

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, 24 March 2024, at 7.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Cllr J Brook	Apologies	Cllr J Cornthwaite (Chair)	Present
Cllr J Dunlop	Present	Cllr L Hendry	Present
Cllr D Rathbone	Apologies	Cllr C Russell	Present
Cllr M Severn	Absent	Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair)	Present
Cllr G Tirvengadam	Present		

In attendance: Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk), Inge Booth (Democratic Services Assistant), and Simon Unsworth (Events and Civic Officer).

Also present: Rob David.

MH40/2024 Chairman's Announcement

The Mayor welcomed Members to his last meeting as Chair of the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee. He said that it had been a pleasure to Chair this Committee which dealt with Kendal's heritage. He referred to the work which had been undertaken during the year and to the work which remained for the future.

MH41/2024 Apologies

Resolved: To receive and accept apologies for absence from Cllrs Brook and Rathbone.

MH42/2024 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

MH43/2024 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

MH44/2024 Minutes from the Last Meeting

Resolved: To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee held on 16 December 2024 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

MH45/2024 Minute Action Sheet

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

Item Ref. No.15 – Twinning – The Town Clerk reported that good contact had been made with the Mayor of Killarney, with the Mayor having recently attended Kendal Town Council's Mayor's Charity Dinner.

Item Ref. No.29 – Museum Provision – The Town Clerk advised that the meeting of a Friends of Kendal's Heritage Group had taken place and that an item on the subject appeared later on in the agenda.

Items Refs. Nos. 28 and 31 – Kendal Flag – The Events and Civic Officer reported that the outcome with regard to the flag location was awaited, with formal permission having been sought from the Church Trustees. A supplier for the flag and pole had been identified. The next step would be to agree a suitable design.

Item Ref. No.30 – Inter-Faith Groups – Reference was raised with regard to an approach from the Interfaith Forum which was seeking support from the Town Council and, in addition, attendance by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor at their festival. They had been advised to make a submission to the Culture and Communities Committee. Cllr Tirvengadam undertook to discuss the matter further with the Group and to report back.

Resolved: To note the report.

MH46/2024 Review of Spend against Budget 2024/25

The Committee considered its budget monitoring report as at 10 March 2025. The Town Clerk drew attention to a proposed virement which appeared at Item No.9 (Twinning) on the agenda.

Resolved: To note the budget monitoring report as at 10 March 2025.

MH47/2024 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 addressed the Committee in relation to progress in the development of a Museum for Kendal. He advised that Rob David, who had previously addressed the Committee, would attend to speak at 7.30 p.m., and sought agreement for the item to be considered at that time.

The Town Clerk referred to a recent meeting of the Kendal Museum Management Partnership at which he had represented the Town Council, which was trustee of the building. A subsequent meeting was scheduled to take place in the following week between himself, Westmorland and Furness Council's Director of Communities and the Principal of Kendal College. The Town Clerk advised that once he had something to report back to Members, he would convene a meeting of the Trustee Body which was, in fact, the Council. Issues need to be ascertained in relation to conditions of the collection and the forthcoming closure of Brockhole as a Visitor Centre, as well as a number of other challenges.

Discussion on the item would continue under Minute No. MH49/2024 below.

MH48/2024 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 together with Members of the Culture and Communities Committee to establish an appropriate

programme of events. The Committee was provided with a verbal update on the actions made and required for the two principal anniversaries in 2025.

The Events and Civic Officer reported on discussions by the Culture and Communities Committee. A plan was in place for D-day, with the necessary permissions being sought from the landowner. The Royal British Legion, which would be celebrating the event at the weekend, would join in on the Town Council's events on the day, first at the War Memorial and on Castle Hill in the evening. The tea dance at the Town Hall had been arranged, with the Kendal Concert Big Band due to attend to play period appropriate tunes, on the afternoon of 9 May.

Time remained to plan for the 450th Anniversary of the Town Council's Charter, however, a vague plan was being developed for the celebration in November, with all other Town Council events throughout the year being related to the Anniversary.

With regard to VJ-day, discussion had taken place around improvements to the Peace Garden, with Men in Sheds having advised that the pole required only annual treatment. The Kendal in Bloom Committee was looking at planting up the Peace Garden, for which budget would be required. Following the planned rededication event at the Peace Garden, refreshments would be available, perhaps at Waste into Wellbeing.

In response to a query, the Events and Civic Officer explained that the D-day event at the War Memorial would likely take place at 11.00 a.m., with the evening event commencing when darkness fell. A timeline had been developed and an events plan produced. Road closures would be required and permissions sought from Westmorland and Furness Council.

Resolved: To note the actions made and required for the two principal anniversaries in 2025.

MH49/2024 Museum Provision in Kendal

Rob David addressed the Committee, speaking on behalf of both himself and Judith Anstee who was unable to attend the meeting. He expressed thanks to the Mayor for calling the first meeting of the Local Heritage Partnership and Kendal in 100 Objects which had taken place on 6 March 2025. Details including the outline of the meeting, the draft Terms of Reference and the list of attendees had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr David reported that a large number of interested and enthusiastic people had attended. Discussion had taken place around the establishment of a Local Heritage Partnership and on the Kendal in 100 Objects initiative, with an initial grant application to the Arts Council for England. Support had been indicated, as well as several offers for funding and one organisation even having offered some degree of match funding. Since the meeting, Lakeland Arts had continued to construct the bid to the Arts Council. A significant issue raised had been that of how to maintain momentum moving forward. It had been felt that the success of the group would be dependent on the enthusiasm of members and on the Chair. The group had some views as to who to invite to be an independent Chair and sought the Town Council's views.

Part Two

The next part of the item was considered following a resolution to exclude the Press and Public, with the exception of Rob David, due to the confidential or commercial sensitivity of the discussion.

MH50/2024 Museum Provision in Kendal

Rob David informed the Committee of two potential individuals who could be approached with regard to taking up the position of independent Chair or potentially Vice-Chair of the Local Heritage Partnership. Also discussed was the matter of who would act as Secretary for the Group, it being suggested that Kendal Town Council may be able to offer assistance. This, it was felt, was a matter for future discussion and that the approach currently under consideration today could simply be noted. Also raised was the matter of Town Council representation on the Group and the need to set a date for the next meeting once Lakeland Arts had created a bid to the Arts Council.

Part One

A resolution was made to re-admit the Press and Public to the meeting for the remainder of the meeting.

MH51/2024 Museum Provision in Kendal

Stressed was the importance of success in the grant application to the Arts Council toward the Kendal in 100 Object initiative.

Resolved: Rob David to approach the individuals referred to within Minute No. MH50/2024 above to seek their interest in becoming Independent Chair of the Local Heritage Partnership.

Resolved: To note the verbal updates.

MH52/2024 Twinning

Note – During discussion on part (a) of the item, it was raised that five Members present had an interest by virtue of the fact that they were members of the Kendal Rinteln Association. To this end, the Town Clerk provided a dispensation 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 proposal to vire sufficient remaining unspent budget funds to assist the KRA in supporting a visit to Rinteln by Ibis FC's junior teams. The KRA had suggested that the Town Council match funded its £500 support for the trip.

During discussion, it was raised that this was a special case, with the Town Council always having put funding through KRA rather than directly form itself and with one of the Council's aims being to nurture twinning relations with Rinteln and Killarney.

The Town Clerk explained that not enough funding remained in the Twinning Budget and that part would need to be vired from the Exhibitions budget which remained unspent. It was suggested, however, that the full amount should be vired from the Exhibitions budget.

Resolved: To vire the sum of £500 from the Exhibitions budget to assist the KRA in supporting a visit to Rinteln by Ibis FC's junior teams.

(b) The Committee was provided with a brief verbal report on the activities and affairs of the Town's two twinning relationships. Reference was made to the recent visit by the Mayor of Killarney at the Mayor's Charity Dinner. The Events and Civic Officer informed the Committee that he was developing a good relationship with Killarney's Municipal Officer. The Mayor suggested the need to build a stronger connection and the potential for a return visit for either himself or the incoming Mayor during the forthcoming year.

Resolved: To note the verbal update.

MH53/2024 Newsletter and Publicity

The Committee was asked to consider whether any items should be included in the next edition of the Council's newsletter (Summer 2025). It was pointed out that press coverage for this meeting was restricted by the period of pre-election sensitivity.

The Events and Civic Officer raised the need for publicity in relation to Kendal's heritage and the 450th Anniversary of the Town Council's Charter, also drawing attention to forthcoming heritage open day events. The Town Clerk also hoped that by the time the Council's Summer Newsletter was due to be published, it may be possible to include an article regarding Kendal in 100 Objects.

The Mayor took the opportunity to remind Members to make a note of 8 May in their diaries and hoped to see as many of them as possible either in the Market Place during the day or at the evening event on Castle Hill. He again thanked Members of the Committee for their support during his Mayoral Year.

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

The meeting closed at 8.18 p.m.