

# Workington Town Council

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

Telephone: 01900 702986

Email: [workingtontowncouncil@allerdale.gov.uk](mailto:workingtontowncouncil@allerdale.gov.uk)

Website: [www.workingtontowncouncil.com](http://www.workingtontowncouncil.com)



## Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council, 6pm on 23 June 2015 in the Town Hall, Workington

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| D Rollo (Chair)     | Present   |
| C Johanssen         | Apologies |
| F Johnston          | Present   |
| A Lawson            | Apologies |
| P McHarry           | Present   |
| B Miskelly          | Present   |
| V Morgan            | Apologies |
| J Osborn            | Present   |
| B Reville           | Present   |
| T Wardley           | Apologies |
| C Armstrong (Mayor) | Present   |

In attendance: Town Clerk

Also present Cllr J Holliday

### **E15.1 Apologies**

No apologies were received.

### **E15.2 Declarations of Interest**

No additional interests to those previously declared.

### **E15.3 Exclusion of Press and Public**

No issues

### **E15.4 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 24 March 2015 were affirmed as a true record.

### **E15.5 Workington Nature Partnership**

a) The chair reported that the steering committee had been reviewing maps of the town's green infrastructure, as part of the planning policy review. It had also received updates on the de-silting programme in Harrington Reservoir and on the development of a master plan for Siddick Pond. The Nature Partnership Officer would be attending the In Bloom day in the town centre among her various other tasks.

**Resolved:** To note the report, and invite the WNPO to attend the next meeting of the committee.

b) The chair reported that the steering group had been discussing the apparent risk to continuity of service inherent in the Partnership Agreement. Theoretically the WNPO's budget allocation could be stopped at two months' notice in the spring. A revised agreement had been drafted which required a full growing season's notice to be given by either signatory to the partnership, which would allow essential seasonal maintenance to be continued through the summer

**Resolved:** To recommend that the council proposes the variation in the Partnership's Terms of Reference.

#### **E15.6. Nature Reserves**

The committee had received progress reports for Siddick and Harrington during the previous item. The clerk reported that the proposed Moss Bay Nature Area was due to be considered by Cumbria County Council at an imminent meeting and that he was preparing the 'business case' for the Community Asset Transfer.

The clerk drew the committee's attention to the potential of its underspent resources, and to additional £1,000 set aside in the current budget year. It was noted that there were other Nature Areas in the town which were as yet unrecognised: Alexander Woods being a notable example.

**Resolved:** To set aside £5,000 towards the de-silting of Harrington Reservoir and £1,500 towards the installation of benches in the Harrington Nature Reserve. The clerk to develop proposals for the remaining £20,000 to bring to a subsequent meeting.

**Resolved:** To investigate the status and potential of other nature areas in the town, including Alexander Woods and Barepot Pond.

#### **E15.7. Workington in Bloom**

a) The Clerk reported that the In Bloom Working Group was working effectively, and that a route was being finalised for judging day on 15 July. Planting of hanging baskets and mangers was under way but a late spring had retarded matters.

b) The committee considered the recommendations by the Working Group for development grants. There was some discussion about giving grants to commercial care homes, which were actually profit making for their owners.

| Organisation           | Total requested | Total recommended by In Bloom Committee |
|------------------------|-----------------|---|
| St John's Church       | £500.00         | £500.00                                 |
| Rosecroft Care Home    | £500.00         | £500.00                                 |
| Eastcroft Care Home    | £400.00         | £400.00                                 |
| Richmond Care Home     | £500.00         | £500.00                                 |
| Victoria Junior School | £250.00         | £200.00*                                |
| Newlands Care Home     | £500.00         | £200.00*                                |

**Resolved:** To accept the Working Group's recommendations for grants.

**Resolved:** To review the grants process for Workington in Bloom, aiming for a single grant approval date and further consideration to the nature of organisations eligible to receive a grant.

#### **E15.8. Back Lanes**

The committee heard that the clerk had met with county council officers to explain the issues around Back Lane improvement work. County officers had agreed to consider the council's request for support, in expertise if not financially, and the outcome of the Allerdale Highways Working Group was awaited. The clerk acknowledged the help of Cllr J Holliday in reviewing the history of the Back Lanes improvement programme.

It was suggested that Roseberry Street was an example of a back lane that had been improved but not adopted, and this may be a model to follow.

**Resolved:** Pending the outcome of county council consideration, the clerk would report to the next meeting with proposals.

#### **E15.9. Play Areas Development**

The committee received a report on the progress made towards delivering Play Areas across the town. The town council has earmarked £25,000 for a play area in Moorclose. Identifying a site with a reasonable consensus of support from the local community had proved problematic, and further work to identify a viable site was being undertaken by Your Derwent and Solway Community Support staff, with a view to making a recommendation in the autumn.

A further £50,000 was earmarked by councillors in the current financial year for the development of play areas in the areas of the town currently least well provided for. Of this, £10,000 was allocated to the Walker Road play area, and this was installed in a joint venture with Impact Housing Association in May 2015.

A site has been sought serving the Westfield community, with the Recreation ground above Northcote Street, Moss Bay being identified as a possible contender. No sites within Westfield estate itself have been identified as being suitable (visibility from the street and accessibility are the primary criteria).

The council agreed to investigate the installation of one or more Panna courts, following a successful trial in Moorclose in April. A site in Vulcan's Park was identified. The courts cost around £8,000 to install.

At its last full meeting, the council agreed to a recommendation from Policy and Resources that it enter into a negotiation with Allerdale Borough Council for the transfer of the remaining parks and play areas in the town to the Town Council's ownership. It was further noted that tennis provision in the town may potentially benefit from a bursary through the Cumbria Community Foundation following transfer of the assets of Workington Tennis Club to the Lawn Tennis Association.

There was some discussion around the suitability of the site at 'Westfield Welfare'. It was noted that this was in a different ward from Westfield estate, and that the access to the site from the estate required children to cross a potentially busy road. It was noted that this was no different from the sites at Newlands Lane and Brewery House, and that these sites had not caused any undue concerns about road safety. Potential sites at Westfield School and Southfield School had also been identified, but these were not straightforward, the latter particularly being tied up with the transfer of two of the town's secondary schools to an academy trust.

**Resolved:** To make formal inquiries about the possibilities of siting a play area at any of the three sites in Westfield.

**Resolved:** To put on hold expenditure on Panna until a clear path is identified for parks with the Borough Council.

**Resolved:** To make further inquiries with Cumbria Community Foundation about funds earmarked for tennis in Workington.

#### **E15.10          Other Environment Concerns**

The issue of the footpath through the grounds of Stainburn School was raised. The path was now permanently barred to public access, and it was suggested that this was contrary to the best interests of the community.

**Resolved:** Cllr McHarry to liaise with the clerk to find the facts behind this matter with the school and the county council and report back to the next meeting with a proposal.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm