

Kendal Town Council

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



Minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee held on Monday, 22 September 2025, at 7.00 p.m. in the Chairman's Room at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Cllr J Brook	Present	Cllr J Cornthwaite	Present
Cllr J Dunlop	Apologies	Cllr L Hendry	Present
Cllr H Ladhams (Vice-Chair)	Present	Cllr C Russell	Apologies
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)

MH11/2025 Apologies

Resolved: To accept apologies from Cllr Dunlop and Cllr Russell.

MH12/2025 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Brook, Ladhams and Cornthwaite declared that as members of Westmorland and Furness Council they had an interest in Kendal museum as holders in trust of its collections.

MH13/2025 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

MH14/2025 Minutes from the Last Meeting

Resolved: To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee held on 16th June 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

MH15/2025 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.

MH16/2025 Review of Spend against Budget 2025/26

The Committee considered its budget monitoring report as at 15th September 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 storage of the remaining items from the K Shoes Collection; this would be addressed moving forward.

Resolved: To note the report.

MH17/2025 Kendal Local Heritage Partnership

The Town Clerk reported that the first meeting was generally felt to be a success, although it was recognised that there is a huge amount to do. Discussion was held around possible locations for a future Kendal Museum, including looking at County Hall, the Westmorland Centre and the Allen Institute.

Resolved: To accept the report and continue to work towards the development of a more linked-together heritage provision for Kendal.

MH18/2025 Kendal Museum's Harrison Collection

Discussion was held around the possible repatriation of items from the museum to the Nandi people in Kenya.

Resolved: Cllr Brook to ascertain who within Westmorland & Furness Council would make any decision on this, as the museum's collections are held in trust by W&FC.

Resolved: To support the repatriation of Nandi objects by W&FC.

MH19a/2025 Report on Donation of Artwork

The Committee considered a report on the donation of artwork from former Councillor and Mayor of Kendal Chris Hogg, relating to his time as Mayor during the floods of 2015, and drawn by artists in residence during the Lakeland International Comic Arts Festival (LICAF).

Resolved: To accept the artwork offered by Chris Hogg, and to allocate the works an acquisition rating according to the previously agreed policy.

MH19b/2025 Report on the developments relating to KTC's heritage items with proposals

The Committee considered a report from the Events and Civic Officer on a variety of actions relating to the preservation of the historic collection and reduction of surplus generic items in the Mayor's Kitchen.

Resolved: To accept the report.

Resolved: The Events and Civic Officer will source an appropriate plan cabinet to house the charters in the Mayor's Parlour

Resolved: That the Events and Civic Officer will pull together a working group to look at the status of various heritage items in relation to retention or discard, and to make specific recommendations about these items.

Resolved: That the items in the Mayor's kitchen may be reduced in number in line with the different approach to how the Council manages its events and meetings. Unwanted items will be offered to councillors and/or charities, as appropriate.

MH20/2025 Anniversaries in 2025

A verbal update was given on the work to celebrate the town council's 450th anniversary year, which begins on 28th November 2025.

Resolved: To note the verbal updates. Events and Civic Officer to bring concrete proposals for merchandise and events to a future meeting.

MH21/2025 Twinning

A brief verbal update was given by several members of the Twinning Association. There is to be a twinning lunch hosted by the KRA in October at Carus Green with representatives from other Twinning associations and councils – the date has been carefully chosen to ensure it did not get linked with VE and VJ Day activities but focussed on 80 years of friendship. Discussion was held around the importance of displaying the Twinning memorabilia to highlight the relationships, and of developing a better way of presenting gifts to our twinning counterparts. It was suggested that local charities might be able to create something in the way that a Killarney charity had created wooden pens. The Twinning Association has produced some calendars in association with WOSP, which are priced at £10 each and will be available for sale at Full Council.

Resolved: To note the verbal update.

MH22/2025 Budget 2026-2027

The Committee considered a report on its budgetary requirements for the next financial year. The Town Clerk explained the reasoning behind a number of the proposed increases, to match the expectations of supporting the Mayoralty.

Item	Proposed 26-27
Mayoral Allowance	3,850
Deputy Mayoral Allowance	1,650
Mayoral Travel	1,000
Mayor Making	2,100
Torchlight Reception	1,900
Remembrance	1,600
Pictures & Collection	250
Misc Functions and expenditure	3,800
Twining	2,000
Exhibitions, tours and heritage activities	3,000
Museum	2,000
Total	23,150

Resolved: It was resolved to propose the budget above to the next stage of the Council's budget making process.

MH23/2025 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 Resilience and the Rinteln Twinning Association lunch.

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

The meeting closed at 8.59 p.m.