

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 Monday, 17 October 2022, at 6.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Kendal Town Council Members

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|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|-----------|
| Cllr A Blackman (Chair) | Present | Cllr K Blamire | Apologies |
| Cllr D Brown | Present | Cllr L Hendry | Present |
| Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair)) | Present | | |

Co-optees

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|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------|
| M Nicholson | Apologies | C Stuart (Horticulture) | Absent |
| A Yates (Kendal Civic Society) | Apologies | | |

In attendance: Town Clerk (Chris Bagshaw), Council Services Officer (Janine Holt) and Democratic Services Assistant (Inge Booth).

B9/2022 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Kendal Town Council Member Cllr K Blamire (Kendal Town Council) and Co-optees, M Nicholson and A Yates (Kendal Civic Society).

B10/2022 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised.

B11/2022 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

B12/2022 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on 27 July 2022 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them as a true record.

The Chair drew Members' attention to Minute No.B5/2022 and informed them that the Chair of Governors at Heron Hill School, Jacqui Cottam, remained keen on the suggestion for a community garden in the centre of Kendal run by volunteers. He explained that he had pointed out a couple of pieces of land to her and that she would be following these up and coming back on this in due course.

The Chair referred to Resolution (2) of Minute No.B5/2022 regarding arrangements for a Kendal in Bloom celebration to be held at Heron Hill School on 15 September 2022. This resolution had unfortunately not been fulfilled and Jacqui Cottam was keen instead to do something in the Spring. The Chair suggested that the Bloom campaign could kick off with a visit to Heron Hill School early in 2023.

The Chair explained that he had suggested to Jacqui Cottam that she might be co-opted onto the Kendal in Bloom Committee and that she had indicated that she would be willing to do so.

Resolved: That Jacqui Cottam, subject to her confirmation, be co-opted onto the Kendal Bloom Committee.

The Council Services Officer reported that, with regard to Minute No.B5/2022, Resolution (3)(c), she had not yet prepared a report on the Kendal in Bloom 2023 initiative. She explained that Members would normally first meet as a working group for early discussions on this and suggested that this should take place in November or December. She would contact Members to determine a suitable date and draft a paper.

Resolved: The Council Services Officer to make arrangements for a Working Group meeting regarding Kendal in Bloom to take place in November or December and to prepare a draft paper for consideration by the Group.

The Council Services Officer drew Members' attention to the fact that the Cumbria in Bloom award ceremony would be taking place on the following day in Kendal Town Hall.

Cllr L Hendry referred to Minute No.B8/2022 and Resolution (2) regarding her providing a detailed and costed proposal with regard to bulb planting at Hallgarth. She explained that this had been difficult for several reasons and that it was unlikely that consideration could be given to the planting of bulbs until next Autumn.

Resolved: A detailed and costed proposal with regard to bulb planting at Hallgarth be brought to the Committee during Summer 2023.

B13/2022 Review of Spend against Budget 2022/23

The Council Services Officer explained that the forecast within the budget paper included proposals due to be considered by the Committee at this meeting. The forecast indicated that the Floral Display budget was due to be fully spent and that, after this evening's decisions, there would be £2,000 remaining in the Projects and Grants budget.

Resolved: To note the review of spend against budget at September 2022.

B14/2022 Cumbria in Bloom

The Committee was provided with a brief verbal update on the entry to Cumbria in Bloom 2022. Members were reminded that the award ceremony would be held on Tuesday, 18 October 2022, in Kendal Town Hall. All Members were welcome to attend the ceremony which would commence at 2.00 p.m.

The Council Services Officer explained that the Cumbria in Bloom award was the precursor for taking part in Britain in Bloom and drew attention to the vast amount of work that was entailed in preparing for this prestigious event, which would commence in January with the judges already examining areas. Should Kendal win the Cumbria in Bloom award, funding would be required, with consideration needing to be given to provision for this in the 2023/24 Budget.

Resolved: To note the verbal update.

B15/2022 Annual Plan

The Committee considered progress on an annual plan for the In Bloom programme which provided signposts on the cycle of events. This would be of particular assistance to new Members on the Committee. Members felt that it would be helpful to be able to view the information on one sheet.

Resolved: The Council Services Officer to circulate to Committee Members a full view of the annual plan on a spreadsheet.

A query was raised in relation to the criteria regarding Cumbria in Bloom and Britain in Bloom and as to whether these changed each year, with emphasis being placed on different things. The Council Services Officer explained that there were strict criteria to follow, however, was unaware if they changed. She was aware, though, that the criteria had become more environmentally focussed following Covid and that entries were definitely marked against the criteria. The Chair added that, following Covid, a table of graded criteria had been produced, which demonstrated if an entry was, for example, either good or outstanding, and he suggested that this be circulated to Members.

Resolved: The Council Services Officer to circulate to Members the graded criteria for Cumbria in Bloom and Britain in Bloom.

In response to a further question, the Council Services Officer explained that there was definitely a big emphasis on children within the criteria.

B16/2022 Planters on Finkle Street

At Minute B5/2022, the Townscape Officer had sought agreement to the principle of extending planting on Finkle Street nearby to the three benches next to the former Beales store.

Members were now being asked to consider the provision of two wooden planters on Finkle Street, at a cost of £498. This amount had been included within the forecast on the Budget paper considered at Minute No.B13/2022 above.

A query was raised with regard to any potential conflict in relation to the future of the birdcage at the top of Finkle Street and the Council Services Officer explained that the planters would not be fixed and could move location should this be necessary.

Resolved: To approve the funding for two planters in Finkle Street at a cost of £498.

B17/2022 Hanging Basket Installation on Market Place

At B8/2022, Resolution (3), the Committee had requested for a detailed and costed proposal with regard to the erection of a hanging basket structure in Kendal Market Place to be brought to this meeting of the Committee. The suggestion had been to utilise the existing

round slot located in the Market Place for the annual Christmas tree for a hanging basket structure which would provide for a floral display during the Summer season, details of which were provided within the report.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk explained that, if it was possible to demonstrate that the structure was moveable and temporary, he felt that it would be acceptable. Discussions would need to take place with the landlord regarding planning consent, however, the Town Council as a Planning Authority did not necessarily need to apply, as it had permitted development rights next to a highway. It was suggested, therefore, that this conversation should take place prior to the structure being purchased.

The amount of £1,468 had been included within the forecast on the Budget paper considered at Minute No.B13/2022 above.

Resolved: To approve the funding for a hanging basket structure for the market place at a cost of £1,468.

B18/2022 Wildflower Planting

Following the successful planting of the wildflower turf at Somervell garden in the Spring of 2022, the Council had recognised the need to know and understand the growing and use of the product. The Townscape Officer had, therefore, attended a day's training in order to enable the Council to use more wildflowers around the Town and to maintain the plants.

Members now received a report from the Townscape Officer on the process of wildflower planting.

The report recommended that the Town Council wished to expand the wildflower growing in different parts of the Town - Abbot Hall park, the corner of the BT exchange building and Gooseholme to name but a few. The report highlighted the fact that both insects and people would benefit from the planting of wildflowers. It was further highlighted that climate change may have an impact on civic planting and that wildflowers would help in keeping Kendal looking great.

The report included proposals for the following four projects:-

- Asda Roundabout – WFT Wildflower Landscape Turf;
- TAP entrance board – Meadowscape Pro Landscape 34;
- bulbs for Somervell Garden – BULBS Pastel Spring Mix; and
- installation of wildflower turf interpretation board at Somervell Garden.

The Council Services Officer explained that the Townscape Officer was seeking funding for a number of items and that a sum of approximately £1,600 had been accounted for within the forecast on the Budget paper considered at Minute No.B13/2022 above.

Some discussion took place with regard to the planting at Asda Roundabout which had recently been cut, Continental having been instructed by Highways to remove everything due to the impact on highways visibility. The Council Services Officer stressed the need to check on this type of matter prior to purchase of plants or bulbs. Members commended the benefits of planting of wildflowers on reducing carbon dioxide and the Council Services Officer pointed out that if planting was not possible on the roundabout, there were a number of surrounding verges in that location which could benefit instead. The potential to plant Summer and Autumn bulbs on the roundabout was raised. Further suggested was the possibility of bringing Asda and B&Q on board to support the project in terms of funding.

Resolved:

- (1) to note the report;
- (2) approval in principle be given to the project at Asda Roundabout and surrounding areas mentioned above, subject to prior discussion with Highways; and
- (3) Asda and B&Q be approached for financial support in relation to this project.

B19/2022 Budget 2023/2024

The Council Services Officer explained that the Committee now needed to begin to consider its aspirations for 2023/24. She reported that she had two projects to put forward. Firstly, she referred to the success of the first year of the watering contract and how this had alleviated pressure on the Townscape Officer. The contractors had, however, explained that the contract had been massively undervalued, the extremely dry weather during the Summer not having been accounted for. The cost would, therefore, increase and potentially double in the following year. Secondly, the Council Services Officer explained that the civic planting contract would be up for renewal in July 2023. The Committee would need to start to look at this in Spring and she advised that the price would increase, Continental having indicated that there had been a significant increase in costs for planting. The Council Services Officer informed Members, therefore, that the Floral Display budget would need to increase next year. She further pointed out that the Committee would need to reconsider changing how it was carried out in future, with a handyman having previously carried out watering on a weekly basis and now with watering having to be carried out three to four times each week. A strategy would need to be developed moving forward taking climate change into consideration.

A suggestion was raised for the potential of planting of drought resistant plants and for this to be addressed within any strategy. In addition, the potential for use of rainwater was raised.

The Town Clerk suggested to the Committee a total budget of £35,000 for 2023/24, which was an increase of £5,000 on 2022/23, in order to cover the additional costs of watering and planting, and any additional expense involved in any subsequent entry into Britain in Bloom in 2023.

Resolved: To propose a total budget for 2023/24 of £35,000 for the Kendal in Bloom Committee.

The meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.