

# Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4DD  
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## Minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee held on Monday, 15 December 2025, at 7.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Cllr J Brook	Apologies	Cllr J Cornthwaite	Present
Cllr J Dunlop	Apologies	Cllr L Hendry	Present
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 Simon Unsworth (Events and Civic Officer)

### MH24/2025 Apologies

**Resolved:** To accept apologies from Cllrs Brook and Dunlop.

### MH25/2025 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Cornthwaite, Hendry, Ladhams and Sutton drew the Committee's attention to their various relationships with Kendal Rinteln Association, mostly as a consequence of their role as councillors.

### MH26/2025 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

### MH27/2025 Minutes from the Last Meeting

The Meeting noted a few typos in the minutes of the previous meeting and that Cllr Brook had in fact been present, not absent. These would be corrected on a clean copy for the Chair to sign.

**Resolved:** To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

### MH28/2025 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.

### MH29/2025 Review of Spend against Budget 2025/26

It was noted that the museum had not yet requested its money from Kendal Town Council.

There was a brief discussion held around the position of the council as Trustee of the

museum building in relation to Westmorland and Furness Council and the College. There would be a meeting of the Trustees of the building in February at which it was hoped that W&FC would present a more definite plan for the museum going forwards.

**Resolved:** That the Town Clerk reminds Kendal Museum to request their funds.

**Resolved:** That further details relating to the Town Council's role as sole Trustee of the College and Museum buildings be considered at a specially convened meeting of the Trustee body on the rising of the Council in February.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

### **MH30/2025 Budget 2026/27**

The Clerk reported that an additional budget had been requested, subsequent to the previous meeting but following the meeting of the Kendal Rinteln Association. The request from the Mayor was submitted to the Management Committee who agreed to pass it on to the Budget Working Group. The Budget Working Group however had now proposed that this additional amount was reduced in order to keep the overall cost to Council Taxpayers of the Council's plans to a sum below a 10% increase. The Committee expressed disappointment at this decision and asked the Budget Working Group to reconsider (Cllrs Ladhams and Russell are members of the Working Group). The additional funding would be to support the strengthening of the Twinning relationship with Rinteln. The Clerk suggested any subsequent increase would doubtless be subject to reassurances that it was not spent on travel and hospitality for members.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk would report the request to the Budget Working Group, who would in due course report their findings to the Management Committee, and in turn the Full Council.

### **MH31/2025 Kendal Flag and Flagpole**

The Committee considered a report on the purchase and installation of a flag and flag pole, to meet the Committee's aim of having independent control over what flag flew and when in the town. However, concerns were raised that in the current climate the advocating of specific flags might be seen as inappropriate. It was suggested that the spend could be better used on more practical things that benefit people and may generate bad publicity/feeling. Members did not feel there was sufficient consultation on whether the public felt this was something the Council should deliver.

The Clerk drew members' attention to the part of the report that outlined a consultation process, but no consensus emerged on the specific proposal to pursue the project as outlined. It was suggested that use might be made of other flag poles around the town, such as the one at County Hall. It was proposed that, as an interim measure, the council purchases a flag and investigates flying it from existing poles and that the issue of the flagpole be revisited at a later date. No specific budget was identified for this.

**Resolved:** That the Council investigate getting a flag designed and purchased.

### **MH32/2025 Kendal Local Heritage Partnership**

The Heritage Partnership had met and would meet again in January. A steering group had also been formed and met recently. The issue of the Quaker Tapestry Museum closing was discussed, with Cllr Russell explaining that there are three sets of trustees involved and all need to be involved in ongoing discussion. There may be a need for increased use of

volunteers, and improved promotion. The Heritage partnership can offer support as needed.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

### **MH33/2025 Kendal Museum**

Discussion was held around the current position of the museum, which is not particularly promising. Members felt that it was important that Kendal Town Council is involved in discussions around the future of the Museum, especially since the Town Council was the sole trustee of the building. The Clerk was asked if the Council as Trustee had Trustee insurance. He did not think that it did. He went on to remind members of the complex legacy of the Museum's operation, with the collections being owned in trust by Westmorland and Furness Council, but the buildings held trust by the Town Council as a charity. As previously reported in the meeting, there would be a meeting of the Trustee body convened after Full Council in February, at which the Clerk hoped to give a proper briefing to members about their limited scope for action in this matter.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

### **MH34/2025 Town Council Collection**

The Committee considered a report from the Events and Civic Officer on the progress made towards a sustainable future for the Town Hall Collection.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

### **MH35 Civic Events**

The Committee considered a report from the Events and Civic Officer on recent events, including the Mayor's Coffee Morning and the Christmas Lights Switch on. Future events in this Mayoral year would include a Charity Dinner (or equivalent event) and a Civic Reception celebrating 450 years of local government in Kendal.

**Resolved:** to note the report

### **MH36/2025 Twinning**

Cllr Ladhams reported that she had visited Rinteln and that it had been a successful and enjoyable trip.

Concerns were expressed about the state of the relationship with Killarney, which appeared very flat, and discussion was held around this. The Events and Civic Officer clarified that Killarney are invited to all Kendal events. The Clerk explained that the civic structure in Killarney had changed recently, which might explain the dampening of the relationship. It may improve in the future, depending on the individuals involved.

### **MH37/2025 Newsletter and Publicity**

The Clerk explained that we have been much more proactive using social media and the press recently, and that this is having some success. It was suggested that the newsletter could highlight any good news about the Quaker Tapestry Museum if there is any.

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

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.