

Kendal Town Council

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



Minutes of the meeting of Kendal Town Council held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal, on Monday, 7 October 2024, at 7.40 p.m.

Councillors

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

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

Rachel Miller addressed Council on the work of **Cumbria CVS** (Council for Voluntary Services), which was a registered charity offering support to third sector organisations throughout Cumbria. The charity was only able to carry out the work for which it had funding. It offered training, a support service, funding advice, governance support and volunteer support, and worked across a wide range of organisations. Ms Miller referred to a recent networking event which had been very successful, with all sorts of conversations having taken place and many referrals to other organisations having been arranged. Ms Miller referred to the work of the organisation which was currently being carried out in Kendal, for example first aid training for volunteers, training in use of social media and volunteer recruitment, to name but a few. She referred to "Trustees Week" which was coming up in the first week of November when support would be offered to organisations in recruitment of the correct individuals. The organisation also looked to reach out to employers to make it easier for their staff to volunteer. Ms Miller also drew attention to an upcoming event being held by the Poverty Truth Commission in South Lakeland, pointing out that places remained available for those who wished to attend. Ms Miller raised three requests:

- If the Council was running any events including community groups, to keep Cumbria CVS in the loop.
- To post the organisation's leaflets on the Council's notice boards to spread the good word.
- If the Council worked with any groups which would benefit from Cumbria CVS's support, to send them in the right direction.

The Mayor expressed thanks to Ms Miller for the organisation's work and for her contribution to the meeting and she responded to questions raised by Members. The Mayor further offered support in his position on the Town Council.

Andrew Nixon addressed Council on the work of **Outside In**, which was the only indoor play charity in Cumbria and Kendal. The organisation, which had been the brainchild of a group of local parents, welcomed everyone to the centre to play and have fun, relax, learn, share, socialise, get active, feel looked after, cared for and cared about. The centre also included a changing places toilet facility. Mr Nixon stressed the need for the centre to continue to exist and offer its incredible service. He referred to the support also offered to refugees and asylum seekers, to young adults with learning disabilities, to Bee Unique, to Upstart and to Kendal Parent Networking Group, to name but a few. Mr Nixon streamed videos for Members to see and drew attention to an activity book produced by the organisation based on Kendal Castle called "Cumbria Explorers".

Mr Nixon responded to questions raised by Members who expressed strong support for the work being carried out and asked to be kept up to date on progress, particularly around finance. The Mayor thanked Mr Nixon for his presentation.

34/2024 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Brook, Campbell, Coleman, R Edwards, Evans, Hardy, Helme and Thornton.

35/2024 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

36/2024 Exclusion of Press and Public

There were no excluded items included within the agenda.

37/2024 Minutes of Last Council Meeting

Resolved: To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29 July 2024 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

38/2024 Minute Action Sheet

Members considered a report on actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings of the Council.

The fact that the Council had been going to carry out a review of its outside bodies was raised, and the Town Clerk informed Members that he had made successful contact with around six or seven so far. He undertook to report back to a future meeting with an interim statement.

Resolved: An interim statement on outside bodies to be brought to the next meeting of the Council.

A further query was raised regarding progress in relation to Civility and Respect, and the Town Clerk reported that this had been considered by Audit Committee who would be recommending actions at its next meeting to forward on to the Management Committee.

With regard to progress in addressing the issue of training on LGBTQIA+ terminology, the Town Clerk explained that this would form part of the Audit Committee's response on the Civility and Respect agenda. Attention was drawn to the fact that Westmorland and Furness Council now had a Diversity Officer who may be able to offer assistance.

A suggestion was raised for both the Environment Agency and Kendal BID to be invited to address Council on their work in due course.

Resolved: To note the report.

39/2024 Mayor's Communications and Announcements

The Mayor presented a report on his recent diverse activities, from attendance at a dog show to attendance at Carlisle Cathedral for the Battle of Arnhem 80th Anniversary Commemoration Service. He referred specifically to the success of the Torchlight Festival and, as Mayor of Kendal, hoped that this would continue next year and that the Town Council would continue to provide funding. Cllr Ladhams who was on the Torchlight Committee took the opportunity to thank the Council for its support, referring to the hard work that was carried out throughout the year. She thanked those Members who had acted as marshals and hoped for their continued assistance next time. Members wished to ensure that the Torchlight Committee was formally thanked for the immense amount of work in running a successful and safe event which brought so much joy to everyone.

The Mayor referred to the Council's new Development and Delivery Manager (Deputy Clerk) who was fulfilling her role admirably and taking on some of the Town Clerk's workload. He further referred to forthcoming civic events relating to Remembrance Day, with information being available from the Heritage Officer.

Attention was drawn to the recent successful visit in August to Altstadtfest in Rinteln. The Mayor referred to both towns' aspiration to bring fresh, younger members on board and to the start of a potential exchange between the two youth football teams.

Resolved: To note the report.

40/2024 Minutes from Committees

The Council was presented with the following minutes from recent meetings of the Council's standing committees and committee chairs were invited to give a brief account of their committee's recent activities, if they so wished:

- (a) Allotments Committee on 5 August 2024 – Cllr Archibald presented the minutes.
- (b) Audit Committee on 22 July 2024 – Cllr Russell presented the minutes. He reported that Civility and Respect was one of the major initiatives being worked on by the Committee, and felt that the Council was doing well, with few exceptional occasions. Cllr Russell further outlined the process for setting and approving the Council's 2025/26 budget, with all committees currently identifying priorities from the Kendal Town Council Plan and forming projects with budgets to address agreed priorities. Management Committee would then make an assessment prior to Full Council considering the draft budget on 1 December. The final budget would be set by Full Council on 3 February 2025.
- (c) Culture and Communities Committee on 16 September 2024 – Cllr Ladhams presented the minutes.

- (d) Environment Committee on 15 July and 9 September 2024 – Cllr Hennessy presented the minutes. Cllr Hennessy reported that the opening event for the Eddington Café had now taken place. He had extended the Council's thanks for the organisation's work and they had in turn extended gratitude for the Council's funding. It had been fantastic to attend and to see the brilliant work being carried out, and he urged all Members to visit themselves.
- (e) Kendal in Bloom on 23 July 2024 – Cllr Blackman presented the minutes. He drew attention to the fact that the Town Council had not entered Cumbria in Bloom this year. He further referred to the open event which had been due provisionally to be held in Autumn, explaining that this would now not take place until February 2025.
- (f) Management Committee on 17 July and 2 September 2024 – Cllr Dunlop (Vice-Chair) presented the minutes.
- (g) Planning Committee on 29 July, 19 August and 2 September 2024 – Cllr Rathbone presented the minutes. A query was raised with regard to Biodiversity Net Gain and as to whether the Town Council's requests for swift bricks were acted upon by the Planning Authority and how this could be reported on. Cllr Rathbone and the Town Clerk responded, explaining that if Members wanted to be provided with these details, then this work would require funding. He undertook, however, to draw attention to victories where possible.

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

41/2024 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Council considered reports from the Council representatives on the following outside organisations:

- Brewery Arts Activity Report April 2024 (submitted by Cllr J Dunlop)

Cllr Dunlop referred to her recent visit to Brewery Arts, drawing attention to the large scale of the building. She was keen to get to know the breadth of the activity undertaken, which was demonstrated by the report and the summary of arts activities and admissions during 2023-34. She further referred to a recent Board meeting attended by both herself and Cllr Rathbone as Westmorland and Furness Council's representative, explaining that they had come away from the meeting feeling optimistic.

- Lakes Line Rail User Group Meeting held on 30 September 2024 (a written report by Cllr S Coleman circulated at the start of the meeting)

It was suggested that the report from Cllr Coleman in relation to Lakes Line Rail User Group be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council so that he could answer any questions. Cllr Rathbone, who was Westmorland and Furness Council's representative on the Group, informed Members that the Group spent a lot of time providing feedback and engaging with the various rail franchise holders. He also referred to the Town Council's planters and raised the need for volunteers to help out with them; he suggested that anyone interested should contact either himself or Cllr Coleman.

Resolved: To receive the reports from representatives on the outside organisations shown above.

42/2024 Schedule of Payments

The Council was presented with the schedule of payments for July and August 2024. The Town Clerk referred to the payment of £42,000 to the agreement with Kendal Futures on work around projects around connectivity and improvements to street scene. He drew attention to the £3,200 in relation to the staff cycle scheme, suggesting that this should also be extended to councillors. The Town Clerk finally referred to the small payment of £240 for garden services, explaining that this was for Japanese Knotweed eradication for which the Council continued to use glyphosate, as this remained the only successful method.

The Town Clerk answered a number of questions raised by Member, explaining that the funding for the agreement with Kendal Futures had been dealt with by the Management Committee, as this formed part of that Committee's Terms of Reference, and would remain on its agenda as a standing item. The Council's representative on Kendal Futures confirmed that she looked forward to providing Management Committee with an update. The Town Clerk further provided details around the service charge paid for the Mayor's Parlour, also explaining that the Town Council was responsible for its standalone alarm system. He added that this formed part of his current discussions with colleagues at Westmorland and Furness Council, also drawing attention to the recent major changes and pressure on the Town Hall as a result of the closure of County Hall. In response to a suggestion, the Town Clerk undertook to provide clarity around services charges within future schedules of payments. He further undertook to request presence at a future meeting by representatives from both the Environment Agency and Kendal BID; Members also suggested that the Police, United Utilities and South Lakes Housing be invited to address Council.

Resolved: To provide clarification within future schedules of payments around the service charge paid by the Town Council to Westmorland and Furness Council in relation to the Town Hall.

Resolved: To invite the Environment Agency, Kendal BID, the Police, United Utilities and South Lakes Housing to address Council at future meetings.

Resolved: To receive the schedule of payments for July and August 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.