

# Kendal Town Council

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



17 September 2025

V2

To Members of the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee

Cllr J Brook	Cllr J Cornthwaite
Cllr J Dunlop	Cllr L Hendry
Cllr H Ladhams (Vice-Chair)	Cllr C Russell
Cllr M Severn	Cllr R Sutton (Chair)
Cllr G Tirvengadam	

You are summoned to a meeting of Kendal Town Council Mayoralty and Heritage Committee on **Monday, 22 September 2025, at 7.00 p.m.**, in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

**(Distributed to other Members of the Council for information only.)**

Yours faithfully

Chris Bagshaw

Town Clerk

## AGENDA

### Public Participation

Any member of the public who wishes to ask a question, make representations or present a deputation or petition at this meeting should apply to do so before the commencement of the meeting. Information on how to make the application is available on the Council's Website - <http://www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk/kendal-town-council/statutory-information/guidance-on-public-participation-at-kendal-town-council-meetings/> or by contacting the Town Clerk on 01539 793490.

#### 1. Apologies

To receive and accept any apologies. If accepted, apologies will be considered to be for reasons approved by the council under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972, s85.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation

To receive declarations by members and/or co-optees of interests in respect of items on this agenda and to consider any dispensations.

#### 3. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

To consider whether there are any agenda items during consideration of which the press and public should be excluded.

#### 4. Minutes from the Last Meeting (pages 3 to 6)

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee held on 16 June 2025 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them as a true record (see attached).

**5. Minute Action Sheet (page 7)**

To consider a report on actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings (see attached).

**6. Review of Spend against Budget 2025/26 (page 8)**

To consider a report on budget spending at 12 September 2025 (see attached).

**7. Kendal Local Heritage Partnership (pages 9 to 13)**

To receive a report on the progress made towards the formation of a partnership for the promotion and preservation of heritage in Kendal.

**8. Kendal Museum (pages 14 to 19)**

a) To receive a verbal report on the current position of Kendal Museum and its relationship with the Allen Institute and Westmorland and Furness Council.

b) To consider a brief report on the prospect of returning certain items in the Kendal Museum collection to Kenya.

**9. Town Council Collection (pages 20 to 23)****a) Chris Hogg pictures**

To consider whether the Council wishes to add some a pair of cartoon depictions of Chris Hogg in his Mayoral year to the Town Council Collection.

**Background**

The drawings were created by internationally renowned illustrators Eva Hilhorst (Netherlands) and Judith Vanistendael (Belgium), during the Lakeland International Comic Arts Festival in 2021 and are offered by the former Cllr Chris Hogg to add to the Town Council's collection.

**b) Heritage items**

To consider a report from the Civic & Events Officer on the process for assessing the future viability of various parts of the collection.

**10. Anniversaries in 2025**

To note a verbal update on the actions made and required for the principal anniversaries in 2025.

**11. Twinning**

To receive a brief verbal report on the activities and affairs of the Town's two twinning relationships.

**12. Budget 2026–27 (pages 24 to 25)**

To consider a report on the proposed Committee budget for the next financial year (April 2026–March 2027).

**13. Newsletter and Publicity**

To consider whether any items should be included in the next edition of the Council's newsletter (Autumn/Winter 2025).

# Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4ED  
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## Minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee held on Monday, 16 June 2025, at 7.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Cllr J Brook	Absent	Cllr J Cornthwaite (Chair)	Present
Cllr J Dunlop	Present	Cllr L Hendry	Apologies
Cllr H Ladhams (Vice-Chair)	Present	Cllr C Russell	Present
Cllr M Severn	Absent	Cllr R Sutton (Chair)	Present
Cllr G Tirvengadam	Present		

**In attendance:** Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk) and Inge Booth (Democratic Services Assistant).

### MH1/2025 Apologies

**Resolved:** To receive and accept an apology for absence from Cllr Hendry.

### MH2/2025 Declarations of Interest

*Those Members present who had an interest by virtue of the fact that they were members of the Kendal Rinteln Association had recently been provided a dispensation by the Town Clerk to allow them to take part in the discussion and voting on the standing item where this was necessary in order to enable a decision to be made.*

### MH3/2025 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

### MH4/2025 Minutes from the Last Meeting

**Resolved:** To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee held on 24 March 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

### MH5/2025 Minute Action Sheet

The Committee considered a report on actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

### MH6/2025 Review of Spend against Budget 2025/26

The Committee considered its budget monitoring report as at 2 June 2025.

The Town Clerk drew attention to the figures in relation to the Exhibitions budget which was currently slightly overspent due to this budget having been used for the removal of the remaining items from the K Shoes Collection; this would be addressed moving forward. He

further drew attention to the need to re-examine the Mayor Making budget and, in addition, Mayoral Allowance budget, which required breaking down to include the allowance for the Deputy Mayor; he suggested the potential to approach the Independent Remuneration Panel in this regard. The Town Clerk finally suggested that the Torchlight budget should be renamed the Torchlight Reception budget, as this budget related purely to the civic reception.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

### **MH7/2025      Museum Provision in Kendal**

The Committee was provided with verbal reports on progress in the development of a Museum for Kendal. Concurrent initiatives were reported on by both Cllr Russell and the Town Clerk.

Cllr Russell provided an update on the Kendal Local Heritage Partnership, the foundation meeting for which had been chaired by Cllr Cornthwaite. Cllr Russell named a number of members of the Group, advising that Claire Hensman had been appointed Chair. Cllr Russell referred again to interesting finds in Kendal Museum in relation to the exploits of a senior member of the British Army who had passed through Uganda and Kenya, and objects which had come from the Nandi people. He also drew attention to the appointment by Lakeland Arts of a new Curator who would also be a member of the Partnership. Cllr Russell lastly asked the Committee to consider the appointment of a Member as a representative on the Kendal Local Heritage Partnership, with he himself having already been co-opted as a result of his early involvement in the Steering Group. Kendal Town Council's representative would be the individual to pass on the Town Council's messages to the Partnership. The first full meeting of the Partnership was due to take place in early September, with Terms of Reference having already been prepared. The Mayor would be afforded ex-officio status.

The Town Clerk reported that Lakeland Arts was in the process of apply for Arts Council funding for unlocking the collections display. He was pleased to inform the Committee that Lakeland Arts was now refocussing on Kendal. He was optimistic about the exciting work which was being carried out in partnership with Westmorland and Furness Council, the Town Council, the Parish Church, the Quaker Museum and Stricklandgate House. The Town Clerk drew attention to the challenges relating to Kendal Museum for which the Town Council was Trustee of the building, with Westmorland and Furness Council owning the collection. He also pointed out the involvement of Kendal College who ran the Museum, and the need for a legal solution to be sought around these challenges. Also highlighted was the closure by the Lake District National Park Authority of Brockhole which currently housed a number of Kendal Museum's dioramas which would need to be brought back to Kendal and stored. Then there was the issue of the future of County Hall where Archives was situated. The Town Clerk was pleased to report that that Council now employed a Collections Manager and that that Council was carrying out a strategic heritage review. The Town Clerk would continue to liaise with officers at Westmorland and Furness Council on these issues and report back to the Management Committee.

A lengthy discussion ensued. The Chair reported that he had been talking with teachers within the locality to find out what they would like to see in terms of a museum offering; he would report back to a future meeting. In response to a query regarding a previous discussion by the Committee at which the need for the Nandi people's objects to be returned, Cllr Russell explained that this was with regard to a ceremonial horn and that the suggestion continued to be explored. Also raised was the potential for the Allen Annexe at the Museum, currently used by the College, to be used instead to house some of the collection. In response to a further query, it was reported that Kendal in 100 Objects remained at the core of unlocking the Collections bid by Lakeland Arts, it also being pointed out that this was likely to be a digitised display.

**Resolved:** To appoint Cllr Ladhams as the Town Council's representative on the Kendal Local Heritage Partnership.

**Resolved:** To note the verbal updates.

#### **MH8/2025      Anniversaries in 2025**

The 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town Council's Charter, and the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Second World War fell in 2025. The Committee had formed a working group with Members of the Culture and Communities Committee to establish an appropriate programme of events. Events had been organised to mark the anniversary of VE Day, and there was a programme proposed for VJ Day on 15 August.

Cllr Ladhams provided an update on the proposals to mark VJ Day, explaining that an event plan was in place, with the the Culture and Communities Committee working together with the Kendal in Bloom Committee to rejuvenate the Peace Garden. There would be an event focussed on reflection to commemorate VJ Day and to rededicate the garden, with an information panel being installed at the location. This would be a low key event followed by a small reception at the Brewery. The Town Clerk added that Armed Services volunteers would be renovating the peace pole. He further referred to match funding provided by Westmorland and Furness Council and a grounds maintenance plan which would ensure that the garden remained in good condition.

Cllr Ladhams informed Members that details in relation to plans around the 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town Council's Charter would be brought to the next meeting. The Town Clerk highlighted the fact that the Christmas Light Switch On event on 28 November would form the main event, and that ideas on what to do throughout the rest of the year required further consideration.

**Resolved:** To note the actions made and required for the principal anniversaries in 2025.

#### **MH9/2025      Twinning**

***Note – Those Members present had an interest by virtue of the fact that they were members of the Kendal Rinteln Association and had recently been provided a dispensation by the Town Clerk to allow them to take part in the discussion and voting on the item, in order to enable a decision to be made.***

(a) The Committee was asked to consider a funding request from the Kendal Rinteln Association totalling £760 from the Twinning budget to support a significant event that the Association was planning. This was in relation to inviting representatives from communities across the North West, which had twinning links with other German towns and villages, to come together at Carus Green Golf Club to celebrate Town Twinning and 80 years of Peace. Financial assistance, at a total of £660, was sought towards the cost of a meal at Carus Green for seven people from Rinteln and an allowance for welcome drinks for all of the guests. In addition, WOSP, in recognition of their 20 years' friendship with the Lebenshilfe wished to take a gift to present on their trip to Rinteln at the end of August, details of which were provided. The Association wished to support them in this and requested that, along with match funding from the Town Council, it offered £100 (KRA - £50, TC - £50). The letter requesting the funding also included an update on activities and the twinning relationship between Kendal and Rintlen, which continued to thrive.

The need for the Town Council to consider offering to pay for accommodation for representatives from Rinteln was raised and the Town Clerk undertook to look into this.

**Resolved:** The Town Clerk to give consideration to the Town Council offering to pay for accommodation for representatives from Rinteln.

**Resolved:** To allocate the sum of £760 from the Twinning budget to support their forthcoming activities, as discussed at the meeting and outlined above.

(b) The activities and affairs of the Town's twinning relationships with Rinteln had been included within the letter requesting funding discussed earlier within this Minute and outlined above. Members welcomed the support which had been given to the Ibis Youth Football Club who would be visiting Rinteln. Attention was also drawn to the success of Rinteln's participation in the Kendal Walking Rugby Festival.

With regard to the twinning with Killarney, it was pointed out that a new Mayor was due to be appointed in the following week. The Events and Civic Officer continued to liaise with Killarney's Local Area Officer. The need to try to establish sporting links between Kendal and Killarney was raised.

**Resolved:** To note the verbal update.

### **MH10/2025 Newsletter and Publicity**

The Committee was asked to consider whether any items should be included in the next edition of the Council's newsletter (Autumn/Winter 2025). Suggestions raised were around Kendal's Heritage and the Rinteln Twinning Association.

Frustration was again expressed in relation to delivery of the Newsletter and the Town Clerk undertook to take this back to the Deputy Clerk (Development and Delivery Manager), also pointing out that she was still working on a new format.

**Resolved:** To publicise items as discussed at the meeting and outlined above.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Mayoralty and Heritage Committee - Minute Action Sheet - as at 12 September 2025								
Ref. No.	Meeting Date	Minute No.	Title	Action (Resolution)	Officer Responsible	Deadline, if any	Date Actioned	Comments
8	22/01/2024	MH22/2023	Collection Management	To progress this issue (services of both an art historian, and a valuer) with relevant experts and report back to the committee.	SKU/CB			In progress
13	25/03/2024	MH35/2023	K-Shoes Collection	To approach the Gillett Trust to obtain a copy of the catalogue of the Kendal K-Shoe items.	CB		11-Jun-24	Approach made
22	23/09/2024	MH20/2024	Heritage Collection Risk Assessment	To identify an appropriate professional to carry out a re-valuation of the Council's heritage collection, prior to giving consideration to retention and disposal as appropriate.	CB/SKU		01-Sep-25	Being costed alongside better storage plans
23	23/09/2024	MH20/2024	Heritage Collection Risk Assessment	To instigate conversations with Westmorland and Furness Council around the potential to display some of the Town Council's heritage collection on the walls within the Town Hall.	CB/SKU		Aug-25	Discussion with W&FC property teams initiated.
28	23/09/2024	MH24/2024	Kendal Flag	Officers to look into costings, suitable locations and a set of protocol for a Town Council flag and flagpole for future consideration by the Committee.	SKU/RH/NW		01/08/2025	Design being developed. Project now passed to Projects
31	16/12/2024	MH37/2024	Kendal Flag	Subject to seeking the relevant planning permissions, to allocate resources to the erection of a flagpole at the Coronation Garden	SKU/RH/NW		01-Aug-25	Consents being sought
32	16/06/2025	MH7/2025	Local Heritage Partnership	To appoint Cllr H Ladhams to be TC rep on Partnership	CB		04-Sep-25	First meeting held

10:00

**Kendal Town Council**

**Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 6)**

**Note: Full Budget Statement**

	<u>24/25</u>		<u>25/26</u>				<u>26/27</u>			
	Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward	
<b>270</b>	<b><u>Mayoralty &amp; Heritage</u></b>									
4700	Mayoral Allowance	5,000	5,000	3,500	3,500	0	0	0	0	0
4701	Deputy Mayoral Allowance	0	0	1,500	1,500	0	0	0	0	0
4705	Mayoral Travel	800	204	800	142	0	0	0	0	0
4720	Mayor Making	2,500	2,151	2,100	1,381	0	0	0	0	0
4725	Torchlight Reception	2,000	443	2,000	0	0	205	0	0	0
4730	Remembrance Sunday	350	754	1,600	0	0	0	0	0	0
4735	Pictures & Others	250	0	250	0	0	0	0	0	0
4745	Misc. Mayoral Functions & Exp	4,000	5,971	4,000	2,690	0	56	0	0	0
4746	Mayor's Charit Exp	0	-1,495	0	-153	0	0	0	0	0
4750	Twinning	1,800	1,703	1,500	0	0	890	0	0	0
4755	Exhibitions	700	60	1,000	1,256	0	1,788	0	0	0
4760	Museum	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Overhead Expenditure</b>	<b>19,400</b>	<b>16,793</b>	<b>20,250</b>	<b>10,317</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,939</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>(19,400)</b>	<b>(16,793)</b>	<b>(20,250)</b>	<b>(10,317)</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>		
	<b>Total Budget Income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>19,400</b>	<b>16,793</b>	<b>20,250</b>	<b>10,317</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,939</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>(19,400)</b>	<b>(16,793)</b>	<b>(20,250)</b>	<b>(10,317)</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>		

**Kendal Town Council**

**Agenda Report**

<b>Committee:</b> Mayorality and Heritage	<b>Meeting Date:</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025
<b>From:</b> Town Clerk	<b>Agenda No:</b> 7a
<b>Description:</b> Report on Development of Local Heritage Partnership	

**Background**

The Local Heritage Partnership has now held its first meeting, attended by representatives from W&FC, Lakeland Arts, Kendal Civic Society, Kendal College, Stricklandgate House, Kendal Town Council, Kendal Parish Church and the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society (CWAAS). The meeting was chaired by former Lord Lieutenant Claire Hensman. The draft notes from the meeting are appended.

The formation of the Partnership represents the culmination of a process begun by this Committee under Mayor Cllr Julia Dunlop, and continued with a wider public meeting under Cllr Cornthwaite’s Mayorality. Our current Mayor Cllr Sutton gave the opening remarks at this meeting, demonstrating a sense of continuity of purpose from the Town Council.

The Council is represented on the Partnership by Cllr Ladhams and the Partnership is facilitated by the Town Clerk. Additionally, the Mayor is an ex officio member and Cllr Russell was co-opted.

**Decision Required**

The Committee is asked to note the progress of the Partnership, and continue to support it through its currently limited budgetary demands.

## **Kendal Local Heritage Partnership**

### **Notes from the Meeting 4 September 2025**

#### **Stricklandgate House**

##### **Present**

Judith Anstee, Paul Arnold, Tim Ashberry, Emma Aylett, Susan Bagot, Chris Bagshaw, John Bateson, Will Cooper, Rob David, Amy Fletcher, Cllr Eamonn Hennessy, Claire Hensman, Cllr Helen Ladhams, Louise McKenna, Cllr Craig Russell, Jill Salmon, Cllr Richard Sutton, David Sykes.

##### **1. Mayor's Opening Remarks**

Cllr Richard Sutton (RS) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their time and effort on such an important issue. He particularly wished to see improvements in the way young people are able to interact with heritage. This topic was referred to several times throughout the meeting, and outlying points are summarised in Note 8.

##### **2. Chair's Opening Remarks**

Claire Hensman (CH) explained the genesis of the Partnership and introduced the members of the group. She reminded them that over 50 people had attended the 'Mayor's Meeting' at the Town Hall, an indication of the strength and depth of feeling about heritage in Kendal. She thanked Rob David, Judith Anstee, Craig Russell and Kendal Town Council for their commitment to drawing people together to address the issues in the town.

##### **3. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Lela Harris, Simon Unsworth (KTC), Charlottee Hawley (W&FC), Cllr Helen Chaffey (W&FC) and Chris Donaldson (Lancaster University).

##### **4. Adoption of Terms of Reference**

The group considered the Terms of Reference, circulated to all members before the meeting. The Chair suggested members raise any queries they may have as soon as possible, but for now they will serve as a working guide to the purpose and membership of the group and can be adopted as they are.

##### **5. Co-option of Members**

In addition to the Chair (CH) and the Vice Chair (RD), the group was asked to co-opt Craig Russell and Judith Anstee from the initial Steering Group, Lela Harris, a local independent artist with considerable experience of working in the heritage field, with particular reference to Black History, and Joe Rigby, an academic with considerable experience of working with Kendal Museum on re-imagining its collection. All were co-opted.

##### **6. Communications**

Judith Anstee explained the mix of communications that the group will put out, using existing channels such as the Town Council's website and newsletter and local heritage group's newsletters. Other channels and methods will be explored as they present themselves. There was support from Lakeland Arts, Kendal College and RS suggested Brewery Arts would also be supportive in engaging with young people. RS also reported that he had been

talking to schools about their use of Kendal Museum and found they were not as engaged as they might be. John Bateson (JB) reported that the Civic Society had lost touch with schools after Covid. It was noted that RagTag Arts had successfully engaged with young people on Yard 5, which was commissioned by KTC and Kendal Futures.

## **7. Reports from Members**

### **i) Westmorland and Furness Council**

Louise McKenna explained W&FC were currently developing a Cultural Strategy, which could include the possibility of a 'Heritage Compact' – a statement of how the local authority will work in partnership with smaller authorities and the local community to support and preserve heritage in the area. Heritage is a small part of the Cultural brief held by Cllr Helen Chaffey. Charlotte Hawley (CHy) will make a presentation on the Cultural Strategy and specific curatorial issues when she is able to attend (see item 8. below). Louise has 11 council services in her brief including museums and archives (also libraries, arts and leisure centres and the Registrar service).

### **ii) Kendal Town Council**

Chris Bagshaw (CB) explained the Town Council's current developments to mark the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Elizabeth Charter (the Charter Year starting on 28/11/25), including beginning to renovate the Mayor's Parlour and working with CHy to develop more effective curatorial policies for the Town Hall Collection, bringing it to a wider audience – there could be exploration of possibilities of widening the audience for George Romney through sharing the resources owned by the Town Council and Lakeland Arts. The Town Council was very active in giving 'Parlour Talks' and had developed a 'Slavery Trail' putting the town's history in the context of the international slave trade. It was committed to the emerging LHP and would work through its Mayoralty & Heritage Committee to support it.

### **iii) Lakeland Arts**

Will Cooper explained what Lakeland Arts would do next, following the rejection of their Arts Council England bid for 'Unlocking the Collections'. The MOLLI would be more conspicuously branded the 'Lakeland Museum' and further work with FIELD would feature in a subsequent funding bid which he felt would be more nuanced and stand a greater chance of success. He reassured the group that the building was still accredited for its care of exhibits, but was not currently operable. The work on the oval had been in preparation for the return of the Barbara Hepworth sculpture, which the artist had specifically described how it should appear to arise from wild planting. They were expecting to develop a bid for the whole site to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which would work in partnership with the Church's bid and develop a more holistic approach to the quarter.

The meeting noted that this would be Kendal's third project seeking NLHF funding, and that it was important that the three organisations worked together on a narrative that did not portray them as in competition, but in striving to deliver a sum greater than its parts.

Local resident participation in Kirkland would be a feature and there was vocal support for engaging with schools to overcome the 'lost generation' who have grown up without access to MOLLI/LM, and therefore to plan something for the interim before the results of the major funding bids could have an impact.

#### **iv) Kendal Parish Church**

Paul Arnold reported on the Parish Church's current plans. The church may be the oldest continuously occupied building in Kendal, but it has many issues, especially due to leaking roofs in the Bellingham Chapel and the Tower. Currently it is a Grade One building on Historic England's Buildings at Risk Register. Many issues are due to Victorian cement mortar. A third issue is access to the Church which is currently poor. The KCT1000 Project, funded through the NLHF, will improve performance and exhibition space, enabling better relationships to be developed with the local community. There will be a talk on 'Damp Towers' on 23 September by the project's advisor on damp towers... Closer relationships are being fostered with Abbot Hall and Stricklandgate House. They are hoping to make more of the stories of some of the interesting people memorialised in the church and churchyard, and they may be able to build an exhibition around some of the finds from the EA's work in the graveyard.

#### **v) Stricklandgate House**

David Sykes (DS) and Emma Aylett (EAy) spoke about the developments of Stricklandgate House's lottery bid. They gave a little of the building's history and its importance to successive generations of Kendalians and the wider South Westmorland community. They are currently in the Lottery Development Phase, and were hoping to progress to the Delivery Phase by April/May. They have received good support and match funding from KTC and W&FC to progress to the next phase, along with a big boost from Francis C Scott Trust. The building currently serves over 12,000 clients per year across its various third sector tenants, and is keen to bring more of its history to the fore as living heritage.

#### **vi) Kendal Museum**

Tim Ashberry (TA) reported on the challenges facing the new College Principal, Jason Turton. Kendal Museum is quite low on the list and it is likely that the College will not wish to continue the Museum management agreement beyond its renewal date of 2028. An interim idea to utilise an unused corner of the College's shopping centre lease was no longer viable, so the College is losing a useful space upstairs in the Museum to house the returning collection from Brockhole. The question was raised as the town's vision of the end point for Kendal Museum and the need to have a plan well before the 2028 management renewal

WC will share information about LA's project with FIELD with Jason, as he has a reputation for tech-based solutions.

### **8. General Items**

Several suggestions emerged during the meeting as to ways that Kendal College students could become involved in the town's heritage. These included arts projects in the Yards (perhaps alongside Kendal Futures who had championed the Highgate Yard 5 school based art work), cooperation and a sharing of skills between the IT faculty at the College and heritage providers (and Lakeland Arts work with FIELD) in the town.

### **9. Items for Future Meetings**

RD summed up the evening's discussions and suggested that in addition to Charlotte Hawley's W&F presentation, and feedback on developments resulting from this first meeting there were three further items of substance for the next meeting to consider:

- i) A presentation from the Quaker Tapestry
- ii) A presentation from W&FC on the archive service
- iii) The potential for coordinating events for Heritage Open Week in 2026.

**10. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on 19 January 2026. The venue will be confirmed nearer the time.

The meeting finished at 21.09.

## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

<b>Committee:</b> Mayoralty and Heritage	<b>Meeting Date:</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025
<b>From:</b> Town Clerk	<b>Agenda No:</b> 9b
<b>Description:</b> Kendal Museum’s Harrison Collection	

### Background

A significant part of the ‘World Wildlife’ collection at Kendal Museum is the result of a donation from EG Harrison of Staveley in the late 1930s. Joe Rigby, an academic from the University of Chester, has been researching the origins of the collection with staff at Kendal Museum and has made linkages with communities in Kenya, where many of the items originated. An article from the Staveley and District Historical Society summarises the history of the Collection and is appended to this report (with thanks to Staveley & District Historical Society for permission).

It has been suggested that it may be appropriate to allow some items that are culturally significant to the Nandi community, from the Harrison Collection, to be returned to Kenya.

### Decision Required

The Kendal Museum Collection is owned in trust by Westmorland and Furness Council, so it is not in the power of Kendal Town Council to direct its future. However, the Committee is asked whether if it would support any form of repatriation of objects in principle.

## **From Kenya to Kendal: Colonel Edgar Garston Harrison's taxidermy collection, Kendal Museum**

The collections at Kendal Museum date back to 1796 when the museum was first formed as a private collection. Today the collections are publicly owned by Westmorland and Furness Council, cared for by longstanding curators Carol Davies and Morag Clement, and managed through Kendal College. Standing on the site of a former wool warehouse on the left bank of the river Kent, the current museum building was acquired by Kendal Town Council in 1913 for the purposes of displaying the collections to the public. In keeping with the idea of a civic museum, the public can pay an entry fee of £5 that permits entry to the museum for a year and includes access to both the permanent collections on display and temporary, visiting exhibitions.

One of the major donors to, and benefactors of, the museum in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was a local man called Edgar Garston Harrison (1863-1947), of High Hundhowe, near Staveley. As discussed by Zoe Atkinson in Issues 8 and 9 of the Staveley and District History Society Journal, Harrison was a soldier and big game hunter, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Kings African Rifles, and was active in several military campaigns related to British colonialism in eastern Africa between 1895 and 1905. During this time Harrison acquired a significant number of 'hunting trophies,' mounted taxidermy animal heads and animal skins of the characteristic fauna of the region, including lion, giraffe, zebra, rhinoceros and many different species of antelope.

In 1937 Harrison proposed to donate £2,000 towards the building of an extension to the museum's existing buildings, on condition that this be used to display his collection of hunting trophies and other artefacts to the public, the majority of which were at that time housed in his purpose-built trophy room at High Hundhowe. The council accepted Harrison's donation and proceeded to expand the northeast wing of the museum, using land owned by the town council between the existing buildings and the site of St Georges School. The extension was opened to the public in 1939, and a brass memorial plaque to Harrison mounted on the annex wall. The majority of Harrison's 'Hundhowe Collection' eventually found its way into the museum, including the now locally famous taxidermy polar bear, still used in much of the museum's publicity and promotional materials. The bear was reportedly shot by Lord Lonsdale, and later bought from Lonsdale by Harrison, who then donated the polar bear to the museum shortly before his death in 1947.<sup>1</sup>

Today the annex is home to the museum's 'World Wildlife Gallery,' which showcases taxidermy animal specimens from around the world. Many of the specimens are set in dioramas reflecting the natural habitat of the species represented, grouped together into continental regions. Harrison's trophy heads remain in the gallery too, set on thick hardwood boards gilded with his initials 'EGH,' occupying an elevated position

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<sup>1</sup> *Kendal Town Council*, Minutes 3056, 3086, 3098; 1937; 324, 1938; 592, 1939; 1454, 1940; 1625, 1947



A view of the entrance to the World Wildlife Gallery, November 2024. The mounted animal heads, or 'hunting trophies' on display are Harrison's, from east African Zebra (top left), through to Alaskan Moose (top right).

above the other artefacts, looking down on both the other specimens and gallery visitors. In total Harrison donated over 80 such trophy heads to the museum, along with dozens of cases of taxidermy birds, preserved moths and butterflies, and a small number of cultural artefacts.<sup>2</sup>

The varied geographic origin of the species reflect the extent of Harrison's hunting activities: heads of black, white and Indian rhinos, since permanently transferred to the Natural History Museum, London; heads of brown and grizzly bears from North America as well as bison, moose and cayote; head of reindeer from Lapland, head of Yak from Tibet, head of markhor from Kashmir and ibex and baharal from the Himalaya; head of chamois from Transylvania and red deer from Scotland. The overwhelming majority, however, originate from eastern Africa. Indeed then museum curator C.S. Webb expressed anxiety in 1939 that the number of African specimens due to be transferred to the museum from Hundhowe following the opening of the annex might overwhelm the gallery,



Polar bear, with American Elk mounted on the wall above, donated by Harrison.

<sup>2</sup> Kendal Museum Records

and reported back to the council the details of a visit to Harrison at Hundhowe in which the two had discussed how best to balance the display.<sup>3</sup>

Harrison arrived in east Africa in 1895, the year the British government declared formal control over the ‘East Africa Protectorate’ in present day Kenya, and as work was beginning on the ‘Uganda Railway,’ which would run from Mombasa on the east coast, through to Lake Victoria and Uganda, then also a British Protectorate. Harrison’s military roles included leading operations to help secure the completion of the Uganda railway, the labour for which was primarily provided by workers from British controlled India. Richard Meinertzhagen, an English soldier, hunter, and collector who served under Harrison, recounts shooting a rhino with Harrison near the railway town of Nyeri on 20 August 1903:

*Today I marked a good rhino down for Harrison and took him out to shoot it. He took his shot at 40 yards and stunned the animal. Harrison’s gun-bearer rushed in and jumped on to the prostrate animal. But as soon as the rhino had recovered consciousness he struggled to his feet, upsetting the audacious fellow. Both Harrison and I fired together at the rhino’s brain and killed him instantly.<sup>4</sup>*



Memorial plaque to EG Harrison in the World Wildlife Gallery, with (amongst others) mounted heads of Besia Oryx, Sable and Roan Antelope, Eland, Giraffe and Polar Bear in the background, all donated by Harrison. The plaque reads: *This annex was specially designed and built for Colonel EG Harrison CB., DSO and presented by him to Kendal May 4<sup>th</sup> 1939. Clarence S Webb Hon. Curator.*

<sup>3</sup> Kendal Town Council, Minute 594, 1939

<sup>4</sup> Meinertzhagen, R. (1957) *Kenya diary, 1902-06*. Oliver and Boyd, p. 136

In *Permanent Way: The Story of the Kenya and Uganda Railway* M.F. Hill suggests that the railway transformed Kenya into something of a ‘playground for wealthy sportsmen who came to shoot, or to photograph, big game.’<sup>5</sup> The creation of game reserves, such as the North and South game reserves at roughly 13,000 square miles each in 1896,<sup>6</sup> and the increased numbers of tourists, hunters and settlers arriving via the railway, disrupted established relationships between people, wild animals, and ecosystems, and indigenous people were dispossessed of the right to live, hunt and graze their animals in their historic lands. The 1902 Crown Lands Ordinance further alienated indigenous communities, empowering the Commissioner of the Protectorate to grant land considered ‘unoccupied’ to European settlers. Harrison himself was granted some 5000 acres of grazing and agricultural land in 1912 near Gilgil after retiring from the army.<sup>7</sup>



These instruments were likely taken from indigenous communities in eastern Africa and donated to the museum by Harrison, although existing records are unclear. The author is working with the museum to identify their provenance and potentially return them to their community of origin.

As the Kenyan historian WR Ochieng notes, ‘practically everywhere in Kenya the imposition of colonial rule was stiffly resisted,’ this invariably being met with violence in the form of ‘retaliatory’ or ‘punitive’ expeditions: ‘There were hardly any African groups which in one way or another did not experience some violent confrontation with British punitive expeditions.’<sup>8</sup> In 1905/6 Harrison led one such punitive expedition, the ‘Nandi Field Force,’ at that time the second largest such force ever assembled in the Protectorate.<sup>9</sup> The objective was to ‘pacify’ the Nandi people, who had been particularly successful in mobilising resistance to British settlement, sabotaging railroad construction and communication infrastructure, attacking railroad workers and making use of their knowledge of upland terrain to enable effective evasion of punitive responses from the British. As a result, attempts to suppress Nandi resistance became more and more violent, targeting not only

<sup>5</sup> Hill, M.F. *Permanent Way The Story of the Kenya and Uganda Railway - Volume 1*. East African Literature Bureau, p. 443

<sup>6</sup> Chongwa, M. B. (2012). *The George Wright Forum*, vol. 29, no. 1, pp. 39–42

<sup>7</sup> *East Africa Protectorate Report for 1912-13*, no. 791

<sup>8</sup> Ochieng, W.R. 1985. *A history of Kenya*. Macmillan, p. 88-9

<sup>9</sup> Moyses-Bartlett, H. (1956). *The King's African Rifles: A Study in the Military History of East and Central Africa, 1890-1945 Vol. 1*. Gale and Poden, p. 201

Nandi fighters but also destroying Nandi villages and undermining Nandi agriculture.<sup>10</sup>

G. W. H. MANNING, Brigadier-General. Inspector-General, King's African Rifles commended Harrison for his role in the suppression of the Nandi resistance in a 1906 issue of the London Gazette:

*'Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Harrison, D.S.O., who has commanded the operations in the Nandi country, is deserving of special mention for the skilful manner in which he has planned and carried the operations to a successful conclusion. His knowledge of natives and of native methods of warfare has contributed greatly to the success achieved.'*<sup>11</sup>

In 1905 the Nandi spiritual and political leader Koitalel Arap Samoei was killed in an operation led by Richard Meinertzhagen, and signed off by Harrison. Many Kenyan sources suggest that Meinertzhagen, who's *Kenya Diary* describes his desire to 'bag' the Nandi leader in the same language used to describe the hunting of game, removed Koitalel Arap Samoei's head from his body and took it away as a trophy. Following the death of Samoei, the Nandi were forcibly restricted to a reservation away from the railway and the land most sought after by European settlers. Miriam Murei and colleagues estimate that '*some 3200 square kilometres of the land initially occupied by the Nandi was made available for Europeans,*' the Nandi being left with '*a reserve of 1800 square kilometres.*'<sup>12</sup>

The enduring legacy of British colonialism in Kenya remains a point of contestation today. Representatives of the Nandi community and descendants of Koitalel Arap Samoei, continue to make demands for an apology and compensation from the British government:

*'In fact, we don't request. In fact, we have to demand a public apology from the British government because of the atrocities they made on our people. The first one is an apology. After the apologies, we also expect a reparation.'*<sup>13</sup>

In 2023/24 Kendal Museum began engaging with members of the local community to 'reimagine' how the collections in the World Wildlife Gallery are framed. The connections between Harrison's taxidermy collection and the Nandi resistance to British colonialism have been highlighted as part of this project, the results of which will be on public display later this year.

*Joseph Rigby*

<sup>10</sup> Matson, A.T (1972). *Nandi Resistance to British Rule 1890–1906*. East African Publishing House

<sup>11</sup> *The London Gazette*, 18 September, 1906

<sup>12</sup> Murei, M., Nyanchoga, S. & Lilechi, M. (2020). Impact of colonialism on the indigenous farming practises of the Nandi people in Kenya, 1895-1963. *African Research Journal of Education and Social Sciences*, 7(3), p. 11

<sup>13</sup> *King Charles Expresses "Deepest Regret" for Colonial Violence in Kenya But Does Not Offer Apology*. (2023). Democracy Now! Retrieved 18 February 2025, from:

[https://www.democracynow.org/2023/11/1/headlines/king\\_charles\\_expresses\\_deepest\\_regret\\_for\\_colonial\\_violence\\_in\\_kenya\\_but\\_does\\_not\\_offer\\_apology](https://www.democracynow.org/2023/11/1/headlines/king_charles_expresses_deepest_regret_for_colonial_violence_in_kenya_but_does_not_offer_apology)

## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

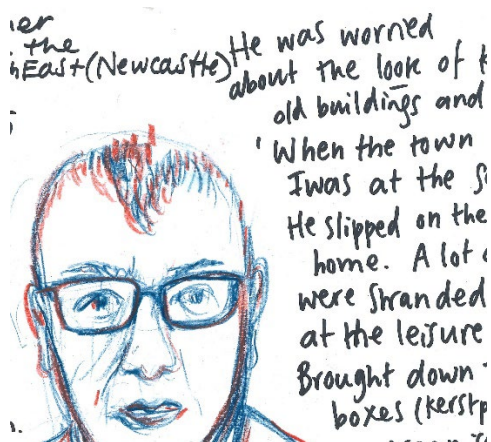
<b>Committee:</b> Mayoralty and Heritage	<b>Meeting Date:</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025
<b>From:</b> Town Clerk	<b>Agenda No:</b> 9a
<b>Description:</b> Report on donation of artwork	

### Background

Past Mayor of Kendal and former Town and County Councillor Chris Hogg has offered a pair of portraits drawn of him during the Lakeland International Comic Arts Festival (LICAF) in 2022. The drawings are by the internationally renowned artists Eva Hilhorst (Netherlands) and Judith Vanistendael (Belgium), who led Arts Council England-funded masterclasses at Space2Create during LICAF, as a part of a wider project financed by the Dutch and Belgian governments on the theme of Flooding.

The portraits include a narrative account of Chris’s experience of the 2015 Floods.

Both are on sheets of A3 craft paper. A sample is shown in the illustration below.



The pictures are currently in a cardboard tube, but could be flattened and mounted for display.

### Decision Required

Whilst the drawings are not of a style that is immediately consonant with most of the rest of the collection, they are relevant to both the civic and community history of Kendal, and come with direct provenance of international credibility. On this basis, they would qualify for inclusion in the Town Council collection.

The Committee is asked to consider whether the Council should accept the donation, or return the drawings to Chris Hogg.

## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

<b>Committee:</b> Mayoralty and Heritage	<b>Meeting Date:</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025
<b>From:</b> Simon Unsworth Events and Civic Officer	<b>Agenda No:</b> 9b
<b>Description:</b> Short report to feedback on developments relating to KTC’s heritage items and to make proposals for moving this forward.	

### Background

Kendal Town Council holds in trust for the people of Kendal a large number of pieces of art and other items of local, national and international significance. The majority of the pieces are on display in the Mayor’s Parlour or in the Picture Store (upstairs in the town Hall), with some artwork loaned out to W&F (notably the portraits in the Council Chamber) and other organisations. Given the importance of the collection, just under ten years ago a full Condition Survey was undertaken by Morag Clements from Kendal Museum assessing each individual item on what restoration may be required, the urgency (or not) of any work needed and the appropriateness of current storage conditions, assessing light levels, humidity, etc.

There is an ongoing discussion about the purpose of the collection and how individual items contribute to this purpose and to this end, in 2024 Kendal Town Council adopted a new Acquisition, Retention and Discard Policy. This policy clarifies that the purpose of the collection is to ‘To collect, conserve and make available for study and display heritage items relating to the development and history of the town of Kendal, with particular reference to the town’s Mayoralty and government’, and grades each item on a score of 1 to 6 to identify those which are important to keep or obtain and those which we might consider discarding by sale, loan or donation. The policy can be found on Kendal Town Council’s website.

The issue for KTC is that storage space is at a premium and we have more items that we can easily store or display so it feels appropriate in this 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the council’s formation and in a period where there are real collaborative moves to create a joint approach to protecting Kendal’s heritage to look at ways we can refresh and renew the Kendal Town Council collection to keep it relevant and accessible for the people of Kendal. Accordingly, the following proposals are made:

#### Proposal 1:

That a plan cabinet such as the one below be purchased to better house the various charters in the Mayor’s Parlour. This would increase their safety (they are currently kept in cardboard boxes lined with plasticote – an acid-free museum quality mounting material - and the boxes are getting very shabby, see picture below) and also means they will be easier to show during parlour talks. It is further proposed that KTC purchases this from a website like Vinterior so that we can get something that is in keeping with the décor of the rest of the Parlour. This item is likely to cost between £800 to £1800 depending on its size and quality– the one shown here is £1354 including delivery.



In making space for this piece, it is recommended that the small and larger round tables in the parlour and the small table that used to hold the Pattern Book (which is now kept in the safe) be removed. The Parlour may need some reorganisation to fit the plan cabinet and best display the charters. This would be planned and undertaken by KTC officers with appropriate help where appropriate.

## Proposal 2

That a working group be pulled together systemically go through all of the items in the heritage assets database to not only decide upon a Retention or Discard grading, but to come up with specific plans for those items that may be eligible to be discarded. This group should consist of representatives of:

- KTC Elected members (the Mayor, who will chair the group, and Deputy Mayor);
- KTC Officers (likely the event and civic officer and the town clerk)
- A W&F representative (Charlotte Hawley, who works in W&F's museums department, has expressed an interest in being on this group);
- A Representative from Kendal Museum (possibly Morag Clements);
- A Lakeland Arts representative.

Meetings would be supported by KTC via this report's author. This group would create a report containing plans as outlined about to be presented to the M&H committee and, if its proposals are accepted, to Full Council. This group will then look at the items in the picture store not currently on the Heritage Assets database and make recommendations on which should be added and which should be considered for moving on, again using the Retention, Acquisition and Discard policy.

## Proposal 3

Kendal Town Council has a kitchen in the Town Hall containing the Mayoral crockery (Colclough Bone China cups, saucers, side plates and bowls) as well as a large number of glasses, etc. Space in the kitchen is at a premium (the kitchen was reduced in size by about 80% in the Town Hall refurbishment) and the way the council supports its events has changed – we now use the crockery provided by W&F at the Town Hall rather than our own things. The Mayoral crockery set has suffered some breakages over the year and now has a mismatched number (for example, there are more cups than side plates), and we only really use it for small meetings in the Parlour. Accordingly, I propose reducing the size of the crockery set and glasses to 16 settings to save space. Some of the extra pieces could be kept as spares, but the rest (especially the glasses) can be donated to Oxfam or other charity.

## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

Committee: Mayoralty and Heritage	Meeting Date: 22 September 2025
From: Town Clerk	Agenda No: 10
Description: Budget 2026-2027	

### Background

The Committee must consider its expenditure aims for the next financial year, and make recommendations to the Council. Expenditure should be in keeping with the aims of the Council Plan.

It is proposed to raise the Mayoral allowances to reflect the impact of inflation over the last (at least) five years. The allowance for travel costs is also raised to keep in line with inflation over the previous five years.

Torchlight reception costs have been reduced in line with the costs savings made to the event in the previous two years.

Additional budget has been allocated to Remembrance, to allow for traffic management costs, should Cumbria Police decline to manage the road closure for the parade.

The budget for 'Pictures' pays for the annual curatorial inspection of the collection.

The Twinning budget supports the Council's aim of developing stronger ties with our twin towns in Germany and Ireland. It is proposed to increase this in 2026-27 to allow the Council to co-fund visits to the town by twinned Mayors.

The Exhibitions budget is expanded to assist in the provision made for the K-Shoes remaining items, and for more active support of the Local Heritage Partnership. A report on the future of the K Shoes items will be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

The Town Council has given £2,000 in unrestricted funding to Kendal Museum for several years. Additionally, as the sole Trustee of the building, the Council does not charge Kendal College for use of the building.

Item	2025-26	Proposed 26-27	Change
Mayoral Allowance	3,500	3,850	10%
Deputy Mayoral Allowance	1,500	1,650	10%
Mayoral Travel	800	1,000	25%
Mayor Making	2,100	2,100	0
Torchlight Reception	2,000	1,900	-5%
Remembrance	1,600	1,600	0
Pictures & Collection	250	250	0

Misc Functions and expenditure	4,000	3,800	-5%
Twinning	1,500	2,000	33%
Exhibitions, tours and heritage activities	1,000	3,000	200%
Museum	2,000	2,000	0
<b>Total</b>	20,250	<b>23,150</b>	<b>14.3%</b>

**Decision Required**

The Committee should consider the proposed budget and commend a final budget to the Management Committee’s Budget Working Group, for inclusion in the Council’s overall budget. The budget shown does not assume that it will be sourced exclusively by the Council Tax. The Budget Working Group may identify elements that could be drawn from existing reserves, such as the Arts and Heritage Reserve (a restricted fund), or the CIL Reserve.

The Budget Working Group will report to Management Committee in January 2026, and the Council will approve a Full Budget in February 2026.