

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Mayoralty & Arts Committee

**Monday 9nd November 2020 at 7.00 pm
(Via Zoom)**

- PRESENT** Councillors Alvin Finch (Chair & Mayor), Chris Hogg (Vice Chair), Douglas Rathbone (Deputy Mayor), Jonathan Brook, Pat Gibson, Geoff Cook, Richard Sutton, Julia Dunlop and Guy Tirvengadam
- Jason Rushworth, Newsquest
- APOLOGIES** None.
- OFFICERS** Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk), Simon Unsworth (Mayor's Attendant) and Nicky King (Council Secretary)
- 403/20/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- None.
- 404/20/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- None.
- 405/20/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1ST SEPTEMBER 2020**
- The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2020, which had been received by full Council on 5th October 2020.
- Councillor Finch proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Dunlop and carried with 1 abstention.
- RESOLVED** That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1st September 2020 be accepted as a correct record.
- MATTERS ARISING** (Not on Agenda)
- Simon Unsworth provided an update on the following matters:
- Wooden Shields
Simon understood the shields have been ordered and should be received shortly.
- K-Shoes Heritage Collection
Further information received suggests this matter is not as onerous as first suspected. It would appear there is no financial responsibility required from KTC for housing the collection. The Civic Society are holding a sum of money bequeathed for continuing maintenance costs. Simon is in discussions with John Bateson who will provide the name of the relevant contact person at the Trust.

Councillor Dunlop mentioned that Clarks have been taken over by a Chinese company. Councillor C Hogg commented that the collection is owned by the Trust and did not think the takeover would be of concern.

Kendal Museum Use of Grant Money

Simon is continuing to chase an update in respect of permission previously granted for the Museum to use remaining grant monies to purchase a secure archive case for the William Pearson archive.

New Storage Boxes for Charters

Cannot be progressed until the Town Hall and Mayor's Parlour reopen.

Coffee Morning

It is unlikely that the Town Hall will be open in time for the Mayor's coffee morning. If Government guidelines at the time allow the event to proceed, an alternative venue will need to be found.

Exhibition

It is still hoped to hold an exhibition next year with the theme of William Bowness and the dialect poems, possibly with the involvement of Kendal College. The condition of the paintings held in storage are not suitable to exhibit. Options would be to obtain digital versions, or have them restored if funding can be found. Access is currently difficult due to ongoing refurbishment works in the Town Hall.

406/20/21

ARMED FORCES DAY

Committee were asked to consider Armed Forces Day which has been organised by the BID in more recent years. The Town Clerk advised that there is a question mark over funding for 2021. He commented that the Day traditionally belongs to the Royal British Legion and a conversation is needed between KTC, BID and the Royal British Legion to discuss the future of the event.

Following a general discussion Committee agreed a concrete proposal was required for discussion. Consideration needs to be given as to whether this should become a Civic Event requiring Mayor's attendance etc. The Town Clerk will request further details from the Chair of the Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee for consideration at the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED

Town Clerk to request further details from the Chair of the Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee for consideration at the next Committee meeting.

407/20/21

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Simon Unsworth will provide an update on the Town Hall refurbishment and Mayor's Parlour. He mentioned that BT need to carry out work to the phone lines for the alarm system. It is hoped this can be achieved without the need to lift floorboards, however a site visit is required to ascertain the extent of the work. It may be that

pictures currently stored in the Mayor's Parlour may need to be moved. Any necessary work will be closely supervised.

Councillor Cook queried whether the Town Clerk was in contact with SLDC regarding this matter and asked if KTC would be reimbursed for any additional costs incurred. The Town Clerk replied that he is in the process of reviewing correspondence. He will speak to colleagues at SLDC and produce a full report for Council in due course.

RESOLVED

Town Clerk to produce a report for Council in respect of Town Hall refurbishment works and related costs etc.

408/20/21

REVIEW OF SPEND AGAINST BUDGET 2020/21

Members considered the Budgetary Control Statement for the period ended 31st October 2020. It was noted that the Civic Functions heading has the biggest underspend, as anticipated due to Covid-19.

It is unlikely any visits to the Twin Towns of Killarney and Rinteln will take place during the current financial year.

409/20/21

BUDGET UNDERSPEND DUE TO COVID-19

There was a general discussion regarding the significant underspend of budget due to the fact few Civic Events were possible due to Covid-19.

It was suggested by Councillor Tirvengadam that some form of virtual contact be organised with the twin towns. The Town Clerk will speak to the Administrative Assistant to explore options. Councillor Brook mentioned a forthcoming meeting of the Rinteln Twinning Group and suggested that any ideas could be floated at that meeting.

Councillor C Hogg referred to groups/contacts that usually meet up such as WASPS and added that it would be good to make contact with them also.

Councillor Dunlop put forward an idea for a Christmas message to be recorded by the Mayor which could be forwarded to the twin towns. It was noted by Councillor Cook that the KTC Facebook page is now up and running and suggested invites be issued to Killarney and Rinteln to engage with our page.

Councillor Brook raised the matter of a likely underspend under Staffing due to there being no events organised. There was also a saving under this heading during the period KTC was without a Town Clerk. He suggested an amount (eg. £5k) be set against the reserve to go back into the General Fund.

The Town Clerk advised that he will liaise with the Treasurer to consider the matter of staffing costs. This would be a matter for the Management Committee to consider further. He agreed with the suggestion in respect of setting a sum of money against the reserve and commented that any opportunity to do so should be taken.

Councillor Brook stated that he would like some tangible recommendations which can be voted on before the end of the financial year. He is keen for discussions to be held regarding spend between committees and commented that there is an opportunity to refine the budget process to better reflect actual spend.

Councillor Hogg raised the matter of a reserve for conservation of items in the Parlour. He suggested a useful exercise would be for Simon Unsworth to prioritise objects and compile costings for their restoration. He proposed that whatever budget remains should be put into the conservation pot. Simon Unsworth agreed to review the Condition Survey and prepare a list of priority items for restoration.

Simon Unsworth mentioned the Knights to Town Council booklet. Budget had previously been agreed for this to be reprinted so it could be made available for purchase at talks in the Mayor's Parlour. The project has been on hold due to the pandemic, however a considerable amount of work has been carried out on the actual rewrite. Simon requested that the budget be carried over into the next financial year so that these could be made available once the Mayor's Parlour can reopen.

RESOLVED

1. Town Clerk to speak to the Administrative Assistant to explore options for virtual contact with the twin towns.
2. Town Clerk to liaise with the Treasurer to consider the matter of staffing costs.
3. Simon Unsworth to review the Condition Survey and prepare a list of priority items for restoration.

410/20/21**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

February 2021 (to be advised).

The meeting closed at 7.48pm.

Summary of Information, Resolutions and Recommendations to Council

Min	Subject	Information/Resolution/Recommendation to Council	
406	Armed Forces Day	RES	Town Clerk to request further details from the Chair of the Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee for consideration at the next Committee meeting.
407	Items for the Newsletter	RES	Town Clerk to produce a report for Council in respect of Town Hall refurbishment works and related costs etc.
409	Budget Underspend Due to Covid-19	RES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Town Clerk to speak to the Administrative Assistant to explore options for virtual contact with the twin towns. 2. Town Clerk to liaise with the Treasurer to consider the matter of staffing costs. 3. Simon Unsworth to review the Condition Survey and prepare a list of priority items for restoration.