

Workington Town Council

Town Hall, Oxford Street, Workington, Cumbria CA14 2RS

Telephone: 01900 702986

Email: office@workingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.workingtontowncouncil.gov.uk



17 May 2018

To Members of Environment Committee

D Rollo (chair)	J Holliday
A Bales	P McHarry
D Cashman	B Miskelly
B Dixon	J Osborn (vice chair)
H Harrington	B Reville

(Copy for information only to other members of Workington Town Council)

You are summoned to a meeting of Workington Town Council Environment Committee on Thursday 24 May 2018 at 6.00pm in the Mayor's Reception Rooms, Town Hall, Workington.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CB' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Chris Bagshaw
Town Clerk

AGENDA

Public Participation

To discuss any items of interest to the council brought forward by members of the public. This session will last no longer than 20 minutes. The council cannot take any decisions in this session, except to bring items to a future meeting. The public are not permitted to speak in other parts of the meeting unless invited to do so by the chairman.

1. Apologies

To receive and accept any apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest relating to matters which appear on this agenda, but which have not been previously declared on members' declarations of pecuniary interest and other interests.

3. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

To consider whether there are any agenda items during consideration of which the press and public should be excluded.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

To receive the minutes of the meeting on 22 March 2018 and affirm them as a true record.

5. Allotment Development

To consider the development of the town's allotment estate, including the issue of water theft and soil contamination at Northside, and to set priorities for investment.

Background

The council has set aside over £130,000 in the previous six years to restore the allotment estate to a manageable condition. Just over half this amount has been spent, on new fencing, pathways and restoring derelict plots. It is prudent for the council to prioritise the remainder of the expenditure, to ensure that it serves the most effective investment for the future. The council has already agreed to a policy of no tapped water supplies by 2020, to match the aim of removing dogs from the estate by 2018. Soil contamination surveys have been commissioned for the derelict plots at Northside and Feenans, which will reveal how deep the council must remove surface debris to restore the land to viable growing space. The results of these surveys will be known in the coming month. There is still an extensive fencing replacement programme to be implemented at Annie Pit and Feenans, the issue of a Northside restoration programme, and a small handful of derelict plots to remedy.

Northside

In the meantime there has been a repeated and costly theft of water and supply facilities at Northside, forcing the council to close this supply off. Total water supply bills for the year ending 31 March 2018 exceeded £2,300, with equipment repairs running at over £300. In the new financial year this problem appears to have continued.

Decisions required

- a) The committee is asked to confirm its priorities for the coming three years, in terms of site priorities, fencing and derelict plot restoration.
- b) Officers are seeking the committee's approval for the immediate, permanent disconnection of the water supply at Northside, with remaining garden tenants being supplied with water butts to collect rainwater. Tenants keeping dogs on the north of the site will not be offered any support. Tenants keeping dogs on the south of the site have already been asked to move. This does not affect any longer term plans that the council may consider for the site, following the results of the contamination survey.
- c) It is proposed that there is a general meeting for allotment holders on Wednesday 11 July.

6. Workington in Bloom

To receive a report on the progress towards a Cumbria in Bloom entry in 2018.

7. Play Area Development

a) To receive an update on the progress made towards developing play facilities across the town, including the Moss Bay Active Zone, renovation works on the Castles and Coasts estate and at Ashfield Road South.

b) To note the Reports from the independent play inspector for the various play areas around the town, including those being transferred from Allerdale Borough Council.

Note: These reports will be sent to committee members only, in pdf format. Copies will be available for inspection at the Town Hall.

8. Vulcan Park Transfer

a) To consider a brief verbal report on the progress made towards the transfer of the freehold and management of the park.

b) To follow up the bin design discussion from the previous meeting.

A report on costings and design from the Estate Team Leader is appended to this agenda.

9. Bus Shelters

To consider a brief report on the management of the two bus shelters on Derwent Howe, and to consider if the Town Council should adopt any further shelters in the town.

Background

The council agreed to adopt two newly installed bus shelters on Derwent Howe in late 2016. The shelters were paid for by Cumbria County Council. The committee asked that their condition and management issues be reported back after 12 months. Additionally, there have been a number of requests for other shelters to be adopted or reinstated in the town. There is a standing request from Allerdale Borough Council that the Town Council adopts its remaining shelters, however this has never been backed by any offer to refurbish or reinstall shelters, and has been rejected by councillors on at least two previous occasions

Management

The shelters on Derwent Howe are cleaned on a quarterly basis by the Town Council's grounds maintenance team. One clean was postponed in 2018, due to staff commitments elsewhere, with the result that the shelters became noticeably dirty for a period. However, if the quarterly cleaning regime is maintained, they don't appear to present any particular problems. Cleaning takes about 15-20 minutes per shelter. There are no obvious signs of vandalism and the shelters appear to be well used.

Recommendation

That the council continues to clean and maintain the Dewent Howe shelters on a quarterly basis. The issue of further shelters should be costed appropriately and presented to a future meeting, if the council is minded to consider their adoption.

10. Disused Phone Boxes

To consider if any action can be taken to alleviate the eyesore caused by disused phone boxes around the town.

Background

The Council's Planning Committee were consulted in 2016 on the removal of service by BT from a range of phone boxes around the town. Some of these boxes are now very derelict and require removal. The committee may consider what action can be taken to effect this action by BT.