

# Workington Town Council

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## Minutes of the Culture Committee of Workington Town Council, 6pm Thursday 23 July 2015 in the Town Hall, Workington

A McGuckin <b>chair</b>	Present
L Baldry	Present
P Bales	Present
B Cannon	Apologies*
B Dixon	Absent
M Heaslip	Present
C Johanssen	Apologies
K Schofield	Apologies
N Schofield	Apologies
T Wardley	Present
C Armstrong (Mayor)	Present
J Wright (deputy Mayor)	Present

In attendance: Town Clerk, Events Officer

\* apologies not presented at meeting due to phone/email problem in town hall

### **C15.14 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs K Schofield, N Schofield and C Johanssen.

### **C15.15. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Heaslip drew members' attention to his membership of Rotary among his other interests. He took no part in any debate relating to Rotary.

### **C15.16. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)**

No items

### **C15.17. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The committee received the minutes of the meeting on 4 June 2015 and affirmed them as a true record.

### **C15.18. Technology Tournament**

The committee heard a presentation from Tony Wareing on the Rotary Club's Schools Technology Tournament. It is held in March every year, being one of several regional competitions organised by Rotary nationally. In 2015 23 teams of young people entered and three teams of staff. Groups are given a challenge to solve in a day, with the solutions being tested in the afternoon. The teams are in three age group categories and prizes are given according to various criteria. The total cost of the event is in excess of £1600.

Following Mr Wareing's presentation there was some debate on the value of the tournament, both to the young people of the area and to the cause of technology education, which the town council supported. A variety of sponsorship suggestions were put forward, culminating in a vote on £500 per year plus a trophy, which was carried on the casting vote of the chair.

**Resolved:** To offer sponsorship of the event to the value of £500 per year for three years, plus the provision of a trophy.

#### **C15.19            Suggestions for Future Activities**

Councillors and staff were asked at the previous meeting to complete a suggestion slip for future activities. The list supplied so far is as follows:

- Concerts and musical soirées in the Carnegie with local performers
- Plays and outdoor performances in the parks
- More Fun Days
- A cleaner town initiative/event
- Male voice choir
- Opera in the Well courtyard
- 90<sup>th</sup> birthday bash for the Queen
- Cookery demonstration event
- Talent show
- More use of parks for promoting local performance and sport
- A new guide book
- An imaginative monument to the town's mining heritage.
- Sponsored litter pick and barbecue
- Big sports day

**Resolved:** That these, and others from members of the committee not present, be considered in the budgeting meeting in November.

#### **C15.20            Grants and Funding**

The committee considered the following funding proposals:

## **Sponsorship**

- a) Workington Rotary Club

To sponsor a barrel and the supporting literature for the Workington Beer Festival on 3 – 5 September.

**Resolved:** To sponsor the event for £210

## **Community Service Grants**

- b) St Patrick's RC Primary School

£300

To support a performance and an exhibition at the Helena Thompson Museum.

**Resolved:** To turn down the grant application with the suggestion that the funding is sought from the Helena Thompson Museum .

- c) Workington Amateur Operatic Society

£300

To buy costumes for the Society's Autumn production of 'Evita'.

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

- d) Frostoms Pensioners

£300

To support a bus trip for young people..

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

- e) Workington Reds Womens Team

£300

To help in the purchase of kit for the ladies team.

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

## **C15.21. Schools Prize**

The committee considered a proposal from the chair that it supports or sponsors prize giving evenings at the town's schools. There was some discussion of the benefits of such a prize and what it should be for.

**Resolved:** That the council should sponsor a shield for every school for Community Engagement, or Contribution to the Wider Community. To be included in the budget for 2016-17.

## **C15.22. Carnegie Theatre**

The committee considered a proposal from the Carnegie Theatre that the council be involved in the development of improved studio facilities. Initially they would like the council to consider helping to fund an £11,000 'blackening' project to enable them to stage the 'Bear and the Butterfly' in October 2015.

**Resolved:** To recommend that the council reaffirms its interest in becoming a strategic partner for the Theatre

**Resolved:** To request a site visit for the first week in September.

#### **C15.23. Twinning Association**

The committee reviewed a statement from the Chair of the Twinning Association and were given copies of the Charter with Val de Reuil.

**Resolved:** To invite the Chair of the Twinning Association to a subsequent meeting, to discuss how the council can further support the aims of Twinning.

**Resolved:** To recommend that Full Council be asked to supply further nominated councillors to serve on the Twinning Association committee.

#### **C15.24. Christmas Lights 2015 and Winter Festival**

The Events Officer briefly ran through the budget commitments so far along with some of the ideas as yet formalised. The committee was concerned that the land trains route should be improved, to avoid some of the problems of last year. The role of compere should be given more thought and the problem of Finkle Street might be solved by making it a focus for family entertainments. The budget contributions at present were :Town Council £10,000, Borough Council £20,000 and Scoop AM £2,000. The headline act would be the schools choir developed by Soundwave in the run up to the switch on.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

#### **C15.25. Helena Thompson Liaison Group**

Cllr P Bales reported on the first meeting of the group since the elections. He now appreciated the full scale of the challenge being faced by the museum in scanning and bringing to the public a huge and varied number of items, currently in storage. The museum staff were biding their time over specifying the correct hardware and software for the job, and he felt this was justifiable so that value for money was obtained through procurement of equipment that was fit for purpose. The archiving project had begun with volunteers, but more volunteers are needed. Details available from the museum.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

#### **C15.26 Oral History Project**

The committee reviewed a proposal to commission an oral history project, creating an archive and the treatment for a possible radio programme. There was concern about the cost of the exercise and the value of an oral archive, when so much of the town's paper archive was as yet unsorted.

**Resolved:** Not to commission the project.

#### **C15.27 Mineworkers Memorial**

The committee reviewed some indicative costs for a lighting and information panel installation at Jane Pit, which would be a focus for the council's memorial to the mineworkers of the district.

Projectors (£376 each)	£3,760
DMX interface box	£998
Signage - print and design	£2,444
Survey	£750
Stands/Fixings	£3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£10,952</b>

There was some concern about the current state of the pit buildings, which although a scheduled ancient monument had little sign of active management beyond a mowing regime on the surrounding grassland. The site was prone to drug use and anti-social behaviour, so any installation would have to be extremely robust. It was noted that the buildings are the property of Allerdale Borough Council, and the borough's cooperation would be required to progress the plan. The clerk reported that he had had discussions with Heritage Lottery Fund staff who were not unsympathetic to the project.

**Resolved:** To note the indicative budget, which will be reviewed in November.

**Resolved:** To allow up to £1,000 in this financial year for further survey work at the site, and to actively engage with the landowners over the development of the project.

Cllr Bales left at 7.31pm

#### **C15.28. Paint the Town Red Festival**

The committee considered the indicative costs and implications for staffing of bringing back the Paint the Town Red Festival in 2016.

The Events Officer has been working with the Town Centre management team, the Rotary and others to identify likely funding sources. These are shown below:

Organisation	Contribution
Iggesund	£200
AMCOR	£1,200
EON	£5,000
Allerdale Borough Council	£5,000
Workington Town Council	£10,000*
Total	£21,400

\* WTC budget contribution is subject to approval through the 2016-17 budgetary cycle.

Indicative costs, so far, including contingency, licensing, production and marketing, are coming in around £20,000 for a single Saturday in June. The Events Officer advised that she estimated there would be two days per week required from September to ensure the smooth running of the event.

It was requested that some thought be given to producing a 'Big Bang' at the end of the day, either through a headline act or performance or some other form of show.

**Resolved:** That the committee approves the indicative cost and staff resource, ensuring the event is included in the budget for 2016-17.

**Resolved:** That a working group be established to liaise with the events officer over the organisation. The working group will include Cllrs Armstrong, Baldry, McGuckin and Wright, in addition to Helen Fowler and others as required. The group will report back to the committee as required.

The meeting closed at 7.44pm.