

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 450th Anniversary of the Town Council's Charter, and the 80th 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 450th 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.