

# Kendal Town Council

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



**Minutes of a meeting of Kendal Town Council held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal, on Monday, 2 June 2025, at 7.30 p.m.**

## Councillors

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

**In attendance:** Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk), Inge Booth (Democratic Services Assistant) and Natalia Williams (Deputy Clerk and Development and Delivery Manager).

**Also present:** Jamie Hooper and Josh Simpson of Kendal Pride

## Kendal Pride

Jamie Hooper (Chair of Kendal Pride and Corporate Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisor at Westmorland and Furness Council) and Josh Simpson (Director of Kendal Pride) addressed Council on the work currently being carried out by Kendal Pride, also tendering apologies for Sally Lofthouse who was unable to attend this meeting. 13 to 15 June 2025 would see Kendal Pride's third festival event. This was a grass roots festival celebrating LGBTQ+ identities, with this year's theme being "Together for everyone, no exceptions." The event would bring in visitors from outside of the area, as well as attract those who had moved away from Kendal to their rural roots. Details of the event and its diverse programme of activities were provided.

Council was further informed about the organisation itself, which had become more professional over time, with a Board, Terms of Reference and policies now in place. In addition, Pride was re-establishing its Advisory Group. The organisation had also become more successful in bringing in funding, and the Council was thanked for its support over the last three years. Reference was made to funding from elsewhere which was due to be put towards establishing LGBTQ+ safe places for the queer community in Kendal and to a bid to Westmorland and Furness Council for funding towards developing drag scratch nights in Kendal, which would help individuals to develop their acts and gain confidence.

Mr Hooper and Mr Simpson answered questions raised by Members, during which time the need for training in appropriate LGBTQ+ language and terminology was raised. The Mayor expressed thanks for the group's contribution to the meeting and wished them well with the event which he would be attending.

#### **15/2025 Apologies**

**Resolved:** To receive and accept apologies for absence from Cllrs Blunden, Campbell, Coleman, R Edwards, Evans, Martland, Miles and Simpson.

#### **16/2025 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

#### **17/2025 Exclusion of Press and Public**

There were no excluded items included within the agenda.

#### **18/2025 Minutes of Last Council Meeting**

Attention was drawn to the presentation on Dementia Awareness and the need to refer the matter of looking into the matter of Kendal as a Dementia Friendly Town to the Culture and Communities Committee.

**Resolved:** To receive the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 12 May 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

#### **19/2025 Minute Action Sheet**

The Town Clerk referred to Item Ref. No.32 regarding the need to seek clarification as to whether the Council received invitations to all of the Rural Services Network Market Town Group seminars and conferences. Cllr Thornton had spoken with the organisation which had confirmed that all Members were welcome to attend these events, details of which the Town Clerk undertook to publicise moving forward.

It was pointed out that a number of items contained within the report had not yet been acted on and required attention. The Town Clerk referred to Item Ref. No.10 regarding the need for training on LGBTQ+ terminology and advised that he had discussed with the matter with Jamie Hooper (Chair of Kendal Pride and Corporate Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisor at Westmorland and Furness Council) who had indicated that he would be providing this training for Members of Westmorland and Furness Council and could provide Kendal Town Council with the training materials.

**Resolved:** To note the actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings of the Council.

#### **20/2025 Mayor's Communications and Announcements**

Council was presented with a list of recent activities carried out by both the former Mayor and the current Mayor. The Mayor highlighted a number of the events and drew attention to additional engagements which he had attended. He congratulated Cllr Cornthwaite, former Mayor, for having managed to attend so many events at the end of his term.

**Resolved:** To receive the report.

## **21/2025 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024-25**

- (a) Council considered a report on the completion of the AGAR 2024-25, including the recommendations on how the Council is dealing with 'Except fors' and other matters raised by the internal and External Auditors.

**Resolved:** To accept the report.

- (b) Council was asked to note the report from the Internal Auditor for 2024-25.

**Resolved:** To accept the report.

- (c) Council was asked to consider the relevant sections of the Council's AGAR 2024-25 as follows:

- (i) The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1)
- (ii) The Accounting Statement (Section 2)

**Resolved:** To accept the recommended completed sections in the order they were presented.

## **22/2025 Reports and Minutes from Committees**

The Council was presented with minutes from recent meetings of the Council's standing committees, details of which are provided below. Committee chairs were further provided an opportunity to provide a brief account of their committee's recent activities.

- (a) Allotments Committee – There was no update.
- (b) Audit Committee on 28 April 2025 (Cllr Russell presented the minutes). The Committee had been carrying out a lot of work in terms of the Audit and AGAR. Some discussion took place regarding A41/2024 and the suggestion to maintain a zero budget line for footway lighting. The Town Clerk explained that this was for instances where the Town Council wished to put in additional lighting which it would provide the funding for, with the agreement of Westmorland and Furness Council, and then pass over the responsibility to the Lighting Authority. The need to place on record and pass on the Council's thanks to the Finance Officer for her hard work in relation to the successful completion of the AGAR was raised.
- (c) Culture and Communities Committee on 6 May 2025 (Cllr Ladhams presented the minutes). In response to a request for an update in relation to proposals to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day, the Deputy Clerk (Development and Delivery Manager) explained that the plan was for the Culture and Communities Committee to work together with the Kendal in Bloom Committee to rejuvenate the Peace Garden. There would be an event to commemorate VJ Day and to rededicate the garden, with an information panel being installed at the location, followed by a small reception. Details would be confirmed in due course.
- (d) Environment Committee – Cllr Hennessy drew attention to the Consultation on 20mph which would open on Wednesday, 4 June, urging Members to respond in a positive manner and to recommend their residents to do the same. He further welcomed Members to join him at the Bird Cage on 7 June to talk to residents on the matter. The need to ensure that residents knew that 20mph was not simply for the benefit of cyclists, but was about the safety of children, the elderly and pedestrians, was stressed.

- (e) Kendal in Bloom Committee – Cllr Blackman referred to the plans for the Peace Garden and commemoration of VJ Day, reporting that he had met with Projects Officer and representatives of the Royal British Legion and Veterans Community Group to look at the garden. It was their intention to engage with both the Air and Sea Cadets during the process.
- (f) Mayoralty and Heritage Committee – There was no update.
- (g) Planning Committee on 12 May 2025 (Cllr Rathbone presented the minutes).
- (h) Management Committee – There was no update.

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

### **22/2025      Schedule of Payments**

The Council was presented with the schedule of payments for March and April 2025. The Town Clerk responded to queries raised by Members.

**Resolved:** To receive the schedule of payments for March and April 2025.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.