

# Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4ED  
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**Minutes of a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on Monday, 13 February 2023, at 6.00 p.m. in the Romney Room 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	Present	M Nicholson	Apologies
C Stuart-Smith (Horticare)	Present	A Yates (Kendal Civic Society)	Present

**In attendance:** Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk), Inge Booth (Democratic Services Assistant), Janine Holt (Council Services Officer) and Pierre Labat (Townscape Officer). Terry Parr (Kendal Conservation Volunteers) was present as a member of the public.

### **B20/2022 Chair's Announcement**

The Chair introduced and welcomed the Committee's new Co-optee, J Cottam.

### **B21/2022 Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from M Nicholson (Co-optee).

### **B22/2022 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were raised.

### **B23/2022 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)**

No issues were considered for exclusion.

### **B24/2022 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**Resolved:** To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on 17 October 2022 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

### **B25/2022 Minute Action Sheet**

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

### *B12/2022 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting*

**Resolved:** To circulate to Members notes of the two meetings of the Working Group regarding Kendal in Bloom.

Cllr Hendry informed the Committee that the bulb planting at Hallgarth was going ahead without any further cost to the Council.

### *B18/2022 – Wildflower Planting*

Members were informed that a response from Cumbria County Council regarding wildflower planting at Asda Roundabout remained outstanding.

With reference to the position at which the Christmas tree was erected each Christmas and the recent proposal to place a hanging basket structure in its place, Members were informed that officers were currently trying to establish who owned the site. The Town Clerk stressed the importance of gaining permission from the owner of the site prior to purchasing the hanging basketry.

Reference was made to B12/2022 of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 October 2022 and to a proposed visit to Heron Hill School in Spring 2023. J Cottam, Co-optee, suggested that this should take place one evening later in the Spring.

**Resolved:** To make arrangements for Members and those interested in engaging with the agenda to visit Heron Hill School one evening at the end of May 2023.

**Resolved:** To note the report

### **B26/2022      Review of Spend against Budget 2022/23**

The Council Services Officer presented the report, informing Members that a figure of £5,802 remained available in the Committee's 2022/23 Budget. Reference was made to a figure of £1,468 which had been approved for the hanging basket structure at Kendal Market Place. The Council Services Officer further referred to the proposed planting of wildflowers and to £1,600 having been provisionally spent in this regard, although permission was awaited from the County Council. The situation with regard to the planters on Finkle Street at a cost of £495 was similar, with permission also awaited from the County Council. The Chair suggested, therefore, the potential for £6,000 to remain in the budget, and the Council Services Officer drew attention for funding towards the Kirkland Crest and Coronation Bed project.

The Chair, therefore, proposed a list of possible contingencies, firstly to include two planters to sit behind the railings at Stricklandgate House. The Town Council would only need to supply funding for soil, compost and plants. He suggested that the organisation be sent a grant application form and for the earmarking of £500.

**Resolved:** To earmark in principle a sum of £500 for the supply of soil, compost and plants for two planters at Stricklandgate House, the final decision to be delegated to the Chair in consultation with officers, with a report to be brought back to a future meeting.

A further suggestion was raised for the refreshing of the planters by Nobles Rest, at an estimated cost of £100.

**Resolved:** To earmark in principle a sum of £100 for the refreshing of the planters at Nobles Rest, the final decision to be delegated to the Chair in consultation with officers, with a report to be brought back to a future meeting.

The Council Services Officer referred to the need to make available funding for compost for the hanging basketry in Kendal Market Square, at a cost of £390. The Townscape Officer took the opportunity to inform Members of a reduction in the estimated cost of the metal ware of the basketry, due to the blacksmith having suggested converting an existing metal item.

**Resolved:** To earmark a sum of £390 for compost in relation to the hanging basketry in Kendal Market Square.

The Town Clerk provided clarification, pointing out that the proposals would bring expenditure to a total of £4,500 (from £5,802) and so allowing room for contingencies.

**Resolved:** To note the review of spend against budget at 5 February 2023.

### **B27/2022      Kirkland Crest – Coronation Garden**

The Council Services Officer presented the report, explaining that the project was being led by the Development and Delivery Manager.

The report indicated that Full Council had agreed funding of £10,000 to mark the Coronation of King Charles. Officers had identified the Kirkland Bed as an area that needed attention ahead of Britain in Bloom and that could be improved as a sustainable legacy to the Coronation. In order to keep improvements within budget, corporate sponsorship had been secured from Lakeland Gardens who would design and plant the space at a reduced rate. Working in partnership with Lakeland Gardens, a Coronation themed garden would be designed and created, complete with the King Charles' favourite flowers, Delphiniums, and a commemorative stone to mark the occasion. Lakeland Gardens' professional design would be approved by the Kendal in Bloom Committee. The bed was owned by Kirkland Parish but managed by South Lakeland District Council who were happy to confirm permission on receipt of professional design. The total cost for this would be £5,000, with an additional £5,000 secured via corporate sponsorship. On Saturday, 6 May 2023, the Mayor would officially open the Coronation Garden, with residents, sponsors and partnership being invited to the opening. The sought funding for the preparatory work to the area at Kirkland Bed, at a cost of £1,506, plus £250 for the removal of garden waste. The cost of repainting of the Kirkland Crest was shown as £800.

The Council Services Officer explained that things had moved on since the report had been written, with the Environment Agency since having indicated that they had a scheme to plant up the area. She pointed out, however, that she was still asking the Committee for the funding, although she was unsure at this stage whether it would still be required. She explained the need for discussion with the Environment Agency as regards the Town Council's requirements for the planting. The painting of the Crest remained, however, in the Town Council's gift, and she informed Members that the Environment and Highways Committee had already approved this work. She stressed, however, the need for the Kendal in Bloom Budget to be spent.

**Resolved:** If required to provisionally, the funding of the preparatory work to the area at Kirkland Bed from the Kendal in Bloom budget, as outlined within the report, with the Chair, in consultation with the Town Clerk, being delegated authority to authorise the spend, as and when necessary.

## **B28/2022      Bishops Court Planting Scheme**

The Council Services Officer informed the Committee that a small working group with representation from Kendal Town Council and South Lakes Housing had been looking at ways in which to visually improve the planters which were located on Bishops Court. The proposal was to clean up the exterior of the four concrete planters and to install new plants. This was a one-off request to improve the area. The planters would not form part of the civic planting regime and would be maintained by the residents of Bishops Court, with the residents being fully on board with the scheme.

The Council Services Officer undertook to circulate photographs of the area the following day.

Concern was expressed at the potential for this to become high maintenance for the Town Council and suggested, therefore, that the matter be brought to the next meeting of the Committee, following Members having had sight of the photographs. The Chair further encouraged Members to visit the site.

Members welcomed involvement of the community in the scheme and the opportunity for them to become involved.

**Resolved:** To circulate photographs of the area to Members of the Committee and to bring the matter back for a decision at the next meeting.

## **B29/2022      Kendal in Bloom 2023**

Reference was made to the working group meetings which had taken place in relation to Kendal in Bloom 2023. The Chair proposed the need to include consideration of the Kendal Futures' project in relation to smartening Kendal's Yards.

The Council Services Officer reported that two meetings had been held to date and that whilst the group had struggled for ideas, a desire had been expressed for a link to Kendal wool, as well as including an element of horticulture, with a proposal having been suggested for a Crown and Throne themed competition. The aim was to open the competition up to business, schools and the community, to create a throne with a crown, using wool and flowers. To this end, she said that she would be contacting relevant organisations and the Wool Festival organisers, also engaging assistance from contacts at Kendal BID. The aim was to thus mark the Coronation, with King Charles being patron of the British Wool Society and taking into consideration his other interests in relation to organic gardening and biodiversity. Those taking part would be encouraged reflect King Charles' interests within their designs. Terry Parr (Kendal Conservation Volunteers) stressed the need to also emphasise links to Kendal Green Cloth which had been made in the Town and attention was further drawn to the motto on the Town's Crest – Wool is my Bread. The Council Services Officer reported that it was hoped to launch the project on 1 March 2023. Businesses would be invited to display the finished pieces in their windows.

The Council Services Officer undertook to speak to Cool Crafting with regard to the provision of wool. She informed the Committee that the Projects Officer would design and produce a flyer for circulation to the community, clubs and societies, and allotment holders. It was pointed out that the judging date could not be made to tie in with the Coronation and it was, therefore, suggested that this should wait for either Cumbria or Britain in Bloom. It was further suggested that King Charles might be invited, on behalf of the Committee, to view the chairs.

**Resolved:** To invite King Charles, on behalf of the Committee and the Mayor of Kendal, to view the chairs at some point during the summer.

Terry Parr next informed the Committee about the work of the Kendal Futures' Place Making Group in greening up Kendal. As a part of this, it was planned to do something about the state of the yards within the Town, with the yards forming an important part of the history of Kendal. The idea was for a pilot project for three yards using art, with the involvement of Rag Tag Arts, and the idea of including planting was of additional interest. It was felt to be too difficult to achieve during 2023 and Mr Parr pointed out the importance of encouraging local participation during a 15 to 20 month lead in time. Mr Parr felt that the project could be opened up as part of Kendal in Bloom. He referred to work already successfully being carried out in Yard 23. He undertook to report back should the Committee be interested in exploring options, stressing that engagement with local people was an important first step. The Chair welcomed the initiative and suggested to Mr Parr that any application for funding next year would need to be submitted by Christmas 2023. Mr Parr felt that the initiative, if it worked well, could also contribute to both Cumbria and Britain in Bloom.

**Resolved:** To note the verbal update in relation to Kendal in Bloom.

### **B30/2022      Cumbria in Bloom**

The Council Services Officer reported that although nothing was currently happening in relation to Cumbria in Bloom, Kendal Town Council would certainly be entering the event. She pointed out, however, that the Town Council would again be hosting one of the three award ceremonies on 17 October 2023. She undertook to report further at the next meeting of the Committee.

**Resolved:** To note the verbal update in relation to Cumbria in Bloom.

### **B31/2022      Britain in Bloom**

It was reported that it had now been officially confirmed that Kendal would represent Cumbria in the large town category of Britain in Bloom 2023.

The Council Services Officer informed the Committee that it would be necessary now to start looking at a route and portfolio, and she pointed out that the next meeting of the Committee was not until 11 April 2023. Reference was made to the excellent portfolio which had been put together by the Projects Officer for Cumbria in Bloom in 2022 and the Council Services Officer explained that there were strict criteria to be followed; what was not included on the route would need to be included within the portfolio. She further pointed out the need for strictness in relation to timings.

It was suggested that a Working Group be set up to meet prior to the Committee meeting scheduled to be held on 11 April. The Working Group could carefully examine the criteria and discuss plans for a route and portfolio. Terry Parr (Kendal Conservation Volunteers) asked if he might attend meetings of the Working Group in the capacity of observer.

**Resolved:** To note the verbal update in relation to Britain in Bloom and to make arrangements for the first meeting of a Britain in Bloom Working Group to be held on Tuesday, 14 February 2023, at 10.00 a.m., with Terry Parr (Kendal Conservation Volunteers) to be invited in the capacity of observer.

### **B32/2022      Planters on Finkle Street**

An update had been made at Minute No.B26/2022 above where Members had been informed that the necessary permissions were awaited. The Townscape Officer further drew attention to the fact that the Town Council was going to maintain the benches in the same location, as well as improving some of the paving.

**Resolved:** To note the verbal update.

### **B33/2022      Wildflower Planting**

An update with regard to wildflower planting at the Asda Roundabout had been made at Minute No.B25/2022 above where Members had been informed that a response from Cumbria County Council remained outstanding. It was hoped that a decision would have been received before the next meeting of the Committee.

**Resolved:** To note the verbal update.

### **B34/2022      Chair's Announcement**

The Chair allowed J Cottam, Co-optee, an opportunity to inform the Committee of the hope to develop a community garden within Kendal.

Ms Cottam referred to the current project at Heron Hill School which was extremely successful and, she felt, too good not to share, with other schools having regularly visited over the last six years to learn about bees, pollinators and biodiversity. As a result of these visits, a large number of school children came back regularly to help out and, in addition, the project was also used in relation to the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and for disadvantaged children, and as a safe space and enabling ownership rather than "teachery". One of the project's straplines was, "If you can look through a hive of 60,000 bees then you can do anything."

Ms Cottam explained, however, that project was a victim of its own success and of the constraints with its situation within a primary school. She informed the Committee, therefore, of the desire to obtain a piece of garden for development within Kendal for similar use by other community groups.

C Stuart-Smith, the Co-optee representing Horticare, drew attention to a green space alongside that organisation's site which, she felt, was a promising space and, in addition, accessible. She explained that her supervisor at Cumbria County Council, Shelley Stokes, had indicated support and, in addition, engagement by the Horticare Team. Ms Cottam very much welcomed this offer and future discussion with Horticare. She also referred to a piece of land at the People Referral Unit at Canal Head and, in addition, to grants which might be available moving forward. Ms Cottam, in closing, stressed the need to be able to future-proof any future project which would come to be relied on by the people involved.

The meeting closed at 7.12 p.m.