

# Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4ED  
www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk



**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Kendal Town Council held in the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal, on Tuesday, 2 May 2023, at 7.30 p.m.**

## Councillors

G Archibald	Apologies	A Blackman	Present
S Blunden	Present	J Brook	Apologies
D Brown	Present	A Campbell	Apologies
S Coleman	Apologies	J Cornthwaite	Present
J Dunlop	Present	L Edwards	Present
D Evans	Present	A Finch	Present
C Hardy	Absent	M Helme	Present
L Hendry	Present	E Hennessy	Present
H Ladhams	Present	S Long	Present
D Miles	Present	D Rathbone	Present
C Russell	Present	M Severn	Apologies
K Simpson	Absent	R Sutton	Present
P Thornton	Present	G Tirvengadam	Apologies

**In attendance:** Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk) and Inge Booth (Democratic Services Assistant), four members of the public and Mary Biddle from Youth Presence.

## Public Participation

No items were brought forward by the public.

Mary Biddle delivered a presentation on **Youth Presence** in Kendal. Mary explained how she had grown up in Kendal and was proud to call it home. She had been inspired when young to work with children and young people and had been doing so for around 20 years. Youth Presence, established in 2014, had been born from a desire to make a difference to the lives of children and young people in the Town and had become a registered charity in December 2020. The Charity had been built on strong foundations, the organisation having worked hard on a formal set of policies and procedures. Mary provided details in relation to the values and the work of the Charity, around the development of meaningful relationships; affirmation of the value of each child and young person through developing self-confidence, positive wellbeing and participation; exploring beliefs, values and authentic choices; encouraging young people to discover their potential; and challenging young people how to consider how their skills and aspirations and positive impact others and their communities. She drew attention to current projects, including work with Rag Tag Arts, a project with the Queen Katherine School and work with primary schools around school holiday provision. Mary stressed the need to understand the adversities and traumas faced by young people today and also the fact that Youth Presence had an important role to play in preventative work. She also drew attention to the hope that those young people benefitting from the work of the Charity today might become the volunteers of tomorrow. Mary drew attention to the fact that the organisation employed one member of staff and to a recent award from the High Sheriff of Cumbria for the Charity's contribution to the community. She further raised the Charity's aspirations to offer more, with the same level of professionalism and presence. She thanked the Council for listening and responded to questions raised by Members,

explaining in particular that the Town Council could provide help by raising awareness of Youth Presence.

The Chair thanked Mary for her presentation and the contribution made by Youth Presence to the community.

### **1/2023 Mayor and Deputy Mayor 2023**

Cllr C Russell proposed, seconded by Cllr H Ladhams, that Cllr J Dunlop be elected Mayor of Kendal for the Municipal Year 2023/24. No other nominations were forthcoming.

**Resolved:** To elect Cllr J Dunlop Mayor of Kendal for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

Cllr D Evans proposed, seconded by Cllr H Ladhams, that Cllr J Cornthwaite be elected Deputy Mayor. No other nominations were forthcoming.

**Resolved:** To elect Cllr J Cornthwaite Deputy Mayor of Kendal for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

*Note – Cllr H Ladhams having proposed, seconded by Cllr E Hennessy, and a vote having been taken, the meeting adjourned at 7.55 p.m. and reconvened at 7.58 p.m., during which time the exchange of the Mayoral Chain took place. Cllr Dunlop assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting and thanked Members for placing their faith in her. She further paid tribute to Cllr D Rathbone, outgoing Mayor, who had served the Town and the Council with diligence and dignity. Cllr Dunlop also welcomed Cllr Cornthwaite to his role as Deputy Mayor.*

### **2/2023 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs G Archibald, J Brook, A Campbell, S Coleman, M Severn and G Tirvengadam.

### **3/2023 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr H Ladhams raised an interest in relation to Agenda Item No.12 (Christmas Lights and Festivals Grant Limit), Minute No.12/2023 below, due to being involved in the management of the Torchlight Carnival.

### **4/2023 Exclusion of Press and Public**

It was raised that an item relating to a confidential matter appeared later on the Agenda at which point a vote would be taken to exclude the press and public from the meeting.

### **5/2023 Minutes of Last Council Meeting**

It was proposed by Cllr A Finch, seconded by Cllr E Hennessy, and subsequently

**Resolved:** To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3 April 2023 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

### **6/2023 Co-option to Town Council**

Consideration was given to a nomination for co-option as a Member of Kendal Town Council to the casual vacancy in Nether Ward. One nomination only having been forthcoming,

Cllr L Edwards proposed, seconded by Cllr E Hennessy, that R Edwards be elected to the casual vacancy.

**Resolved:** To elect R Edwards for co-option as a Member of Kendal Town Council.

*Note – Cllr R Edwards signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took up her seat immediately, having been provided with a copy of the agenda within the appropriate timescales. The Town Clerk explained that whilst Cllr R Edwards had to sign her declaration at this stage, both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor could take office immediately, having agreed to sign their declarations of acceptance of office at the Mayor Making Ceremony on 18 May 2023, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 (Section 83(4)(c)).*

## **7/2023      Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees**

The Council considered the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair of its various committees. Nominations had been received by the Town Clerk prior to the meeting as follows:

### **Allotments Committee**

**Chair:** Cllr A Finch (proposed by Cllr P Thornton and seconded by Cllr E Hennessy)

**Vice Chair:** Cllr G Archibald (proposed by Cllr A Finch and seconded by Cllr E Hennessy)

### **Audit, Grants and Charities Committee**

**Chair:** Cllr C Russell (proposed by Cllr J Dunlop and seconded by Cllr H Ladhams)

**Vice Chair:** Cllr D Rathbone (proposed by Cllr M Helme and seconded by Cllr J Dunlop)

### **Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee**

**Chair:** Cllr H Ladhams (proposed by Cllr D Rathbone and seconded by Cllr J Cornthwaite)

**Vice Chair:** Cllr M Helme (proposed by Cllr H Ladhams and seconded by Cllr D Rathbone)

### **Environment and Highways Committee**

**Chair:** Cllr E Hennessy (proposed by Cllr P Thornton and seconded by Cllr S Long)

**Vice Chair:** Cllr G Archibald (proposed by Cllr E Hennessy and seconded by Cllr D Rathbone)

### **Kendal in Bloom Committee**

**Chair:** Cllr A Blackman (proposed by Cllr R Sutton and seconded by Cllr D Rathbone)

**Vice Chair:** Cllr R Sutton (proposed by Cllr A Blackman and seconded by Cllr D Rathbone)

### **Management Committee**

**Chair:** Cllr S Coleman (proposed by Cllr D Rathbone and seconded by Cllr A Blackman)

**Vice Chair:** Cllr D Rathbone (proposed by Cllr H Ladhams and seconded by Cllr C Russell)

### **Mayoralty and Arts Committee**

**Chair:** Cllr J Dunlop (proposed by Cllr P Thornton and seconded by Cllr H Ladhams)

**Vice Chair:** Cllr J Cornthwaite (proposed by Cllr P Thornton and seconded by Cllr H Ladhams)

### **Planning Committee**

**Chair:** Cllr D Rathbone (proposed by Cllr J Cornthwaite and seconded by Cllr H Ladhams)

**Vice Chair:** Cllr H Ladhams (proposed by Cllr D Rathbone and seconded by Cllr J Cornthwaite)

Cllr A Finch proposed that those Members nominated as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees as set out above be elected/re-elected en bloc and was seconded by Cllr J Cornthwaite.

**Resolved:** To elect/re-elect the Councillors shown above as Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Committees shown for the forthcoming year, and detailed within Appendix 1 to these minutes.

### **8/2023 Membership of Committees**

The Council reviewed the membership of its committees. A list of nominations had been provided to the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr D Rathbone and seconded by Cllr A Finch that the committee memberships for 2023/24 be as set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

**Resolved:** To approve the list of Committee Memberships for 2023/24, as attached at Appendix 1 to these minutes.

### **9/2023 Schedule of Meetings 2023/24**

The Council considered the Schedule of Meetings for the forthcoming year.

The Town Clerk drew attention to the need to consider amending the 2024 dates for meetings of Kendal in Bloom and undertook to address this with the Chair of that Committee and to issue an updated version of the Schedule following the meeting.

**Resolved:** Subject to the amendment as outlined above, to approve the Schedule of Meetings for 2023/24.

### **10/2023 Representation on Outside Bodies**

The Council reviewed its representation on Outside Bodies for 2023/24. A list of nominations had been provided to the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Clarification was sought with regard to the Council's representation on Lancaster Canal (Northern Reaches) and it was explained that it had been felt that two representatives were felt to be sufficient. Cllr A Blackman, however, indicated that personal commitments meant that he was no longer able to fulfil this role and Cllr D Rathbone, seconded by Cllr A Blackman, therefore, proposed that Cllr P Thornton take up this position.

It was pointed out that Cllr H Ladhams was the Council's representative on the BID Board, and not Cllr J Dunlop.

Attention having been drawn to the fact that former Cllr K Blamire was shown on the list as being the Council's representative on the Kendal Lads and Girls Club, Cllr A Finch volunteered to take up this role.

Subject to the changes raised, the nominations were moved by Cllr D Rathbone and seconded by Cllr H Ladhams.

**Resolved:** Subject to the changes raised at the meeting and outlined above, to approve the list of nominations to Outside Bodies for 2023/24, as attached at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

### **11/2023 Minutes from Committees**

The Council was presented with the following minutes from recent meetings of the Council's standing committees. Cllr D Rathbone proposed that the minutes be received en bloc and was seconded by Cllr A Finch.

- (1) Kendal in Bloom Committee meeting held on 11 April 2023 – Cllr A Blackman presented the minutes, drawing attention to the fact that this was an important year for Kendal in Bloom, Kendal having been entered into Britain in Bloom to represent Cumbria in the Large Towns category. Cllr Blackman drew Members' attention to details in relation to a competition being held in the Town under the Kendal in Bloom initiative and urged councillors to either take part themselves or to encourage groups of residents to help create a display of Coronation thrones echoing the King's green agenda and enthusiasm for sustainability, as well as the fact that he was Patron for the Campaign for Wool, which was part of Kendal's heritage. Cllr Blackman pointed out that Britain in Bloom was interested to hear more with regard to this competition. Cllr Blackman also referred to a weeding party scheduled to take place on the following Wednesday in an endeavour to smarten up the Town and show it off at its best. Those wishing to take part would meet at 6.00 p.m. at the gates to Abbot Hall Park, nearby the Social Club. In response to a query, Cllr Blackman informed Council that there would be other opportunities for weeding parties.
- (2) Mayoralty and Arts Committee meeting held on 27 March 2023 – Cllr D Rathbone presented the minutes and informed Council that work was apace with regard to the Slavery and Kendal Exhibition. In addition, work was being carried out in relation to the stored items that formed part of the Council's Collection.
- (3) Planning Committee meetings held on 3 and 17 April 2023 – Cllr D Rathbone presented the minutes, pointing out that a variety of applications had been considered by the Committee, with a mixture of recommendations.

**Resolved:** To receive the minutes of recent meetings of the Council's standing committees shown above.

### **12/2023 Christmas Lights and Festivals Grant Limit**

**Note - Cllr H Ladhams raised an interest in relation to this item of business due to being involved in the management of the Torchlight Carnival. She remained in the Chamber, however, took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.**

Council considered a request from the Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee that it exceed its usual grant limit of £5,000 and offer a single grant of £10,000 to Kendal Torchlight. The Town Clerk reported that Kendal Torchlight had received grant funding of £10,000 in 2022, but divided into two halves. The Committee had considered the most recent application at its meeting on 24 April, and wished to grant the full sum in one payment in 2023. The amount was a within budget allocation from the Festivals budget.

Cllr P Thornton proposed that the request be approved, explaining that the Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee had given full consideration to the application and stressing the fact that Torchlight was an event enjoyed by the people of Kendal. Cllr R Sutton seconded the proposal.

Strong concern was raised by a Member in relation to the option of splitting of the grant, the last minute request, the lack of information supplied and as to whether the proposal was in accordance with the Council's financial policies and procedures. Cllr D Evans proposed an amendment to make a decision in principle to authorise the payment of a grant of £10,000 to Kendal Torchlight, subject to verification and demonstration that account had been taken in relation to the Council's policies and procedures, with a full report to be presented to all Members at the next meeting of Full Council.

Following further discussion, whilst some support was expressed in relation to Cllr Evans' proposed amendment, no seconder was forthcoming.

A Point of Order was raised, drawing attention to the Council's previously worked-up set of policies in relation to the awarding of grants and suggesting that these were still relevant today. Cllr Thornton, having proposed the substantive motion, again stressed the need to award the full grant of £10,000 without delay, reiterating the fact that both he and the Town Clerk were of the opinion that this was within the Council's lawful ability.

A vote having been taken on the substantive motion, it was

**Resolved:** To allow the Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee to exceed its usual grant limit of £5,000 and to offer a single grant of £10,000 to Kendal Torchlight.

## **Part Two**

The next item was considered following a resolution to exclude the Press and Public due to the confidential or commercial sensitivity of the report.

### **13/2023 Wainwright Award**

All Members having received the relevant documentation, the Council considered nominations for the Wainwright Award 2022-23.

Following a secret ballot, it was

**Resolved:** To present the Wainwright Award 2022-23 to Miriam Baird.

The meeting closed at 8.48 p.m.

**Appendix 1**  
**Committee Membership 2023/24**  
**2 May 2023**

**Allotments Committee**

A Finch (Chair)
G Archibald (Vice Chair)
S Cornthwaite
C Hardy
L Hendry
Vacancy
Plus three co-opted members

**Audit, Grants and Charities Committee**

C Russell (Chair)
D Rathbone (Vice Chair)
J Dunlop
L Edward
D Evans
M Helme
Vacancy
Vacancy

**Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee**

H Ladhams (Chair)
M Helme (Vice Chair)
R Edwards
C Russell
K Simpson
R Sutton
P Thornton

**Environment and Highways Committee**

E Hennessy (Chair)
G Archibald (Vice Chair)
S Blunden
D Brown
J Cornthwaite
M Helme
S Long
C Russell
K Simpson

**Kendal in Bloom Committee**

A Blackman (Chair)
R Sutton (Vice Chair)
D Brown
L Hendry
Vacancy
Plus five co-opted members

**Management Committee**

S Coleman (Chair)
D Rathbone (Vice Chair)
A Blackman (KiB)
J Dunlop (Mayor)
H Ladhams (CLF)
A Finch (Allotments)
E Hennessy (E&H)
S Long (ordinary member)
C Russell (AGC)

**Mayoralty and Arts Committee**

J Dunlop (Chair)
J Cornthwaite (Vice Chair)
J Brook
L Hendry
D Rathbone
M Severn
G Tirvengadum
Vacancy
Vacancy

**Planning Committee**

D Rathbone (Chair)
H Ladhams (Vice Chair)
A Campbell
J Cornthwaite
L Edwards
R Edwards
A Finch
D Miles

**Appendix 2**  
**Appointments to Outside Bodies 2023/24**  
**2 May 2023**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>No. of Rep(s)</b>	<b>Representative(s)</b>	<b>Reports to</b>
Air Quality Working Group (SLDC)	1	Cllr G Archibald	Environment and Highways
BID Board	1	Cllr H Ladhams	Management; Council
Brewery Arts Centre	1	Cllr C Russell	Council
Cumbria Association of Local Councils	2	Cllr R Sutton Cllr M Severn	Council
Emergency Plan (Kendal Community Emergency Plan Group)	1	Cllr J Cornthwaite	Management; Council
Integrated Care Community/Healthy Towns Status (CCC)	1	Cllr R Sutton	Council
Lakes Line User Group	1	Cllr S Coleman	Council
Kendal Bus User Group	1	Cllr E Hennessy	Council
Kendal Dementia Action Alliance	1	Cllr R Sutton	Council
Kendal Futures Board	1	Cllr S. Long	Management; Council
Kendal Lads and Girls Club	2	Cllr L Edwards Cllr L A Finch	Council
Kendal Mountain Festival	1	Cllr M Helme	Christmas Lights and Festivals
Kendal Relief in Need Charity	2	Mayor and Deputy Mayor	Council
Lancaster Canal (Northern Reaches)	2	Cllr L Hendry Cllr P Thornton	Council
One Voice	1	Cllr R Sutton	Council
Rinteln Town Twinning Association	4	Mayor and Deputy Mayor Cllrs J Brook and R Sutton	Mayoralty and Arts
South Lakeland Action on Climate Change and Transition South Lakes	2	Cllr G Archibald Cllr M Helme	Environment and Highways
South Lakes Equality and Diversity Partnership	1	Cllr G Tirvengadam	Council