

Kendal Town Council

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



Minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee held on Monday, 17 June 2024, at 7.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Cllr J Brook	Present	Cllr J Cornthwaite (Chair)	Present
Cllr J Dunlop	Present	Cllr D Rathbone	Present
Cllr C Russell	Present	Cllr M Severn	Absent
Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair)	Present	Cllr G Tirvengadam	Present

In attendance: Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk) and Simon Unsworth (Heritage Officer).

MH1/2024 Apologies

None were received

MH2/2024 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

MH3/2024 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

MH4/2024 Minutes from the Last Meeting

Resolved: To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee held on 25 March 2024 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

MH5/2024 Minute Action Sheet

The Committee considered a report on actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings. Some items were considered under their respective agenda headings. The Heritage Officer drew the Committee's attention to the new signs on the Parlour door and at the foot of the stairs.

Resolved: To note the report.

MH6/2024 Review of Spend against Budget 2024/25

The Committee considered its budget monitoring report. The Clerk reported that Traffic Management costs at Mayoral events were going to become a relatively major expense. This was because the police were no longer willing to offer this service in Kendal.

Resolved: To note the budget monitoring report as at 11 June 2024.

MH7/2024 Slavery and Kendal Trail

The Heritage Officer provided a brief verbal report on progress of plans for the Slavery and Kendal Exhibition. The draft presentation has been circulated to the wider reference group (which include Kendal Museum and Anti-Racism Cumbria) and their feedback has been incorporated. The trail would be launched with two guided sessions at the Unity Festival in July. A booking system will be used, similar to the Parlour talks. The Mayor will be present and the Parlour will be open in the intervening periods for the public to enjoy. A printed version will be available during the festival and the Trail will be published afterwards.

Resolved: To note the verbal report.

MH8/2024 Museum Provision

The Committee considered whether any progress had been made towards the development of a Museum for Kendal. There was a suggestion that the concept should not turn its back on the Museum for Lakeland, which the currently mothballed Museum of Lakeland Life and Industry (MOLLI) fulfilled. It was noted that Lakeland Arts would soon be employing a new Chief Executive, following the departure of Rhiann Harris, and that this might present an opportunity for the MOLLI concept to be re-imagined. The usual problems of space, a dispersed collection of town related items, capital finance, volunteer time etc were discussed. It was suggested that if the Town Council was serious about the matter, it would probably have to lead on the issue. Kendal Museum clearly also had a role to play in this, along with the Civic Society and others.

Resolved: To convene a meeting of local, likeminded groups and parties to widen the conversation and explore potential options.

Resolved: To arrange an early meeting with the new Chief Executive at Lakeland Arts.

MH9/2024 K-Shoes Collection

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted today by the Alfred Gillett Trust in Street, who wished to reassure councillors that the K-Shoe Collection was being professionally curated towards the launch of their new Shoe Museum in 2025. They would be very happy to work with the Council, in due course, to promote the history of shoemaking in Kendal.

The Heritage Officer reported that he had surveyed the remaining stock from the K-Shoe Exhibition, with a view to having it professionally assessed and preserved where necessary. The Committee had agreed to make budget provision for storage, for which he was now collating appropriate costs. There would also be a cost for removing the items from the previous site.

Resolved: To note the verbal reports.

MH10/2024 Twinning

The Committee heard from Cllr Dunlop who is accompanying ten members of the Kendal Rinteln Association and the Mayor to the Altstadt fest this August. Also attending will be 40 members of the Kendal Concert Band (KCB), who will also be performing in nearby Hamelin. The Mayor expressed his satisfaction at the recent visit from Rinteln for Mayor Making, and thanked Cllr Dunlop for her hospitality. It was reported that the KCB had asked whether any financial support might be available to ensure that no one was excluded from the trip because of the expense. It was noted that the Town Council had offered funds to the Kendal Rinteln Association in the past to help with this eventuality. It was suggested that if the KRA were to approach the Town Council again, £500 could be made available from the Twinning budget. The Mayor pointed out that the Twinning association did have funds of its own it could deploy, but perhaps these would need supplementing in this case.

Resolved: To make £500 available from the Twinning budget to respond to a request for support from KRA.

Resolved: To note the verbal updates.

MH11/2024 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. Issues suggested included the Unity Festival, the Slavery Trail and Mayor's Sunday, as well as the obvious election of a new Mayor.

Resolved: To publicise the suggested issues.

The meeting closed at 9pm.