

Kendal Town Council

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



Minutes of a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on Tuesday, 22 October 2024, at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Kendal Town Council Members

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

Co-optees

J Cottam	Not present	C Stuart-Smith (Horticare)	Apologies
A Yates (Kendal Civic Society)	Present		

Also present: Rachel Eardley (Horticare Supervisor).

In attendance: Janine Holt (Council Services Officer) and Pierre Labat (Townscape Officer), Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk), Natalia Williams (Deputy Town Clerk).

B9/2024 Apologies

Resolved: To receive and accept apologies for absence from Cllrs Hennessy and Finch, and from Caroline Stuart-Smith.

B10/2024 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

B11/2024 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

B12/2024 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on 23 July 2024 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

B13/2024 Minute Action Sheet

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

The Council Services Officer reported that she was still discussing the first draft of a new planting strategy from consultants. The Chair offered to assist in the ongoing discussion.

It was noted that Claire in the KTC office was now posting In Bloom items to the Town Council Facebook page.

An event planned for 6 November was now pushed back into the new year.

Some crossover of concern with the Council's Environment Committee was noted, particularly for sites such as the BT building on Blackhall Road.

Resolved: To note the report.

B14/2024 Review of Spend against Budget 2024/25

The Council Services Officer presented a review of spend against budget 2024/25 as at 10 October 2024. It was noted that the Townscape Officer's plans for expanding compost production at Canal Head for the civic planting, expected to be in the region of £2,000 (max) would come from the Projects budget. This would be considered later in the meeting as an item.

Resolved: To note the report.

B15/2024 Budget Review 2025/26

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

The report included the following table which showed the current budget and estimated outturn. The next column showed the estimated amount required in the next financial year to complete the Council's actions. The final column showed the percentage variance on the previous year's budget.

Item	Current year	Expected outturn	Proposed 25-26	% variance
Floral Displays	30,000	28,500	30,600	+2%
Projects and Grants	6,000	6,000	6,000	0
Total	36,000	34,500	36,600	+1.67%

In 2024, it had been anticipated that there would be a change in the grounds maintenance contractor at Westmorland and Furness Council, which would coincide with the Town Council's own contract terms. This had not taken place in a practical timescale, so it was likely that the Town Council would extend its contract with the existing supplier for another year, and then deal with the new contractor/organisation next winter. There were some ambitious plans for improvements in the planting regime which it was anticipated would be met by the major uplift in the Floral Displays budget in the previous year. It was proposed to increase this line by a small allowance for inflation. Projects and Grants remained at the same level as the previous year.

Resolved: To recommend the proposed budget requirements for the next financial year, as attached to the report and outlined above, for consideration by the Management Committee prior to presentation to Full Council.

B16/2024 Kendal in Bloom Working Group

The Committee had, at its last meeting, agreed to undertake a thorough review of the Kendal in Bloom initiative and to establish a working group to develop a strategy and report back to the Committee. It was noted that most members present were also on the Working Group.

The working group met every month. Taking into account the ongoing flood works in Kendal, the group had felt it appropriate to develop a three-year strategy with the following aims:

- To help to develop a community who are empowered and have a sense of pride in their locality
- To create an attractive town centre.
- To ensure partnership involvement – Westmorland and Furness Council, Kendal Futures, Kendal BID.
- Focussed promotion of Bloom, using social media platforms.
- To develop a structure to identify and support community champions and groups.
- To develop a sustainable civic planting strategy.
- To provide funding support for community groups.

It had been suggested to host an open event in the first quarter of 2025. The event would aim to outline the priorities and new direction of the Kendal in Bloom Committee. The event would provide community groups, businesses, stakeholders, etc., the opportunity to put forward ideas.

The group had identified specific locations within Kendal which would benefit from some 'TLC'. This would be focused around the southern end of Highgate, Kirkland and Gillinggate. The group's aspiration was to support existing community groups to develop specific areas within their locality. The Town Council could provide support by liaising with landowners for permission to develop, providing small funding support, creating interest and promoting the community group's activity on social media platforms.

Resolved: To accept the recommendation of the Working Group to focus efforts on Highgate/Kirkland area

B17/2024 Participation in Cumbria in Bloom 2025

The Chair explained that for many years, Kendal Town Council had participated in the annual Cumbria in Bloom competition. The ongoing flood works had caused significant disruption across Kendal, resulting in challenges co-ordinating a route for the Cumbria in Bloom judges. To achieve the longer term aims of the In Bloom process, the Working Group recommended that the Council did not submit an entry into Cumbria in Bloom for the whole in 2025. It was noted that individual groups and areas would continue to enter the programme through 'It's Your Neighbourhood'. The Committee was asked to decide on the specific point of participation in the 2025 Cumbria in Bloom competition.

Resolved: To not enter Cumbria in Bloom for the town in 2025.

B18/2024 Civic Planting

Members were presented with a montage of images of the 2024 Summer Civic Planting.

Resolved: To note the montage of images of the 2024 Summer Civic Planting.

B19/2024 Composting

The Townscape Officer reported that he had developed an interest in composting and incorporating this into his role at the Town Council. The Council currently used 56 bags of Multipurpose 80ltr costing £359 pa. He proposed to save this, and the £160 pa for green waste disposal, by expanding composting capacity at Canal Head.

He proposed to expand the area of hardcore on the site, which would allow him to double the number of compost bins. The scheme was expected to cost less than £2,000 for hardcore, timber, materials and labour.

Resolved: To approve the scheme from Project funding.

B20/2024 Kendal in Bloom Grant Application

The Committee considered an application from Kirkbie Green Community Group for the sum of £500 towards ongoing work/maintenance of their Kendal in Bloom project.

Resolved: To award a grant of £500.

The meeting closed at 6.53 p.m.