

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, 25 July 2023, 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 D Brown | Present |
| Cllr L Hendry | Present | Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair) | Present |

Co-optees

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|--------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|
| J Cottam | Absent | C Stuart-Smith (Horticulture) | 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).

Note – In the absence at the commencement of the meeting of Cllr A Blackman (Chair), Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair) took the Chair for the entirety of the meeting.

B1/2023 Apologies

Whilst an apology for absence was received and accepted from Cllr A Blackman (Chair), he arrived shortly after the commencement of the meeting.

B2/2023 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised.

B3/2023 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

B4/2023 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on 11 April 2023 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

B5/2023 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 he would be writing at the end of the week to the Palace to invite King Charles to view the thrones.

B26/2022 (Review of Spend against Budget) – A comment was raised in relation to the planters at Stricklandgate House for which the Committee had earmarked a sum of £500 for the supply of soil, compost and plants, attention being drawn to the vast improvement in appearance.

Resolved: To note the report.

B6/2023 Review of Spend against Budget 2022/23

The Council Services Officer presented a review of spend against budget 2022/23 as at 11 July 2023. She advised the Committee that there would be no calls on the budget at this evening's meeting.

Resolved: To note the Committee's spend against budget at 11 July 2023.

B7/2023 Location of Rotary Crocus Planting 2023

The Council Services Officer reported that the Rotary had purchased 4,000 Ruby Giant (purple) crocuses, 4,000 Chryanthus Romance (Gold crocuses) and 500 Tete a Tete small daffodils with a grant which had been awarded by the Kendal in Bloom Committee.

The Rotary members had suggested that they plant the majority round the slope of the Coronation Garden on Kirkland. They felt that it would make a good display at the entrance to Kendal. The grass was kept quite short in this location and so the flowers would be clearly visible. Alternatively, the Rotary would be happy to split the bulbs between a couple of sites and suggestions were welcomed. Planting of bulbs usually took place in November.

Members expressed support for the planting of the majority of bulbs at the Coronation Garden. Also suggested was the potential for planting a number of bulbs at Little Aynam, with Westmorland and Furness Council first being approached for permission.

Resolved: Subject to the Rotary's agreement to splitting the planting, the Committee suggests that the bulbs be split equally between the Coronation Garden on Kirkland and at Little Aynam, with Westmorland and Furness Council's consent first being sought with regard to those bulbs to be planted at Little Aynam.

B8/2023 Development of Civic Planting Strategy

The Council Services Officer reported that the civic planting contract had last been reviewed in 2019. This had been a light touch review, with the contract requirements having remained largely unchanged. Since then, weather patterns had changed quite considerably, and this had had a direct impact on the types of plants which thrived and the ongoing maintenance of the plants. The current planting scheme was very water intensive.

The contract was due for renewal in summer 2024. It was evident that the current requirements were outdated and were not sustainable in the long term. The contract renewal process provided the ideal opportunity to undertake a thorough review of the service and to make appropriate changes for the future.

Due to the complexity of the issue, the need for specialist input had been highlighted. The Committee was being asked to consider appointing an independent specialist who would review all the current civic planting procedures and would make recommendations for the future scheme. These recommendations would be used as the foundation for the development of a planting strategy in Kendal.

The Committee supported the proposal, acknowledging the need to put thought into the future management of civic planting. During discussion, the potential for any future sustainable scheme to be used as education for others was raised.

The Council Services Officer undertook to return to the next meeting with a firmer plan with costings.

Resolved: To support the proposals for the appointment of an independent specialist to undertake a review of the civic planting in Kendal, the Council Services Officer to bring a further report detailing a firmer plan with costings.

B9/2023 Kendal, Cumbria and Britain Bloom 2023

The Vice-Chair in the Chair took the opportunity to comment on how well the planting throughout the Town was looking and thanked all involved for their hard work.

The Council Services Officer provided a verbal update on the bloom initiatives 2023.

She first drew attention to the Kendal in Bloom competition pointing out that there had been a huge response, with a number of businesses and schools having been involved. The schools' thrones were currently in the Town Council's care and would be brought out again for the judging of Britain in Bloom the following week. The Committee expressed thanks to Horticare for their part in caring for the flowers which formed part of the thrones. Competition certificates would be issued at a celebration around September/October time, and the Council Services Officer sought suggestions from the Committee on the type of event that should be held. It was felt that this should be one event for both schools and businesses, either on a weekend or around 5.00 p.m., to be held in the Town Council Chamber with refreshments, with information on current Town Council initiatives being on display at the event. Also raised was the potential to hold an annual throne making for the Mayor of Kendal competition. The potential of displaying the thrones in the Town Hall Foyer on Britain in Bloom judging day was raised and officers undertook to find out whether this might be possible.

The Council Services Officer referred to the recent visit by Cumbria in Bloom judges and to the useful feedback which would assist in preparation for Britain in Bloom judging day. The Cumbria in Bloom awards ceremony would take place on 17 October and would again be hosted by Kendal Town Council.

The Council Services Officer drew attention to the fact that judging for Britain in Bloom would take place on Friday, 4 August. She circulated a copy of the tour itinerary which also showed that both the Council Services Officer and Cllr L Hendry would be accompanying the judges on the tour. A lengthy discussion ensued around volunteers, photographs, display boards, and current road closures and contingencies. The Council Services Officers pointed out that there would be a littler pick on the evening before the event, with herself and the Townscape Officer due to perform and additional check early on the following morning prior to the arrival of the judges, with particular attention to be paid to Aynam Road and Nobles Rest. She stressed the need for volunteers to follow the route ten minutes before the formal entourage in order to troubleshoot and ensure that all ran smoothly on the day and to check that the volunteers were in place. She also intended to ask Westmorland and Furness to use road sweepers in a number of areas. Attention was drawn to the need to ensure that the Old Police Yard was tidied up, as this area would be included within the tour so that judges could be informed that Kendal was a working town, that this was an urban landscape and that work was being carried out to enhance such areas. The tour would commence at the Town Hall with refreshments and all Members were invited to attend lunch at the Unitarian Chapel at 12.30 p.m. at the end of the tour in order to talk with the judges. The

Council Services Officer emphasised the need for the judges to experience positivity from those people that they talked to throughout the day.

The Vice-Chair in the Chair thanked the Council Services Officer for her update.

Resolved: To note the verbal update.

The meeting closed at 7.48 p.m.