

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Culture Committee of Workington Town Council, 6pm Thursday 24 September 2015 in the Town Hall, Workington

A McGuckin (chair)	Present*
W Bacon	Present
L Baldry	Present
P Bales	Present
B Cannon (vice chair)	Apologies*
B Dixon	Present
M Heaslip	Present
C Johanssen	Apologies
K Schofield	Absent
T Wardley	Present
C Armstrong (Mayor)	Present
J Wright (deputy Mayor)	Present

In attendance: Town Clerk, Events Officer

* arrived late.

C15.29 Apologies

In the absence of the chair and vice chair, the Mayor stood in for the first few items. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs B Cannon and C Johanssen.

C15.30. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

C15.31. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

It was proposed that the press and public be excluded from the consideration of item 13 because it related to contractual negotiations not yet in the public domain, revelation of which would be prejudicial to the public interest.

Resolved: To exclude the press and public from item 13.

C15.32. Minutes of the previous meeting

The committee received the minutes of the meeting on 23 July 2015 and affirmed them as a true record.

C15.33. Suggested activities

The committee reviewed the suggested activities submitted by Committee members after the meeting on Thursday 4 June 2015, with a view to selecting a number to bring forward as budgeted activities in 2016-17.

Cllr McGuckin assumed the chair.

Resolved: To seek further costs for the following activities, prior to the budget setting meeting in November 2015. Other items from the list would be taken up elsewhere in the budget, eg Fun Days and Miners Memorial.

- Sports Day in June, to coincide with Paint the Town Red month and the opening of the new Leisure Centre.
- To develop a complimentary event in the Parks to celebrate the Queen's Birthday.
- To develop a Talent focused event in conjunction with the Carnegie and Workington Festival.
- To develop an Opera event, possibly in The Well, or some other informal venue.
- To support Workington Local Food Project to deliver a food festival.

C15.34. Summer Programme 2015

The committee reviewed the summer events programme. The chair thanked the Events Officer, staff and councillors for their efforts in delivering the very successful programme. It was noted that the number of children were recorded, but not adults. It was further noted that catering for adults had been charged for (£1) at the Vulcan Park fun day, and that this was a popular move. The Events Officer reported that she was considering external catering at future events, to take the pressure off SWYP volunteers. There had been some disagreement with the bowling club over use of the green for archery, and the weather had once more caused Moorclose and Harrington Fun Days to be held indoors. It was suggested that Fun Days be held in Salterbeck and Northside in addition to the three sites covered presently. There was a suggestion that inflatable marquees may make the project viable in the windier venues. The cost of professional marquees, inflatable or otherwise, would be investigated for the 2016 season. It was noted that Stainburn was usually excluded from events because it lacked a suitable venue. Mr N Sloan owned a suitable field on the edge of the village which might be made available if the council approached him.

It was noted that the Town Centre music programme had been very popular. There was some concern about the levels of Saturday management cover in the shopping centre, with town

council staff or volunteers finding themselves in more prominent roles than had been anticipated. These should be taken up with Allerdale Borough Council and Scoop Asset Management.

Resolved: To bring forward the suggested items for continuing and expanding the council's summer programme to the November budget meeting for consideration.

C15.35. Workington Music Festival

The committee considered a proposal to support the Workington Music Festival (5-6 November, 2015) with prizes and medals.

Resolved: To supply the festival with £50 prize money for the U18 Glee Class and the U18 Vocal with backing track, and to supply medals for all entrants in the Glee Class. The money to be drawn from the Community Service Grants budget.

C15.36. Carnegie Theatre

The committee received a report from the site visit to the Carnegie Theatre. It was suggested that the project was very worthwhile in so far as it went, but that in the long term there would need to be more ambitious investment in the fabric of the building if it was to unlock its potential. It was noted that the Theatre by the Lake had withdrawn its development officer. The committee affirmed its belief that the facility is vital to the cultural wellbeing of the town.

Resolved: To request Policy and Resources approve a £5,000 grant drawn from reserves to fund the current project.

Resolved: To ask the Carnegie to return to the council prior to the November budget meeting with further plans for the development of the facility, which could be integrated into the council's budgeting.

C15.37. Twinning Association

The committee received a brief verbal report from the Mayor on her recent visit to Val de Reuil, which was very busy and well-received. Several new contacts had been made, and Cllr Cannon was developing some ideas for a European-funded development. Val de Reuil is also twinned with a Polish town, and representatives from this group would be accompanying their French colleagues in 2016, when they are proposing to camp at Branthwaite to coincide with Paint the Town Red.

There was some confusion at a recent meeting of the Twinning Committee over an apparently additional £5,000, but this was being investigated by the Association Secretary.

Resolved: To note the report

C15.38. Christmas Lights 2015 and Winter Festival

The committee received an update from the Events Officer on the programme for the Christmas lights switch on and winter festival 2015. She was proposing to replace the land trains, which had been problematic, with a snow globe attraction, which was static but had proved very popular in other towns. There had been some negative feedback from traders on the road closure consultation, but nothing had come in writing.

Following the report, members suggested that the festival begin on the Friday in 2016, and leave out the Sunday. This would be taken forward as a proposal in the new year, but would be subject to the consideration of partners in the festival.

Resolved: To note the report

Resolved: To circulate a volunteers list among councillors for helping on the weekend of the festival.

Resolved: To consider altering the festival date to Friday/Saturday in 2016, with the lights switch-on on the Friday night.

C15.39. Heritage institutions

The Clerk reported on the actions taken towards the development of a memorial to the Mineworkers of Workington at the Jane Pit site. There had been some interest from the media, particularly ITV Border who interviewed the chair on site a couple of weeks ago. Staff had met with the Heritage Lottery on 23 September and were optimistic that they could bring forward a plan that would gain lottery support.

Resolved: To note the report.

C15.40. Paint the Town Red Festival

The committee received an update from the Events Officer on the progress made towards the delivery of the festival in 2016. She was working on budgets around £20,000, of which the Town Council was putting in £10,000 and the Borough Council £5,000. The rest came from a variety of external funders.

Resolved: To note the report.

Part Two

This item was considered after the exclusion of press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) because the issues relate to contracts, personnel or other confidential items.

C15.41. Town Centre Exhibition

A record of this confidential minute is on the file.

The meeting closed at 7.38pm.