

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Workington Town Council held at 6pm on Wednesday 28 January 2015 in the Trades Hall, Brow Top, Workington.

Mrs C Armstrong	Present	Mr G Humes	Present
Mr W Bacon	Present	Mrs E Johnsen	Present
Mrs M Bainbridge	Present	Mr F Johnston	Present
Mrs L Baldry	Present	Mrs M Jones	Present
Mrs A Bales	Present	Mr R Jones	Present
Mr P Bales	Present	Cllr A Lawson	Apologies
Mr J Bechelli	Absent	Mr B Miskelly	Present
Mr J Bracken	Absent	Mr J Osborn	Present
Mrs B Cannon	Apologies	Mrs M Rae	Present
Mr M Fryer	Absent	Mr W Reville	Present
Mr K Hansen	Apologies	Ms D Rollo	Present
Mr N Hardy	Apologies	Mr M Rollo	Present
Mrs H Harrington	Present	Mr N Schofield	Present
Mr M Heaslip	Present	Mr S Stoddart	Apologies
Mr C Holding	Absent	Mrs J Wright	Present

Mayor's Chaplain

Father Paul Harrison led a short prayer.

Public Participation

There were no issues raised by the public.

Police Report

Inspector G Hunter gave his apologies, but submitted a brief written report which the clerk read. There were no major issues in Moss Bay, Harrington, Moorclose and Stainburn, and crimes numbers were slightly down than this time a year ago. In St Michael's ward there had been an increase in burglaries, though things have quietened down since a couple of people were charged. In St John's Ward there continued to be anti-social behaviour issues relating to young people. An initiative with Inspira and Children's Services was hoped to tackle the problem, otherwise a Public Spaces Protection Order would be sought. This would require liaison with Ward Councillors. A Criminal Behaviour Order (updated form of ASBO) for a particular individual had been publicised in the press and more may follow.

Councillors wished to report continued problems with parking on High Street at the junction with Stanbeck Meadows and on Church Road, Harrington between 3pm and 4pm on schooldays. It was also noted that the problem with anti-social behaviour in the town may have been addressed by support for the existing CCTV network, though this had not been forthcoming from the police. The clerk promised to raise these issues with Inspector Hunter.

14.71. Apologies

The council received and accepted apologies from Cllrs B Cannon, K Hansen, N Hardy, A Lawson and S Stoddart.

14.72. Declarations of Interest

No further interests were declared.

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

No items were excluded.

14.74. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 10 December 2014 were received and affirmed as a true record.

14.75. Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor reported that she had attended the ADA Christmas Concert in December and taken Christmas biscuits from the council to all the old people's homes. She attended carols at St Michael's Church with the Carnegie Singers, and with Salterbeck Residents at the Oval Centre. She attended the unveiling of a memorial slab to James Smith VC at Workington Station, and on Christmas Day visited Christmas in Company, the befriending initiative supported by the Town Council on Carlton Road. This month, as well as entertaining councillors, Rotarians, Lions and Trades Hall staff and volunteers in the parlour, she had attended WADAMS production of Aladdin in the Carnegie.

She drew councillors' attention to her forthcoming charity events – a St Patrick's Day Supper and raffle on 13 March, her Civic Dinner at the Washington Central on 25 April and a sponsored walk with Armed Forces personnel around the civil parish of Workington on 2 May. She hoped councillors would be supportive.

Resolved: That the council note the report.

14.76 Committee Vacancy

The council considered appointing a member of the Finance, Property and Employment Committee following the resignation of Cllr Bacon from that committee. Nominations for the post were taken from the floor. Cllr Miskelly was proposed, seconded and there being no other candidates, appointed to the position.

Resolved: The Councillor B Miskelly be appointed to the Finance, Property and Employment Committee.

14.77. Government Consultation on Parish Polls

The council considered a report from the clerk on the council's response to the government's consultation on Parish Polls.

The initiative was broadly supported, with councillors stressing how much money had been spent on polls in Workington in the last ten years. It was noted that under the proposed new regulations, it would have been unlikely that any of the polls would have taken place. The only issue the council considered required amendment was the trigger number, which for a town of Workington's size they felt should be at least 100.

Resolved: To respond positively to the government's consultation, with the recommendation that the trigger be set at 100 (or 10%), rather than 60 (or 10%).

14.78. Property Transfers

a) The council considered a request from the clerk that they authorise him to sign a license from the Borough Council for the installation of Christmas lighting columns in Hall Park.

Resolved: To delegate to the clerk the authority to sign the license as required on behalf of the council.

b) The council considered a report from the clerk which included a request that they authorise him to sign the legal documents concerning the transfer of the allotments at Siddick, Newlands Lane, Wesley Street, Park Lane, Annie Pit/Feenans, Cranbourne Street and Rosehill to the Town Council. The final report on the transfer had been available for councillors to inspect for several weeks. The clerk added that the Land Registry had subsequently reported that a very small patch of land at Rosehill, which was included in the proposed transfer, appeared not to be registered to the Borough Council. In fact it was unregistered. The clerk explained that their legal advice was that this did not present a particular problem at this point. The land in question was inaccessible and if necessary could be registered by the town council at a later date.

Resolved: To delegate to the clerk the authority to sign the various land transfer documents as required on behalf of the council.

Reports from Committees

14.79. Allotments Committee

The council received the minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting on 8 January 2015.

Resolved: That the council notes the minutes.

14.80. Culture Committee

The minutes were not yet available from the Culture Committee meeting on 26 January 2015. A councillor queried whether the size of the Christmas trees outside the town hall, on Washington Street and in Harrington had been a mistake. The clerk apologised for their diminutive stature. There had been some discussion about how to avoid the problems experienced in previous years of wind damage. It had been agreed with the council's contractors that smaller trees would be both safer and less prone to damage. However the size of the trees chosen had clearly erred to far on the side of caution. Officers would meet with the contractors in due course to consider whether a safer site could be identified by the town hall. Taller trees would be requested for next Christmas, but probably not the 32ft ones that caused problems the previous year.

14.81. Environment Committee

The minutes were not yet available from the Environment Committee meeting on 27 January 2015. The chair reported that the committee had resolved to hold a further meeting on 24 February to review their options with regards to play areas. The response to a consultation in Moorclose had been disappointing and the committee was anxious that the community did not lose out on the council's investment. She confirmed that discussion would be held with Your Derwent and Solway Housing Association, Westfield HA and Impact HA, and that some mechanism would be sought for considering the views of private homeowners and tenants.

14.82. Finance, Property and Employment Committee

The council received the minutes of the Finance, Property and Employment Committee meeting on 22 January 2015. The chair drew the council's attention to the various recommendations they included, the extension of the Events Officers hours to 30, the recruitment of a junior estate worker, the procurement of a franking machine and IT display equipment for the office, and the dedication of a route through Annie Pit allotments as a right of way.

Resolved: That the council notes the minutes and adopts the recommendations they contain.

14.83 Planning Committee

The council received the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting on 5 January 2015. The issue of allowing for the growth of the town in the provision of parking and school places was raised. It was noted that section 106 agreements did not seem to have the strength that they once had and that planning for future development was a problem that the County Council were trying to grapple with. It was an issue the Town Council's planning committee should consider when assessing applications for major housing developments.

Resolved: That the council notes the minutes.

14.84 Policy and Resources Committee

The council received the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 13 January 2015.

Resolved: That the council notes the minutes.

14.85. Budget and Precept 2015-16

The council considered the recommendation in minute P14.55 for the council budget and to set a precept for the next financial year.

Resolved: That the council accepts the budget proposal from Policy and Resources and consequently sets the precept at £349,490.40. The full budget is appended to these minutes.

The meeting closed at 18.54.

Minute 14.85						
Budget and Precept Calculations 2015-16						
	2014-15	Estimated Out-turn	EO as %	2015-16	% increase	Notes
Culture Committee						
A significant festival	10,000	10,144	101.4%	15,000	50.0%	
A schools festival	2,000	0	0.0%	2,000	0.0%	
Youth engagement with Sport	9,600	8,400	87.5%	10,000	4.2%	
Heritage Institutions	10,000	10,000	100.0%	12,000	20.0%	
Town Band and other music	1,200	1,200	100.0%	1,200	0.0%	
Christmas Lights	40,000	40,000	100.0%	41,000	2.5%	
Christmas Festival	6000	9000	150.0%	10,000	66.7%	
Promoting Workington	500	500	100.0%	10,000	1900.0%	
Town centre music	4,500	4,500	100.0%	4,500	0.0%	
Remembrance and commemoration	2,000	1,000	50.0%	1,000	-50.0%	
Twinning Development	5,000	5,000	100.0%	5,000	0.0%	
Total	90,800	89,744	98.8%	111,700	23.0%	
Policy and Resources Committee						
Community Planning	4,000	4,000	100.0%	10,000	150.0%	
Community Development	10,000	7,500	75.0%	10,000	0.0%	
Community Information facilities	35,000	35,180	100.5%	10,000	-71.4%	
Community service grants	3,000	2,000	66.7%	3,000	0.0%	
Commissioned service	4,000	400	10.0%	7,500	87.5%	
Total	56,000	49,080	87.6%	40,500	-27.7%	
Environment Committee						
Workington in Bloom – Displays	11,000	10,495	95.4%	11,000	0.0%	
Workington in Bloom – Development Grants	3,500	2,813	80.4%	3,000	-14.3%	
Play Area Development	25,000	25,000	100.0%	50,000	100.0%	

Workington Nature Partnership	20,000	20,000	100.0%	20,000	0.0%	
Nature Areas	500	500	100.0%	1,000	100.0%	
Back Lane Environmental Improvement	15,000	15,000	100.0%	15,000	0.0%	
Total	75,000	73,808	98.4%	100,000	33.3%	excludes Back Lane work
						funded from earmarked reserve
Finance, Property and Employment Committee						
Parks and Play Areas Maintenance	10,000	500	5.0%	0	-100.0%	budget line moved to
Fleet (from Allotments)	0	0	#DIV/0!	3,000	#DIV/0!	
Car Park	1,000	0	0.0%	1,000	0.0%	repairs and renewals
Civic Functions	5,000	3,000	60.0%	4,000	-20.0%	
Mayoral Allowance	3,000	3,000	100.0%	3,000	0.0%	
Robes	660	660	100.0%	660	0.0%	
Mayoral Travel	1,800	1,200	66.7%	1,800	0.0%	
Annual Meeting	2,500	2,055	82.2%	2,500	0.0%	
Elections	6,300	5,528	87.8%	6,300	0.0%	
Election Fund	4,800	4800	100.0%	4,800	0.0%	
Member Development	2,000	200	10.0%	2,000	0.0%	
Accommodation	14,000	11,535	82.4%	14,000	0.0%	
Cenotaph and war memorial	500	0	0.0%	0	-100.0%	budget line moved to
Town Hall Development	20,000	0	0.0%	10,000	-50.0%	repairs and renewals
Telecoms and IT	4,000	4,000	100.0%	5,000	25.0%	
Office general	3,000	1,800	60.0%	3,000	0.0%	
Printing and stationery	1,500	1,500	100.0%	1,500	0.0%	
Postage	600	1600	266.7%	1,000	66.7%	
Audit fees	1,800	1,652	91.8%	2,000	11.1%	
Advertising civic/employment	2,000	2,000	100.0%	3,000	50.0%	
Website and newsletter	3,000	3,000	100.0%	5,000	66.7%	
Salaries	93,000	76,000	81.7%	120,000	29.0%	

NI and Pensions	18,000	14,710	81.7%	18,000	-16.7%	
Staff Training	1,500	1,200	80.0%	2,500	66.7%	
Repairs and renewals	1,800	1,000	55.6%	10,000	455.6%	
Mayoral benches	600	600	100.0%	600	0.0%	
Insurance	4,000	3,000	75.0%	4050	1.3%	
Subscriptions	1,300	1,221	93.9%	1300	0.0%	
Total	207,660	145,761	70.2%	230,010	9.3%	
Allotments Committee						
Allotments Development	30,000	30,000	100.0%	30,000	0.0%	
Allotments Income	-11,000	-11,000	100.0%	-11,000	0.0%	
Allotments running	9,000	6,500	72%	9,000	0.0%	
Total	28,000	25,500	91.1%	28,000	0.0%	
Grand total	457,460	383,893	83.9%	510,210	10.9%	
Precept	332848			349490.4	5.0%	
Council Tax Support Grant	47720			33404	-30.0%	
From reserves	76,892			127,316	62%	excludes Back Lane work
Other Capital Work	76,000			91,000		funded from earmarked reserve
Note: Outturn excludes earmarked capital carried over from previous year						
Council Tax Base	5978.92			6178.91		
Council Tax Band D	55.67			56.56	2%	
Council Tax Band B	43.30			43.99		

Outturn is based on predictions as at 31 December 2014.