

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council, 6pm on 24 January 2017 in Town Hall, Workington

D Rollo (Chair)	Present
B Dixon	Apologies
H Harrington	Present
A Lawson	Apologies
P McHarry	Present
A McGuckin	Apologies
B Miskelly	Present
J Osborn	Present
B Reville	Present
T Wardley	Apologies

In attendance: Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, R Blacker - Workington Nature Partnership Officer

E16.61 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors B Dixon, A Lawson, A McGuckin and T Wardley.

E16.62 Declarations of Interest

There were no items specified.

E16.63 Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved: To exclude the press and public from Item 6 a, which relates to contractual negotiations not yet in the public domain.

E16.64 Appointment of Vice Chair

Nominations were received and seconded from the committee to appoint a councillor as Vice Chair.

Note to the minute

This agenda item was included in error, as the position had already been filled at a previous meeting (minute E16.34). The decision for this item was contrary to standing order 7 a) and therefore set aside.

E16.65 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 15 November 2016 were affirmed as a true record.

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

The committee considered whether to exclude the press and public from the next agenda item because the issue involved contractual negotiations which are not yet in the public domain.

Resolved: To exclude the press and public from the consideration of the next item.

E16.66 Tenancy Transfers

The committee considered a tenancy issue about a plot located on Annie Pit Allotment site; they were provided options on how to move forward and manage the plot. Due to the contractual negotiations involved, this information held in the confidential report.

Resolved: The option in confidential report dated 24 January 2017 was approved by the committee.

E16.67 Allotment Developments

The clerk reported that following the allotment committees decision to renew the fencing on a number of sites, £17,000 would be spent to replace the fencing at Park Lane. Once removed the existing fencing would be re-sited on Annie Pit allotments where required. The clerk confirmed that further fence renovations are needed on sites with damaged wooden fencing, such as Wesley Street Allotments.

Following growing concerns from the local community about the condition of trees on Park Lane and the Soapery, tree surgeons have recommended pollarding to prevent damage to land and properties. The clerk highlighted that the Town Council would replant trees in accordance to the Tree Policy. There was some discussion about the condition of the tree at Soapery Allotments and whether work was required. The clerk confirmed that in addition to overhanging properties, the tree has been damaged in an attempt to remove it. Pollarding the tree would reduce any risks and ensure that it would continue to grow.

The committee received an update about tenancies of the sites. The transfer of tenancy from Derwent and Solway for Wastwater Avenue and Salterbeck allotments is almost complete; there is a prospect for a similar agreement with Impact Housing for the site at Hilary Close.

The clerk brought to the committees' attention that, in response to recent crime, Mountain View tenants had installed gates to the site. These would be maintained by the tenant who installed them. In addition to this, from the 1 April 2017 the Town Council would be able to change water supplier on the small business water supply market. This presents the opportunity to save on water costs, at present remaining with the current supplier would be beneficial but is open to review in the future.

A councillor highlighted that Northside Allotment site required further development. The clerk noted that the Estate Team and Workington Partnership Officer were working on the site on a regular basis but coordination and extra support would be

required. Investigations have been made into using the resource of the probation service. This could include a work force of 1-2 days per week. The chair noted that work would be organised with the arrival on the new Estate Team Leader on 13 February.

Resolved: To note the report

E16.68 Workington Nature Partnership

R Blacker (Workington Nature Partnership Officer) presented the committee with a recent article promoting the local bird species at Siddick pond. She highlighted that the 'Friends Groups', for each nature area, are instrumental to receive funding for improvements and maintenance of the areas. More members and promotion is required to keep the groups running. Councillors praised the WNP Officer's contribution to these improvements and noted the importance of the Friends Groups.

There was a discussion about the requirement for additional benches throughout Salterbeck and Harrington. The WNP Officer confirmed that there are a number of benches in storage that can be distributed if they are not allocated. She also provided a brief report on the outdoor educational sessions she has been running with local schools. The small cost for pupils to attend goes back into the nature reserves.

Resolved: To note the report.

E16.69 Back Lanes

The clerk reported that following minor issues, the redevelopment work on Frostoms Back Lane had begun. The Town Council has yet to receive confirmation that Cumbria County Council will adopt the previous back lanes from the redevelopments carried out in 2013. Allerdale Borough Council is continuing to pursue the Public Space Protection Order on Murray Road. Some concerns were raised to whether this would resolve the anti-social behaviour issues in that area. The Town Council will continue to pledge £2,500 for the installation of the gates, providing that the required legal arrangements are in place.

Resolved: To note the report.

E16.70 Play Areas Development

The clerk reported on a recent meeting with the developer, Persimmon, to discuss the development of a play area at the new Forge Hill site. A space on the site has been designated for the installation of a play area. This will come with no additional cost to the Town Council and will allow for development of Mossbay nature area to continue. The clerk highlighted that the next focus for play provisions will be the over 11s play facility on Mossbay Road, adjacent to the Zebra's ground. This would be followed by Northside and the area adjacent to Senhouse Walk. Councillors highlighted the requirement for a map of the town to establish land that the Town Council owns and areas that require development.

Councillors discussed the influence of the Town Council on planning applications for large developments. There was concern that the Town Council is not informed of amendments to applications that include play provisions. The clerk highlighted that

the Planning Committee are improving consideration of applications for larger developments and these need to be monitored over a period of time.

Resolved: To note the report.

E16.71 Flood Plan

The clerk gave a brief report on the recent communications with the Flood Action group. New flood sack facilities are due to be placed in Barepot and Hall Park View, the compound in Barepot will also include a flood alleviation pump.

Resolved: To note the report.

E16.72 Other Environmental Concerns

A councillor highlighted some concern over the number of trees felled that are covered by Tree Protection Orders. The clerk noted that these concerns would be raised with the Planning Committee so extra vigilance could be given to applications concerning Tree Protection Orders.

R Blacker reported that there had been an increase in the number of trollies recovered from Northside and the surrounding nature areas. Contact from the local superstore had provided limited response. Councillors discussed the Town Council's ability to set up an environmental initiative to sell the trollies back to the store and raise money for local environment initiatives.

Resolved: To recommend that the Planning Committee address issues on applications that give references to Tree Protection Orders and Play Areas.

Resolved: To write to Asda Superstore to inform them of the impact of trollies disposed in the area with the aim to set up an environmental initiative within the Town Council's remit.

The meeting closed at 19:37