

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 Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal, on Monday, 29 July 2024, 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
R Edwards	Present	D Evans	Absent
C Hardy	Apologies	A Finch	Apologies
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	Absent	M Severn	Present
P Thornton	Apologies	G Supka	Apologies
R Sutton	Present	G Tirvengadam	Present

In attendance: Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk).

The Mayor expressed the Council's sympathy and best wishes to Cllr Thornton, who was very poorly, and hoped that he would be back in post soon.

The Council received a presentation from Miriam Randall, the Chief Executive of Brewery Arts. Ms Randall said it was 2022 when she had last spoken to the Council, and wanted to update them on Brewery Art's activities since then. The organisation was still very much in 'recovery' mode back then, following the challenges of Covid. Now, despite the many challenges, things were going very well. The purpose of the organisation is to engage and inspire audiences, locally and beyond. The main programme is both eclectic and diverse, and in 2023 engaged over 135,000 visits with over 3,000 events. From this the Creative Learning segment of the programme had delivered 1,100 sessions to 11,200 attendees, over half of which were children. This included work with Kendal College, Brathay, Kendal Calling, Queen Elizabeth's School, The Knotted Project, Torchlight and several others. Ms Randall gave an overview of the organisation's future priorities, which included meeting the challenges of the site's location and design, and ensuring they continued to be fit for purpose whilst meeting some exacting environmental standards.

Following a brief series of questions from Councillors, which ranged from matters relating to the cinema, Torchlight and autistic children, the Mayor thanked Ms Randall for her presentation.

23/2024 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Archibald, Brook, Campbell, Coleman, Finch, Hardy, Helme, Supka and Thornton.

24/2024 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

25/2024 Exclusion of Press and Public

There were no excluded items included within the agenda.

26/2024 Minutes of Last Council Meeting

Resolved: To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3 June 2024 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

27/2024 Minute Action Sheet

Members considered a report on actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings of the Council. The Clerk drew their attention to actions taken by the Management and Audit Committees on the issue of Civility and Respect, and also to the challenges of training and familiarisation for Councillors across a range of issues.

Resolved: To note the report.

28/2024 Mayor's Communications and Announcements

The Council received a report from the Mayor on his recent activities. He explained that he had been kept very busy, including, on one Friday, five separate engagements. He was also looking forward to visiting our Twin Town of Rinteln in Germany in August, accompanied by the Kendal Concert band, who would be performing at a range of venues. It was noted that the Deputy Mayor had also been active, and the Clerk conformed that the Deputy Mayor's activity list would also be reported at future meetings.

Resolved: To note the report.

29/2024 Kendal Futures

Council was provided with an update from Paula Scott, Nick Taylor and Noel Farrer of Kendal Futures on their current activities supporting the Kendal Vision, followed by an opportunity for questions. Futures has a scheme of interest groups looking at specific aspects of the Vision. The Placemaking group has been looking at 'bad buildings' and has recently challenged British Heart Foundation to improve the external appearance of its shop in Kendal. The Travel and Transport group, chaired by a local landscape architect has been looking at how we can improve our streetscene, including the modern use of trees in the street, not in boxes. Group meeting dates will be circulated to members.

They went on to explain how Futures has developed strong links with local businesses, has collaborated with other organisations to develop ideas of 'meanwhile use' for vacant property and has encouraged career programmes to emphasise flexibility and training. Councillors expressed support for the KF role in strategic planning, noting the alignment of interests between the Town Council and KF. It was noted that specific issues of agreement, such as the development of the Lakes Line may be harder to fund in the current financial circumstances, nationally, but would be kept on the agenda.

The Chair thanked KF for their presentation and ongoing work for the betterment of the town.

Resolved: To note the update from Kendal Futures.

30/2024 Subscriptions and Memberships

Council considered subscription and membership of the following organisations:

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| (a) | Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) | £2,512.46 (includes £1,828.42 To NALC) |
| (b) | National Allotments Society | £55 |
| (c) | Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) | £357 |

Resolved: To subscribe to membership of the above-mentioned organisations.

31/2024 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 29 April 2024 (the minutes of the previous meeting of the Allotments Committee had been attached to the agenda for the meeting of Full Council held on 3 June 2024) – Cllr Finch presented the minutes.
- (b) Culture and Communities Committee on 10 June 2024. Cllr Ladhams presented the minutes. She reported that the presentation by Christmas Plus had been successful in winning a new agreement for the Christmas Lighting display.
- (c) Mayoralty and Heritage Committee on 17 June 2024. Cllr Cornthwaite presented the minutes. He drew attention to the success of the recent Slavery Trail at the Unity Festival.
- (d) Planning Committee on 3 June, 17 June, 1 July and 15 July 2024. Cllr Rathbone presented the minutes.

Council was further asked to consider the request under (b) above from the Culture and Communities Committee that the Torchlight Festival was allowed an additional £5,000 in support grant, in line with 2023's decision.

Resolved: To allow the Torchlight Festival an additional £5,000 in support grant, in line with the decision of 2023.

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

32/2024 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

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

- Integrated Community Care (ICC) (a written report from Cllr R Sutton). He added that the local surgeries were taking part in a study on how their environment can be improved to meet the needs of people with autism.
- Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership (a written report from Cllr L Hendry). She drew the Council's attention to the 'Canalathon' being run at Crooklands at the end of August, and a scything course being run on 5-September.

- South Lakes Action on Climate Change (a written report from Cllr S Blunden). He also drew the Council's attention to SLACC's recent successes at challenging the West Cumbria Coalmine.
- South Lakes Dementia Community Hub (a written report from Cllr R Sutton)

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

33/2024 Schedule of Payments

The Council was presented with the schedule of payments for May and June 2024.

Resolved: To receive the schedule of payments for May and June 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.13pm.