

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, 17 October 2023, at 6.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Kendal Town Council Members

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

Co-optees

J Cottam	Absent	C Stuart-Smith (Horticulture)	Present
A Yates (Kendal Civic Society)	Present		

In attendance: Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk), Janine Holt (Council Services Officer) and Pierre Labat (Townscape Officer).

B10/2023 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Blackman.

B11/2023 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

B12/2023 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

B13/2023 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on 25 July 2023 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

B14/2023 Minute Action Sheet

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

B29/2022 (Kendal in Bloom 2023) – The Town Clerk reported that the request to invite King Charles to Kendal has to be submitted to the Lord Lieutenants office with a date identified at the time of submission. The Town Clerk suggested the 1st anniversary of the coronation would be ideal date to invite King Charles. The committee members agreed and the official request will be submitted.

Resolved: To note the report.

B15/2023 Review of Spend against Budget 2023/24

The Council Services Officer presented a review of spend against budget 2023/24 as at 1st September 2023. She advised the Committee that the Townscape Officer would like to expand the in house composting scheme at a cost of £500 to purchase 4 more compost bins. The Committee approved this expenditure.

Resolved: To note the Committee's spend against budget at 1st September 2023.

Resolved: To approve the expenditure of £500 for 4 compost bins.

B16/2023 Budget Review 2024/25

The Town Clerk presented a report to assist the Committee in considering its expenditure aims for the next financial year, and to make recommendations via the Management Committee to the Council. Expenditure needed to be in keeping with the aims of the Council Plan.

The report showed the Committee's current budget and estimated outturn. In addition, it showed the estimated amount required in the next financial year to complete the Council's actions, as well as the percentage variance on the previous year's budget.

Item	Current year	Expected outturn	Proposed 24-25	% variance
Floral Displays	26,500	26,500	30,000	+13.2%
Projects and Grants	8,500	6,000	6,000	-29%
Total	35,000	32,500	36,000	+2.9%

The Floral Display contract was currently up for renewal, and it was anticipated that a new contract would be in place for the winter of 2024, with Continental Landscapes continuing cover through their existing agreements in the summer of 2024. For this reason, it was felt necessary to give the contract value some headroom, as there was currently a great deal of volatility in the Grounds Maintenance market.

The Projects and Grants budget had been less well used in the last couple of seasons, so it seemed appropriate to reduce this commensurately, bringing down the total budget to one that was effectively increased by a below-inflation amount.

Resolved: To recommend the proposed budget requirements for the next financial year, as attached to the report and outlined above, for consideration by the Management Committee prior to presentation to Full Council.

B17/2023 Kendal, Cumbria and Britain Bloom 2023

The Council Services Officer provided an update report on the bloom initiatives 2023.

Britain in Bloom - The judges had visited Kendal on 3 August and the results would be announced on 23 October. A small group consisting of the Mayor, Cllrs Blackman and Hendry and the Council Services Officer would attend the awards ceremony in London. The results will be circulated soon after the awards ceremony.

Cumbria in Bloom - The awards ceremony took place on 17 October and Kendal was awarded a Silver Gilt along with a special gold award for the coronation bed. The Council Services Officer reported that the Cumbria in Bloom visit had been a useful experience and had helped the Council to modify the route for Britain in Bloom. The Council Services Officer asked the Committee to consider participation in the Cumbria in Bloom initiative in the following year.

Resolved: The Committee agreed to participate in the Cumbria in Bloom initiative next year.

Kendal in Bloom - The awards ceremony and celebratory tea would be held at 5.30 p.m. on 8 November, with a formal invite due to be sent out during the forthcoming week. The Deputy Mayor had confirmed his attendance and would present the certificates. The Council Services Officer asked the Committee to consider if it wished to present vouchers as in previous years or simply a certificate of participation. She also sought a volunteer to open the ceremony and to bring the event to a close after the presentations. She hoped to keep the event informal, with a celebratory tea as a 'thank you' to all participants.

Resolved: Cllr Hendry and Cllr Sutton volunteered to speak at the event. The Committee agreed a certificate of participation was appropriate.

Resolved: To note the report.

B18/2023 KIB Grant Application

The Committee considered an application for a grant of £500 from Kirkbie Green Community Group towards assisting in increasing biodiversity and encouraging wildflowers on green spaces at each end of the Green.

Resolved: To approve the grant of £500 from Kirkbie Green Community

B19/2023 Civic Planting Maintenance

The Committee discussed the maintenance schedule. The Council Services Officer highlighted that the current maintenance schedule had reached saturation point and taking on anymore would not be feasible. A general discussion was held and suggestions put forward of schemes and organisations who may be able to offer assistance. The Council Services Officer will make contact with the probation service who provide the 'community payback scheme'.

The Townscape Officer reported that the planters on Finkle Street had been subject to numerous incidents of vandalism this season. Currently they have been moved in order to facilitate the switch on event. The Townscape Officer suggested an alternative to the ground floor planting. He proposed the creation of a metal arch at the entrance to Old Police Yard that would hold floral displays. The Committee agreed in principle with this concept and requested that the Townscape Officer explored this further with costings attached.

The Council Services Officer reported the plants which were purchased for planting at Beeson Fields had still not been planted and were being cared for by Kendal Conservation Volunteers. The concern was that we would lose these if they are not planted soon but Toni Yates confirmed that they would be ok until spring. The Town Clerk agreed to relay our concerns about the lack of progress with the planting scheme to the Environment Agency.

The Council Services Officer pointed out that the Market Place was underwhelming from a floral display perspective and that it was an area that needs development. The Town Clerk said that the redevelopment of the Market Place was on the agenda with an established

group. The group consists of representation from Westmorland & Furness Council, Kendal Town Council, Kendal Futures and the BID. The Town Clerk agreed to represent the Committee and act as the link between the Committee and the wider group.

Resolved: To explore the installation of a metal display arch ensuring costings are included.

Resolved: The Town Clerk to liaise with the Environment Agency on the planting at Beezon Fields.

Resolved: To explore further the services of the 'community payback scheme'.

Resolved: The Town Clerk to act as the link the Committee and the wider Market Place development group.

The meeting closed at 7.20p.m.