

# Workington Town Council

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## Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council, 6pm on 22 November 2018 in Town Hall, Workington

D Rollo (Chair)	Present
A Bales	Present
D Cashman	Apologies
B Dixon	Present
H Harrington	Present
J Holliday	Absent
P McHarry	Apologies
B Miskelly	Present
J Osborn	Present
B Reville	Present

In attendance: Town Clerk

### **E18.45 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted as being for approved reasons under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972, s85, from Cllrs D Cashman and P McHarry.

### **E18.46 Declarations of Interest**

The Chair drew members' attention to her position on the Board at Lakes College, and as an allotment tenant in Salterbeck.

### **E18.47 Exclusion of Press and Public**

No issues.

### **E18.48 Minutes of the last meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 11 October 2018 were accepted as a true record.

### **E18.49 Flooding and Emergency Planning**

The Clerk reported an incident at Barepot, earlier in the day, in which the riverbank wall had collapsed into the River Derwent. The Flood Action Group were very concerned about it and Allerdale Borough Council, as the relevant landowner, were taking emergency action. He went on to confirm that the Emergency Equipment Store was now in place at Barepot EA depot, and that a community practice session with the pump facility was planned for 27 November.

**Resolved:** To note the report

### **E18.50 Flooding and Emergency Planning Grant**

The Committee considered a grant application from the Workington Community Emergency Response Group. They were seeking a Community Service Grant of £300 towards the purchase of equipment. The committee understood that although the group was based at the Helena Thompson Museum, its equipment would be a separate and distinct entity.

**Resolved:** To award a grant of £300.

#### **E18.51            Back Lanes**

The Clerk reported that he had been examining alternative approaches to the issue of Back Lane renovation, particularly at Oxford Street and Yeowartville. He was looking at a pollinator-friendly renovation of these two lanes, which would be less costly to deliver and more supportive of the council's aims of bee-friendly biodiversity. He would like to plan and cost a scheme, and encourage the residents and businesses to be involved.

**Resolved:** To support this approach as it complemented the council's overarching aims for pollinator-friendly interventions. The Clerk would draw up a scheme and consult locally.

#### **E18.52            Street Scene Issues**

##### **a) Ashfield Gardens**

The Committee considered a number of local issues which had been brought to the council's attention by residents seeking help. At Ashfield Gardens, a wall was in a precarious condition overlooking a pavement. Building Control at Allerdale Borough Council had suggested they were unable to take enforcement action because the resident disputed his liability, claiming this lay with Cumbria County Council as highway authority, acting as successor body to Workington Borough Council with whom the property had an agreement. Cumbria County Council had acted to close the footway, because of the wall, but were of the view that enforcement for its dangerous state lay with Allerdale Borough Council as Building Control authority. This impasse has continued for some years, and residents of Ashfield Gardens are being forced into the road because of the closed footway and poor parking on the opposite side. It was noted that the Town Council had no jurisdiction in this matter other than that of an advocate for local residents.

**Resolved:** To write to the Borough and County Councillors for the ward, seeking their intervention, with the letter copied to the relevant officers at Allerdale Borough and Cumbria County councils.

##### **b) Portland Square**

The Committee heard that there continued to be issues surrounding the question of land ownership and management around the upper portion of Portland Square. Most recently this included an instance of Highway Authority tree teams being prevented from pollarding the trees in the upper square by a local resident. The Committee feared that it might be being asked to intervene in a neighbourhood boundary dispute, which it did not feel was appropriate, however it was noted that the trees were a part of the Conservation area, and that perhaps the best placed person to deal with the ongoing issue was the Borough Conservation Officer.

**Resolved:** To bring the matter of the uncut trees to the attention of the Borough Conservation Officer.

**c) Mill Lane**

The Committee heard that there were some problems with parking on Mill Lane and that these were related to the status of the road following the floods in 2009. The problem appeared to stem from a disagreement between Allerdale Borough Council, who own the land through which the road passes, and Cumbria County Council, which imposed Traffic Regulation Orders on the road following the floods and the construction of the Barker Crossing. The main issue seems to relate to irresponsible parking at the bottom end of the lane by the entrance to the Mill Field, which often blocks access to residents in the Mill.

**Resolved:** To seek the assistance of the Chief Executive of the Borough Council in resolving this matter.

**E18.53 Allotments**

The Clerk reported that he had been asked by the Estate Team to seek the Committee's judgement on a tenant who had begun building a new greenhouse. The foundations for the structure had been built prior to him seeking consent from the council, and indicated that the structure may be more than the temporary building usually considered. In mitigation the Estate Team Leader had observed that the proposed structure would be better able to stand the harsh environment at the site and would not be out of place. The committee were concerned that a precedent might be set, but were reassured that each case should always be considered on its own merits. Since the structure was to have a brick built foundation, it considered a doubling of the usual shed bond would be appropriate, and a proviso that the brick main walls did not exceed 1m (3ft) except where required to support the windows and roof.

**Resolved:** To communicate these conditions to the tenant and to remind all tenants of the nature of their tenure and the requirement to seek council approval prior to any building work.

**E18.54 Workington in Bloom**

The Chair confirmed that Bees and Pollinators were the theme for the 2019 entry, and the principal colours of baskets and mangers should reflect this. It was believed that purples and yellows should predominate. It was noted that smaller baskets were provided this year without any consultation from the contractor, and this should be resisted in future. It was also suggested that it be a requirement that basket and manger liners should be recyclable and that the quality of the basket make up should be such that the liner was not overtly visible. There was some discussion as to how the town centre can be lifted, and it was hoped that the bee theme could be taken down Murray Road, from the back of Wetherspoons, perhaps, all the way to Brow Top. It was further suggested that the 'Beeline' begin at the 'Beecon'.

**Resolved:** To confirm these arrangements with contractors.

**E18.55 Workington Nature Partnership**

The Nature Partnership steering group had not met since the last meeting, so there was no further report. However, officers had convened to look at the Lottery and

ERDF funding applications currently being submitted. An issue of pollution in the Eller Beck from the Amcor plant on Salterbeck Industrial Estate was raised. The Clerk would investigate and report back.

**Resolved:** To note the information.

#### **E18.56 Play Areas**

The Clerk reported that the renovation to the Castles and Coasts site on Cusack Crescent was about complete. There were some issues with neighbours apparently locking the gates to the site, which wasn't necessarily a problem, so long as access was maintained during daylight hours. The Chair reported that she and the Clerk had recently attended a meeting at the Oval Centre, where the play area on Garnet Crescent was discussed. The Town Council has already agreed to install a Panna Court on the site, but were awaiting work from Impact Housing to tidy the other elements up prior to installation. It had been suggested that the Town Council also consider adopting the bank slide on the site, which was very popular with local children, but required some maintenance. The Committee agreed that this could be possible subject to professional opinion.

The Ashfield Road South play area was currently the subject of contractor pricing for renovation. The Harrington Marina Play area would not benefit from a £20,000 windfall from developers as the Borough Council's planning panel had instructed Persimmon to build a facility on site instead. The same Borough panel was enforcing Persimmon to complete the work at Forgehill play area. The police had been in correspondence concerning the play area at Grasmere Avenue/Crummock Road in Moorclose. The site was managed by Castles and Coasts Housing Association but had not been well looked after and was attracting anti-social behaviour. The Clerk suggested that the council may wish to consider this site, once it was clear of Ashfield Road and Hillcrest, Northside, which were the next two projects in hand.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

#### **E18.57 Vulcan Park**

The Committee sought a date for a Task and Finish brainstorming session, pulling in everybody's aspirations for Vulcan Park.

**Resolved:** To hold the session on Monday 10 December at 6pm. The venue was to be confirmed but it was suggested Allerdale House may be better suited than the Town Hall meeting room.

#### **E18.58 Bus Shelters**

The Committee considered a proposal that the Town Council investigate an ad-funded model for bus shelter renovation which would allow it to adopt the Borough Council's bus shelter estate in the town. There was agreement that bus shelters were a necessary feature of the town's infrastructure and that they required investment. There were queries about whether a dowry from Allerdale would be forthcoming, whether there were significant planning restrictions on the advertising, and what the usage statistics were like for the existing estate.

**Resolved:** To seek further information on these matters, prior to making a recommendation.

**E18.59          Footway Lighting**

The Committee considered a proposal from Allerdale Borough Council that the Council adopts the 29 footway lights in Workington. The details were not well developed yet - there was no firm proposal for the renovation of the lighting prior to any transfer, and there were no details about how they might be maintained going forward, though there was an assumption that a deal might be struck with Cumbria County Council who currently maintain the lights on Allerdale's behalf. The lights in Workington were not yet mapped, though they had been inspected and counted. The 29 excluded any lighting installed on a rear lane renovation project managed by Cumbria County Council, as these were deemed to be already in County's care.

**Resolved:** To seek more information on this issue from Allerdale and Cumbria County Council with regards to locations and practicalities.

**E18.60          Budget 2019-20**

The Committee considered a draft budget proposal for the coming financial year 2019-20. It was noted that the proposal included a provisional allowance for bus shelters and footway lighting.

**Resolved:** To accept the proposed draft budget, appended to these minutes, and submit it to the Policy and Resources Committee for subsequent scrutiny.

The meeting closed at 20:10



Appendix A Draft Budget 2019-20

	2018	estimated outturn	o/t as % of budget	2019	% of 2018	Notes
Workington in Bloom – Displays	15,000	14,543	97	15,000	100	Traditionally pays for seasonal displays around Workington, with additional projects to target grot spots in partnership with others
Workington in Bloom – Development Grants	3,500	3,500	100	3,500	100	Paid out in grants up to £500 to local groups to develop their In Bloom related work.
Play Area Development	30,000	30,000	100	10,000	33	A capital reserve sum set aside for the development of play areas. Fund to date is around £44,000 (including contributions from third parties).
Workington Nature Partnership	21,000	21,000	100	26,000	100	£20,000 is paid to Allerdale direct to cover WTC contribution to WNP. Remainder is for additional expenditure such as publicity and projects to be determined by WNP steering group.
Nature Areas	5,000	5,000	100	0	0	Capital reserve for work on Town's natural areas, Remaining reserve stands at around £12k, which could be merged with other environmental improvement budgets.
Allotments Running	8,000	8,000	100	8,000	100	Revenue budget to cover day to day running costs on estate. Matched by revenue from rents.
Allotments Development	7,500	7,500	100	5,000	67	Capital reserve fund for regeneration of allotment estate, mostly fencing, derelict plot clearance and water supply infrastructural renewal. Fund currently at around £65k.
Back Lane Environmental Improvement	0	0	0	5,000	-	Capital reserve fund for environmental improvement work to back lanes. Fund current around £47k. Additional small contribution to capital reserves sets marker for wider improvement initiative.
Flood resilience	0	0	0	0	0	Sum set aside to support flooded communities. So far around £6,000 has been drawn down, however the remainder is earmarked
Vulcan Park Development	5,000	15,000	300	10,000	200	Capital reserve fund established to ensure the park has a financial basis for subsequent regeneration and legal fees for transfer. Total funds available currently approx £75k, but subject to whatever costs have been incurred

						with contractors since July 2018. Income from ABC covers some of this in 2018-19 and 2019-20.
Harrington Marina Development	0	0	0	0	0	Capital reserve fund established to ensure the park has a financial basis for subsequent regeneration and legal fees for transfer. Total funds available currently approx. £8500.
Additional improvements	0	0		0	0	General capital improvement fund for projects. Now spent on Harrington Reservoir. Similar projects would now be funded from elsewhere
Parks and Play areas Maintenance	10,000	5,000	50	25,000	250	Revenue fund for day to day work on play areas.
Footway lighting	0	0	0	2,000	-	Revenue and repair fund assuming adoption of 29 footway lights from ABC subject to process
Bus shelters	0	0	0	3,000	-	Revenue and repair fund including capital set aside for replacement, assuming adoption of 18 bus shelters from Allerdale Borough Council, subject to process.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>105,000</b>	<b>109,543</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>112,500 (107,500)</b>	<b>107 (102)</b>	Bracketed figure excludes adoption of Footway lighting and bus shelters.