

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, 11 April 2023, at 6.00 p.m. 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	Not present	M Nicholson	Not present
C Stuart-Smith (Horticulture)	Present	A Yates (Kendal Civic Society)	Present

In attendance: Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk), Janine Holt (Council Services Officer)

B35/2022 Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

B36/2022 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised.

B37/2022 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

B38/2022 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 2023 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

B39/2022 Minute Action Sheet

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

The Council Services Officer reported that the W&FC highways were still looking at the possibility of planting wildflowers at the Asda roundabout (B18/2022). It was suggested that recent changes in policy at Heron Hill School meant a site visit to the nature area was no longer a possibility.

Relating to Minutes B26-28/2022, the Council Services Officer reported that a grant of £500 had been made to Stricklandgate House, £1,500 had been spent on planting at the new

Coronation Garden, new planters for Finkle Street had been ordered and the planting in public beds at Bishops Court had been very effectively delivered by Continental Landscapes for £1,028. The cost of the latter was queried as being on the high side, but it was explained that the planters were actually very large and required a lot of plants. The fee also included labour and other materials.

Also under Minute B26, an allowance of up to £100 had been made for planting at Nobles Rest, but this had not come to fruition within the timescale allowed for expenditure from the 2022-23 budget. A similar sum would be allocated from the 2023-24 budget instead.

The Town Clerk confirmed that he had not yet discussed with the Mayor the appropriate wording for an invite to the King to come to Kendal, but was hoping to do so this week.

Resolved: To note the report and its related expenditure outcomes.

B40/2022 Review of Spend against Budget 2022/23

The Council Services Officer presented the report, informing Members that she was confident of being able to cover the watering costs this year, with a private contractor, following Continental Landscapes decision to withdraw from the work.

The Council Services Officer further asked the Committee to consider a funding request from Rotary Club for £500 to further expand the town's Crocus display, which marks the club's role in fundraising to support the eradication of Polio. There was some discussion about suitable locations, including the existing grass at Blackhall Road, areas on Gooseholme or New Road. Due to the restricted nature of these areas of Common Land, the Council Services Officer would liaise with the club over other suitable locations.

Resolved: To note the review of spend against budget at 29 March 2023.

Resolved: To grant £500 to the Kendal Rotary Club funding for crocuses.

B41/2022 Kirkland Crest – Coronation Garden

The Council Services Officer provided a verbal update on the Coronation Garden. She explained that the project was on schedule, plants were ordered, invites to the 5 May event sent out, and the badge would be painted as soon as the weather abated. The Chair expressed his excitement about the project and recorded his gratitude for the generosity of staff at Lakeland Gardens for their exciting designs and installation.

Resolved: To note the verbal update.

B42/2022 Beezon Fields Planting Scheme

The Council Services Officer informed the Committee that Beezon Fields formed a large part of the Environment Agency flood scheme. The Town Council had been asked to provide a planting scheme around the proposed bee sculpture on site. To this end, the Projects Officer had worked with partner agencies to develop a planting scheme for around the base of the bee sculpture. The scheme included native varieties, plants to attract pollinators and some varieties to discourage climbing on to the structure. The Committee was being asked to consider funding support for the purchase of plants.

Resolved: To allow a budget of £275 for the planting scheme.

B43/2022 Kendal, Cumbria and Britain in Bloom 2023

The Council Services Officer reported that the Committee had participated in the Cumbria in Bloom awards for a number of years and had been invited to represent Cumbria in the National awards this year. Alongside the regional and national initiatives, Kendal also developed and promoted a local initiative.

With regard to Kendal in Bloom, a working group had been established in December 2022, and had met on a regular basis. The theme for this year was Coronation Throne. The challenge was to find an upright chair of any description and transform it into a Throne celebrating King Charles' interests during his many years as Prince of Wales, using horticultural arrangements and wool as essential elements of the throne. The thrones were to be displayed by late spring/early summer and throughout the season (if possible). Businesses were being encouraged to display their creations in a prominent position. The Chair of the Committee and Mayor of Kendal would visit participating schools to view their displays shortly before the summer term finished. Members of the Committee would view community and businesses displays during summer. The initiative would be promoted via social media, leaflet drop to businesses, direct mailing to previous participant and Town Council website. Best entries would be invited to afternoon tea with Mayor in the Parlour. There were three category entries, namely schools; community group-clubs, societies, neighbourhood groups, sports and social clubs, etc.; and businesses. The closing date was initially set at 5 May 2023, but it was suggested that this now moves to the end of May, to allow more entries. The Council Services Officer reported that three business had already been in touch.

The need for the competition to be fun/wacky was emphasised as members felt this was an important aspect of making it accessible to as many people as possible. It was suggested that this 'upcycling' would make a good subject for a press release.

The Chair of the committee offered to supply an actual chair for the committee's own entry.

There was some discussion about the prospect of planting around Gooseholme Bridge. The Clerk suggested the timetable for EA works in the area, the problem of watering and the difficulties in planting on Common Land may all mitigate against this being possible this year, but that conversations could be initiated with EA and W&FC to scope future planting.

Horticare expressed their disappointment with their winter planting this year, which had suffered from a combination of poor weather and logistic/timing issues, forcing them to rely on bought-in stock. Summer planting was well in hand, however, and the Council Services Officer confirmed this was the case for the main summer planting, too.

There was no further news about the prospect of being able to use an empty shop, but the Chair offered to hand deliver school letters around the town's schools next week. Cllrs Hendy and Sutton agreed to join him.

The Town Council had entered into the Cumbria in Bloom competition and would use the judging day as a trial run for the Britain in Bloom judging. It was not yet known when the judging day will take place, but it was usually during the last two weeks in July. The Cumbria in Bloom judging panel was using Kendal for a training day on 20 April. Cllr Hendry would attend this event and provide feedback to the Committee.

The judging day for Britain in Bloom had been confirmed as 4 August 2023. Judging times were currently planned for 09:00 – 12:30 and this included 30 minutes for any press and presentations. The route could only be within a mile radius of the Town Centre. The Working Group had met on 28 March 2023 and had established a shortlist of suitable areas.

The Council Services Officer had been asked to develop a draft route from that list, ensuring that the criteria was cross-referenced and included on the route and within the portfolio. Any gaps in the criteria were to be discussed with Committee Members. Once a draft route had been developed, it was suggested that Members visited the proposed locations to assess their suitability. Members would also be invited to participate in a trial route tour.

The Committee was being asked to consider the draft route and discuss amendments and to identify a date(s) to undertake a trial tour. The Council Services Officer explained that she was not quite satisfied with the current proposal, as it didn't quite flow from 'Wow to Wow'.

The current proposal was to begin at Beeson Fields, then progress via the jubilee beds to Fletcher park, then Rinkfield allotments, Ford Park, Milnthorpe Road, college, fern trail, Gillingate park, Tenterfell, bowling club, Triangle Garden, Nobles Rest, Stricklandgate House, Market Square, Unitarian church, then Braithwaite Brow and pick up to the Coronation Garden. Following discussion it was suggested that the final point should be the emergence into the Brewery Garden from Garth Heads. This would give the requisite 'Wow' and also provide a convenient finishing point for refreshments. This would require a revision of the route, which the Council Services Officer would draft, prior to a trial walk on 24 April, meeting at Beeson Fields at 9.30am.

The Council Services Officer also reported that the carved wooden wolf, which had been installed as a part of the Kendal's Legendary Landscapes Trail several years ago, but almost immediately gone missing, had been found, intact, by EA contractors working on the planted areas in Kirkland. It would be reinstalled in the coming weeks with attendant press release.

Resolved: To note the report and the arrangements for the In Bloom routes.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.