

# KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

## Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 5.45pm  
(Via Teleconferencing)**

**PRESENT** Councillors Shirley Evans (Chair), Helen Ladhams (Vice Chair), Tina Becker, Chris Hogg and Adam Edwards

**APOLOGIES** None

**OFFICERS** Janine Holt (Assistant to the Town Clerk) and Nicky King (Council Secretary)

**980/19/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

**981/19/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**982/19/20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020**

Councillor C Hogg raised a fundamental issue which has arisen due to drastic changes since the minutes of the last meeting relating to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Since it is not known whether certain events will now go ahead, Councillor C Hogg queried whether the KTC grants criteria stipulated that an event had to go ahead in order to receive grant monies. He went on to say that all the big events which receive a grant of £5k from KTC are going to struggle. Comic Arts Festival, the Mountain Festival, Torchlight etc are not going to be possible in their usual format. The Arts Council are backing these organisations to ensure they do not go bust straight away. He pointed out that it would be helpful for these organisations to receive those grants to see them through to next year and asked whether KTC are still going to award the money or withhold. Councillor C Hogg commented that it is really important for the economy of Kendal to support those organisations. Kendal Mountain Festival brings £3m into the economy, Comic Arts £2m and Torchlight approx. £1m. If these are taken away from the economy, not just this year but next year, it is going to have a massive economic effect.

Janine Holt remarked that the grants criteria would need to be checked as it may state a grant cannot be paid if the event is not going ahead. If that is the case there would need to be a recommendation made to full Council to change the way KTC do business.

Councillor C Hogg proposed that any of the regularly funded organisations that receive a grant of £5k or £1.5k be paid that grant

for this year, with a view to keeping them alive for next year. This was seconded by Councillor Edwards and carried unanimously.

It was agreed Janine Holt will compile a list of regular events using the guideline of £5k and £1.5k grants. She will also check the grants criteria and status of all events KTC have pledged grant money to.

**RECOMMENDATION** That any of the regularly funded organisations that receive a grant of £5k or £1.5k be paid that grant for this year, with a view to keeping them alive for next year.

**RESOLVED** Janine Holt to compile a list of regular events using the guideline of £5k and £1.5k grants. Also check the grants criteria and the status of all events KTC have pledged grant money to.

Members were then asked to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 as a correct record of the proceedings. These minutes had been approved at the meeting of full Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020.

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be accepted as a correct record.

**983/19/20** **MATTERS ARISING** (Not on Agenda)

None.

**984/19/20** **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY REVIEW MEETING 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020**

A meeting had been held with the contractor on 17<sup>th</sup> March. An update report circulated prior to the meeting outlined a summary of action points. One criticism that had been addressed was that there were not enough decorations on the Christmas tree. Additional white lights and large baubles had been agreed for the tree this year.

**985/19/20** **LOAD TESTING AND REPAIRS**

Due to closure because of Coronavirus, Christmas Plus have been unable to carry out the load testing, installation of bunting and repairs. Janine Holt had recently spoken to the contractor who had indicated that the bunting could go up, but she queried whether it is appropriate to do so. Following a general discussion Members agreed it was not the right time to put up bunting.

**RESOLVED** That it is not the right time to put up bunting.

**986/19/20** **SWITCH ON EVENT 2020**

A provisional date of 21<sup>st</sup> November was put forward for the Christmas lights switch-on and this was agreed.

Councillor C Hogg suggested that Committee have a back-up plan in the event that a second round of Coronavirus later in the year results in further lockdown.

**RESOLVED** That a provisional date of 21<sup>st</sup> November be agreed for the Christmas lights switch on.

**987/19/20 APPROVAL OF PROJECTOR USE**

Members were asked to consider whether they would like to approve the use of the projector by festivals. This arose following a meeting held in January, attended by Janine Holt, representatives from all the major festivals and members of the BID board. The aim of the meeting was to swap ideas and discuss sharing resources.

Following a general discussion Members agreed to approve the use of the projector by local festivals.

Janine Holt advised that the projector is currently still in Italy at the suppliers for repair. This has been delayed due to the current pandemic.

**RESOLVED** That Committee approve the use of the projector by local festivals.

**988/19/20 KENDAL POETRY FESTIVAL**

At the last meeting of the Committee Members considered a request of £1.5k towards the cost of the festival. Due to uncertainty over the figure agreed, Committee were asked to reconsider the application and agree a funding figure.

Councillor C Hogg commented that this is a regular event which is well funded and proposed that a grant of £1.5k be awarded. This was agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED** That Kendal Poetry Festival be awarded a grant of £1.5k.

**989/19/20 SMALL START-UP GRANTS**

Committee previously agreed to promote start up grants for any local events/festivals. This was promoted in the spring KTC newsletter, however to date no grant applications have been received.

Councillor C Hogg put forward a suggestion to retain the availability of grants of up to £500 for start-up events and festivals and treat this as an economic recovery pot. He added that consideration could also be given to boosting the amount of the grants to £1k. This way KTC could acknowledge that Kendal is a festival town and wants to stay that way and anyone wanting to put in a bid for events and festivals for 2021 could do so, with a view to kick-starting the economy for next year.

It was agreed the idea would be raised with the Town Clerk and Treasurer to ascertain what might be possible and discussed further at the next Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED** Suggestion to retain the availability of grants of up to £500 for start-up events and festivals as an economic recovery pot to be raised with

the Town Clerk and Treasurer. Idea to be discussed further at the next Committee meeting.

**990/19/20**

### **TORCHLIGHT**

Members considered an additional application from Craig Russell for a one-off event which had been discussed at the last Committee meeting. The event proposed was a series of creative workshops for children held at community centres. The work would be displayed somewhere in Kendal and may possibly form part of Torchlight.

Councillor C Hogg felt that the application did not fit with the grants criteria since this was set on economic impact and level of funding from elsewhere. For a grant of £5k an economic impact of around £1m would be expected, which would not be attainable in this case. He added that it was neither an event nor festival, but a series of workshops. Councillor Becker added that there are other avenues of funding for such types of workshops and did not consider it fell within the remit of the Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee.

It was agreed not to approve further grant funding for a one-off event. Janine Holt will feedback Committee's comments to Craig Russell.

**RESOLVED**

That Committee do not approve further grant funding to Torchlight for a one-off series of workshops. Janine Holt to feedback to Craig Russell.

**991/19/20**

### **KENDAL WALKING FESTIVAL**

Councillor Evans fed back to Committee a discussion held at the recent Management Committee meeting regarding the Kendal Walking Festival. In a subsequent conversation, Councillor Blackman explained the organisation behind the festival had given consideration to setting up as a separate constitution, however there had not been much appetite. He had also approached the Wainwright Society to ask if they would consider hosting but had not heard back to date. Councillor Evans asked Members to consider supporting the festival for one more year. She commented that it has the potential to grow and could be very good for Kendal.

Following a general discussion Committee felt it was not appropriate for the festival to continue in the current way. Members agreed the organisation needed to be a constituted group with a separate bank account and wished to ask what support they needed to set themselves up in this manner. It was agreed Councillor Evans would speak with Councillor Blackman in this respect.

Councillor Edwards suggested there may be a possibility of the Sandylands Residents Association taking the festival on board, if others were responsible for the running of the event.

**RESOLVED**

Councillor Evans to speak with Councillor Blackman regarding the future of the Kendal Walking Festival and the support needed to continue.

**992/19/20****ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**Summer 2020 Edition

The following suggestions were put forward to include in an article:

- Provisional date for Christmas lights switch-on event.
- Availability of £500 grants for festivals from March, with the principle of endeavouring to kick-start the economy next year.
- Some form of art competition for children. It was suggested this could be run through the Facebook page when it is live (Councillor C Hogg to check with Councillor Rathbone when this is likely to be).
- A request for people to send in their favourite festival pictures and memories.

**993/19/20****REVIEW OF SPEND AGAINST BUDGET 2019/20**

Members considered the budget statement to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 (the end of the financial year).

Janine Holt advised that some monies had been accrued into the next financial year. It had been possible to roll over money set aside for items such as loading testing and repairs because those items will still need to happen when possible. This had only been possible due to the unique circumstances with the pandemic.

**994/19/20****ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Edwards advised that there is to be a virtual lockdown festival happening on Facebook. He also mentioned the possibility of a Youth Festival through collaboration with three different youth groups across Cumbria and Lancs.

Councillor Evans commented that something the new South Lakeland deputy member of Youth Parliament wishes to get going is places for young people to meet. She will put her in touch with Councillor Edwards.

**995/19/20****DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 6.46pm

**Summary of Information, Resolutions and Recommendations to Council**

<b>Min</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Information/Resolution/Recommendation to Council</b>	
<b>982</b>	Payment of grants to regularly funded organisations	<b>REC</b>	That any of the regularly funded organisations that receive a grant of £5k or £1.5k be paid that grant for this year, with a view to keeping them alive for next year.
		<b>RES</b>	Janine Holt to compile a list of regular events using the guideline of £5k and £1.5k grants. Also check the grants criteria and the status of all events KTC have pledged grant money to.
<b>985</b>	Load Testing and Repairs	<b>RES</b>	That it is not the right time to put up bunting.
<b>986</b>	Switch On Event 2020	<b>RES</b>	That a provisional date of 21 <sup>st</sup> November be agreed for the Christmas lights switch on.
<b>987</b>	Approval of Project Use	<b>RES</b>	That Committee approve the use of the projector by local festivals.
<b>988</b>	Kendal Poetry Festival	<b>RES</b>	That Kendal Poetry Festival be awarded a grant of £1.5k.
<b>989</b>	Small Start-up Grants	<b>RES</b>	Suggestion to retain the availability of grants of up to £500 for start- up events and festivals as an economic recovery pot to be raised with the Town Clerk and Treasurer. Idea to be discussed further at the next Committee meeting.
<b>990</b>	Torchlight	<b>RES</b>	That Committee do not approve further grant funding to Torchlight for a one-off series of workshops. Janine Holt to feedback to Craig Russell.
<b>991</b>	Kendal Walking Festival	<b>RES</b>	Councillor Evans to speak with Councillor Blackman regarding the future of the Kendal Walking Festival and the support needed to continue.