

Kendal Town Council

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



Minutes of a meeting of Kendal Town Council held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal, on Monday, 7 April 2026, at 7.30 p.m.

G Archibald	Present	A Blackman	Present
S Blunden	Apologies	J Brook	Present
D Brown	Present	J Cornthwaite	Present
S Coleman	Apologies	L Edwards	Present
J Dunlop	Present	D Evans	Absent
R Edwards	Present	A Finch	Apologies
S Falshaw	Present	E Hennessy	Present
L Hendry	Absent	S Long	Present
H Ladhams	Present	C Russell	Present
T Martland	Present	K Simpson	Present
D Rathbone	Present	R Sutton	Present
M Severn	Absent	G Tirvengadam	Apologies
G Supka	Apologies		
P Thornton	Absent		

In attendance: Natalia Williams (Deputy Town Clerk), Tom Rumsey (Community Resilience Officer), Judith Lomax (Deputy Town Clerk – Maternity Cover).

Sardhar Aftab Khan, Senior Emergency Planner at Westmorland and Furness Council

Candidates for the co-option election for Heron Hill Ward and Kirkland Ward.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

74/2025 Apologies

Resolved: To receive and accept apologies for absence from Cllrs Blunden, Finch, Supka, Tirvengadam

75/2025 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

76/2025 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

Resolved: Prior to consideration, to vote on moving into Part Two for consideration of Agenda Items Nos. 8 (Co-option of Members for Kirkland and Heron Hill Wards) and 13 (Wainwright Award 2025-26).

77/2025 Minutes of Last Council Meeting

It was noted that Councillor Hendry submitted apologies for the meeting.

Resolved: To receive the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 2 February 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

78/2025 Minute Action Sheet

Councillors were presented with the minute action sheet.

Resolved: To note the actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings of the Council.

79/2025 Mayor's Communications and Announcements

The Mayor presented a report on recent activities and engagements. Several events were highlighted, including the Kirkland volunteers planting event at Dowker's Lane, Kendal College Career Fair, a Creative Arts event hosted by the Allan Institute, the Chinese Film Festival and the Women's Institute AGM promotion of British Wool.

The Mayor also highlighted the upcoming Charity Afternoon Tea, which would be taking a different format to previous years but was to raise money for his chosen charities. The event will be taking place on Saturday 18th April and Councillors and public were encouraged to attend.

It was also highlighted that the Mayor had continued to pursue his theme of volunteering and that throughout the year, he had been impressed by the kindness and support from community. The volunteer projects had been an eye opener and worthy of admiration. He expressed thanks to Councillor Ladhams for her work as Deputy Mayor and the Officer team for their continued work.

There was a query raised regarding a visit to Outside-In and a request for an update following their presentation to Full Council last year. The Deputy Mayor responded to say that Outside-In remained an important local resource and play centre and that they had recently recruited more trustees and were working on developing a 5-year plan. It was suggested that Outside In attend a future meeting to provide a further update.

Resolved: To receive the report.

80/2025 United Nations Resilient Cities Network

The Council received a report and presentation from Sardhar Aftab Khan, Senior Emergency Planner, Westmorland and Furness Council, on Kendal's involvement in the UN Resilient Cities Network and their programme of Making Cities Resilient 2030.

It was highlighted that Mr Kahn was working in partnership with Kendal Town Council's Community Resilience Officer.

There were several queries raised:

- Further clarification of the '10 essentials' was requested. These were clarified by the Community Resilience Officer and Councillors were asked to refer to the agenda pack for further details.
- The scope of 'resilience' was queried, and it was confirmed that resilience covers our responses to all kinds of scenarios, including natural disasters, terrorism etc.

It was confirmed that a workshop would be held on Tuesday 19 May regarding the 'Making Cities Resilient' programme and that Councillors would receive an invitation via email.

The Council thanked the Community Resilience Officer for the all the work that had been done to date.

Resolved: To receive the report.

81/2025 Co-option of Members for Kirkland and Heron Hill Wards

The Council heard representations from each of the candidates in consideration of the co-option of members for the Kirkland and Heron Hill Wards:

Heron Hill

- a) Benjamin Stephen Bisby
- b) Jack Wren

Kirkland

- a) Sam Perruzza
- b) Kathleen Mary Teasdale
- c) Peter Colin Nicolson

During this item, the meeting was temporarily suspended in accordance with Standing Order 2c due to disorderly conduct. The meeting was resumed after 15 minutes.

Members voted to exclude the Press and Public for the item of business due to the confidential nature of the discussion and vote.

During this, the meeting was temporarily suspended in accordance with Standing Order 10 a, xiv) for members to consult with each other over a matter of policy. The meeting was resumed after 10 minutes.

The Council voted on the candidates.

Resolved: To elect Benjamin Stephen Bisby to the position of Councillor for Heron Hill Ward.

Resolved: To elect Kathleen Mary Teasdale to the position of Councillor for Kirkland Ward.

Both new Councillors were then asked to complete their Declarations of Acceptance of Office, and then joined the meeting as fully participating members.

82/2025 Draft Schedule of Meetings

The Council were presented with a draft schedule of meetings for the forthcoming municipal year. The schedule of meetings is formally adopted at the Council's Annual Meeting in May.

Town Meeting

	13 April 2026	Monday	6.15pm
	12 April 2027	Monday	6.15pm

Council

1	5 May 2026	Monday	Annual Meeting
1a	21 May 2026	Thursday	Mayor Making
2	1 June 2026	Monday	AGAR
3	27 July 2026	Monday	
4	5 October 2026	Monday	
5	7 December 2026	Monday	Budget
6	1 February 2027	Monday	Precept
7	5 April 2027	Monday	
1	10 May 2027	Monday	Annual Meeting
1a	20 May 2027	Thursday	Mayor Making
2	7 June 2027	Monday	AGAR

Management

12	6 July 2026	Monday	
2	14 September 2026	Monday	
3	9 November 2026	Monday	Budget 1
4	4 January 2027	Monday	Budget 2
5	1 March 2027	Monday	
1	24 May 2027	Monday	
2	5 July 2027	Monday	

Audit

1	23 June 2026	Tuesday	AGAR
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2	20 July 2026	Monday	1 st quarter
3	19 October 2026	Monday	2 nd quarter
4	18 January 2027	Monday	3 rd quarter
5	26 April 2027	Monday	Year end

Environment

1	11 May 2026	Monday	
2	13 July 2026	Monday	
3	7 September 2026	Monday	
4	2 November 2026	Monday	Budget
5	11 January 2027	Monday	
6	8 March 2027	Monday	
1	17 May 2027	Monday	

Culture and Communities

1	8 June 2026	Monday	
2	21 September 2026	Monday	
3	16 November 2026	Monday	Budget
4	25 January 2027	Monday	
5	15 March 2027	Monday	
1	14 June 2027	Monday	

Allotments

1	22 June 2026	Monday	
2	12 October 2026	Monday	Budget
3	22 February 2027	Monday	
4	12 April 2027	Monday	

Kendal in Bloom

1	21 July 2026	Tuesday	
2	20 October 2026	Tuesday	Budget

3	19 January 2027	Tuesday	
4	20 April 2027	Tuesday	

Mayoralty and Heritage

1	15 June 2026	Monday	
2	28 September 2026	Monday	Budget
3	14 December 2026	Monday	
4	22 March 2027	Monday	
1	21 June 2027	Monday	

Planning

24	5 May 2026	Tuesday	
1	18 May 2026	Tuesday	
2	1 June 2026	Monday	
3	15 June 2026	Monday	
4	29 June 2026	Monday	
5	13 July 2026	Monday	
6	27 July 2026	Monday	
7	17 August 2026	Monday	
8	7 September 2026	Monday	
9	21 September 2026	Monday	
10	5 October 2026	Monday	
11	19 October 2026	Monday	
12	2 November 2026	Monday	Budget
13	16 November 2026	Monday	
14	7 December 2026	Monday	
15	21 December 2026	Monday	
16	4 January 2026	Monday	
17	18 January 2027	Monday	
18	1 February 2027	Monday	
19	15 February 2027	Monday	

20	1 March 2027	Monday	
21	15 March 2027	Monday	
22	5 April 2027	Monday	
23	19 April 2027	Monday	
24	4 May 2027	Tuesday	
1	17 May 2027	Monday	
2	7 June 2027	Monday	
3	21 June 2027	Monday	

Resolved: To note the draft schedule of minutes.

83/2025 Reports from Reps to Outside Bodies

There were no reports from representatives to outside bodies at this meeting.

84/2025 Reports and Minutes from Committees

The Council was presented with minutes from recent meetings of the Council's standing committees, details of which are provided below. Committee chairs were further provided an opportunity to provide a brief account of their committee's recent activities.

- (a) Councillor Russell presented the minutes of the Audit Committee on 19 January 2026 (draft).
- (b) Councillor Archibald presented the minutes of the Allotments Committee on 23rd February 2026 (draft).
- (c) Councillor Ladhams presented the minutes of the Culture and Communities Committee on 16th March 2026 (draft).
- (d) Councillor Hennessey presented the minutes of the Environment Committee on 9th March (draft) and highlighted the following:
 - a. Additional funding had been agreed for the Explore Kendal Signage project.
 - b. The water refill station project had been temporarily paused but it would be revisited and the funding retained.
 - c. The 20-mph implementation was continuing through Westmorland and Furness Council.
 - d. There was a query regarding the Tow Trail path and area at Parkside road and confirmed that further consideration was needed for this area and that activity was being led by the Canal and Rivers Trust.
 - e. There was a query regarding new bus shelters and how these could be requested by Councillors. Councillors were encouraged to send any requests to the Environment Committee chair and officers, who would explore potential funding options and priorities. It was also noted that there may be funding available from Westmorland and Furness Council to assist.

It was raised the amendments had been requested to the minutes of the Environment

Committee meeting, regarding the remaining funding at the end of the budget year and the devolved responsibility of the Chair and Vice Chair to allocate this funding in accordance with financial regulations. This had been requested to the Clerk via email and would be updated in the draft minutes.

- (e) Councillor Blackman presented the minutes of the Kendal in Bloom Committee on 24th February 2026 (draft).
- (f) Councillor Dunlop presented the minutes of the Management Committee on 2nd March (draft). A query was raised in relation to the Community Governance Review and whether there was any further progress regarding the request to extend the parish boundaries. It was confirmed that there was no change since the report.
- (g) Councillor Sutton presented the minutes from the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee on 23rd March (draft) and highlighted the following:
 - a. The support for the Quaker Tapestry Museum and hopes to keep it open on a limited basis.
 - b. A working group established to consider the Kendal Museum
 - c. The continued work of the Rinteln Association and the upcoming quiz night on 19th April. Councillor Cornthwaite's recent visit to Rinteln's other twin town in Poland was also referenced.
- (h) Councillor Rathbone presented the minutes of the Planning Committee on 2nd February, 16 February, 2nd March and 16th March (draft).

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes, with amendments to the Environment Committee minutes as stipulated to the Town Clerk via email.

85/2025 Schedules of Payments

The Council was presented with the schedule of payments for January and February 2026.

Resolved: To receive the schedule of payments for January and February 2026.

Part Two - Members voted to exclude the Press and Public for the following items of business due to the confidential nature of the discussion.

86/2025 Wainwright Award

The Council considered and voted on nominations for the Wainwright Award 2025 – 2026.

Resolved: To award the Wainwright Award at the Mayor Making event in May, according to the majority vote.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.