

Kendal Town Council

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



Minutes of a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on Tuesday, 21 October 2025, at 6.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Kendal Town Council Members

Cllr A Blackman (Chair)	Present	Cllr D Brown	Present
Cllr E Hennessy	Present	Cllr L Hendry	Present
Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair)	Present		

Co-optees

A Yates (Kendal Civic Society)	Present	C Stuart-Smith (Horticulture)	Not present
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In attendance: Janine Holt (Council Services Manager), Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk) Becca Hewitson (Projects Officer) and Pierre Labat (Townscape Officer).

B10/2025 Apologies

No apologies for absence had been submitted.

B11/2024 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised.

B12/2025 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

B13/2025 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on 22 June 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

B14/2025 Minute Action Sheet

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

The Council Services Manager reported that she was meeting Shelagh Todd in November, but the Town Clerk had already had a preliminary session.

Some of the summer planters will be removed and re-used a Town View Community Garden – this project was just awaiting formal approval from Westmorland and Furness Council.

Resolved: To note the report.

B15/2025 Review of Spend against Budget 2025/26

The Council Services Manager presented a review of spend against budget 2024/25 as at 30 September 2025. She explained that she was expecting an underspend in the Displays budget, some of which she would like to vire to the Projects budget to ensure there were sufficient funds for the Projects Officer to make good progress in the current financial year at Kirkland.

Resolved: To vire £2,000 from Displays (440 4900) to Projects and Grants (440 4905).

Resolved: to note the report.

B16/2025 Kendal in Bloom Grant Application

The Committee considered a grant application from Manna House to support the maintenance of their Memory Garden. The application had been passed to in Bloom from the Culture & Communities Committee, who felt the KIB Grant was a better fit. It was noted that the organisation had also applied to several other funders.

Resolved: To award a grant of £500 from the Projects and Grants budget.

B17/2025 Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project

The Projects Officer presented a report on the progress of the Kirkland Project. She would be facilitating the first community group meeting tomorrow (22 October) at the Abbot Hall Social Centre and was expecting 8 from the 16 volunteers who have expressed an interest so far to be present. Also in attendance would be Astrid Mohr from Lakeland Arts and Nicola Metcalfe from W&FC.

The new sign at the Peace Garden was now in place and further advice was being sought from Shelagh Todd about next step maintenance.

The report included an update on the Dowkers Lane beds, and there was some discussion on the merits of retaining ivy on trees, or removing it. The W&FC tree officer had recommended removing the ivy to better support the tree. Cadent Gas had agreed to fund the cost of new plant, as a community contribution after they had been carrying out disruptive works in the area recently. The Clerk reminded the Committee that there was also an Active Travel scheme progressing through the area which might also impact on the planting.

The report requested approval for three specific actions from the Projects budget and these were resolved as follows

Resolved: To approve £200 for additional plants at the Peace Garden.

Resolved: To allocate up to £2,900 for improvement works on the Dowkers Lane bed

Resolved: To allocate the £500 from Cadent Gas to the Dowkers Lane bed.

The Chair thanked the Projects Officer for the exciting progress being made in this area and the Committee noted the report.

Resolved: To note the report.

B18/2025 Horticultural Advisor

The Committee received a report from the Council Services Manager on the contracting of a Horticulturalist to improve the Council's knowledge of horticultural matters.

Resolved: To allocate £640 in the current year and £720 in the next year to engage Shelagh Todd as horticultural advisor.

B19/2025 Draft Budget 2026/27

The Clerk presented a report on the proposed Draft Budget for 2026/27. It suggested lifting the Floral Displays budget by 4.6% to deal with inflation, volatility and the engagement of the horticultural advisor, and splitting the Projects and Grants headings, with a £2,000 allocation to Grants and £6,000 to Projects. The total budget requirement would be £40,000, a 9.3% increase on the previous year.

The Committee concurred with the recommendations in the report.

Resolved: To accept the Draft budget as set out in the report, and forward it to the Budget Working Group for incorporation into the Council's full budget.

B20/2025 Civic Planting Report

The Committee received a report from the Council Services Manager updating them on the Civic planting. The winter plants arrived today and would be planted up over the next few days. Compost will be drawn from the Canal Head composting facility. The Townscape Officer reported that many of the geraniums from Windermere Road would be rehomed through Waste into Wellbeing, rather than composted. Cllr Hendry offered to supply some of her surplus pots to assist in this process.

Planters from Dowkers Lane, Nobles Rest and Natland Mill Beck Lane would be re-purposed at Town View garden for growing vegetables.

Resolved: To note the report.

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.