clerk was due to provide representative from Chengdu with a Heritage Talk on 29 July 2023.

The Chair reported on Kendal's continuing and thriving relationship with Rinteln, representatives of which had attended Mayor Making. She further informed the Committee that she had recently received her official invitation to Rinteln's Altstadtfest in August. She had accepted the invitation and looked forward to representing Kendal at the Festival. The Town Clerk added that good links had been created between cyclists in Kendal and Rinteln, with Kendal Cycle Club being keen to organise some form of cycling reciprocation.

Resolved: To note the verbal updates.

MA10/2023 Newsletter and Publicity

The Committee was asked to consider which items discussed at the meeting, if any, would be included in a press release and, in addition, items for the next edition of the Council's Newsletter.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk advised Members that the deadline for inclusion of items in the Newsletter was in around two weeks' time. The Chair reported that the Development and Delivery Manager was preparing monthly updates on the Mayoral activities to post on Facebook. With regard to the Slavery and Kendal Exhibition, the Heritage Officer anticipated that this would take place towards the end of the year, which would allow time to ensure that the content was correct and to advertise the event.

Resolved: To note the verbal update.

Part Two

The next item was considered following a resolution to exclude the Press and Public, due to the confidential or commercial sensitivity.

M11/2023 Museum Provision

Cllr C Russell addressed the Committee in relation to museum provision in Kendal.

The Committee discussed the matter at great length, during which the need to bring together, as a matter of urgency, those stakeholders involved was raised.

Resolved: The Mayor of Kendal as Chair of the Mayoralty and Arts Committee to convene, as a matter of urgency, a private meeting of representatives of those stakeholders involved, namely, Kendal College, Lakeland Arts, Kendal Futures, Kendal Town Council and Westmorland and Furness Council, to discuss how to move forward in relation to museum provision in Kendal.

The meeting closed at 9.04 p.m.