

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council, 6pm on 28 September 2017 in Town Hall, Workington

D Rollo (Chair)	Present
B Cannon	Present
B Dixon	Present*
P McHarry	Present
A McGuckin	Apologies
B Miskelly	Present
J Osborn	Present
B Reville	Present
T Wardley	Apologies

*arrived late

In attendance: Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk

Also in attendance: Cllr Matthew Suddart

E17.29 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs A McGuckin and T Wardley.

E17.30 Declarations of Interest

None

E17.31 Exclusion of Press and Public

It was agreed that the meeting should be held entirely in the public domain.

E17.32 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 20 July 2017 were affirmed as a true record and the minutes of the Allotments sub-committee on 12 September 2017 were noted.

E17.33 Allotment Development

The chair gave an overview of the creation of the Allotment sub-committee and reported on the productivity of the meeting. She highlighted that it intended to meet at least twice per year and would include representatives from each allotment site. The clerk reported that the allotments sub-committee had made a recommendation to increase on the allotment estate rent in 2018 by 2%. It was reported that the progress towards moving Newlands Lane allotment site to self-governance would be completed by the end of October. The clerk confirmed that the Town Council would still ultimately own the land and all issues would be resolved by the allotment holders unless it related to work carried out by the Council.

Resolved: To note the creation of the Allotments sub-committee.

Resolved: To accept the recommendation to increase the allotment rent in 2018 by 2%.

E17.34 Back Lanes

The clerk reported that a request had been made to supply a glossary of terms for the different types of back lanes, and that this was in progress. There was a discussion about the previous report on back lanes presented in 2011. It was noted that there were a number of errors in the content, leaving the Council unable to establish the current work required to the back lanes in the town. A number of councillors raised concerns about anti-social behaviour and unfulfilled agreements made to adopt back lanes. The clerk highlighted that to determine the responsibility for each back lane, and how the Council's resources could be allocated, there would be a requirement to comprehensively establish liability of each lane.

There was a discussion about an area of unmaintained land on Bolton Street, belonging to a private company. A number of councillors highlighted that it may be possible to liaise with the owner to improve its appearance. The committee noted that there were a number of environmental issues across the town, and requested a date to visit these areas.

Resolved: To establish a comprehensive map of the back lanes in Workington highlighting the ownership and status accompanied by a report outlining the costs of works required.

Resolved: To set a date for councillors to visit areas of the town with environmental issues.

E17.35 Play Areas and Open Spaces

The clerk reported that additional costs to supply the play area at Moss Bay had been received and that these were currently being reviewed. The location and the type of flooring were discussed; leading councillors to raise concerns about the current flooring at the play area sited at Moorclose. The clerk confirmed that there were substantive drainage issues on the Moorclose site and recommended to councillors that it would be beneficial to remove the existing equipment, re-lay the flooring and implement a new play area at the same location. There was a discussion about the opportunity to then relocate the current equipment from Moorclose to an alternative site. It was noted that there were a number of wards in the town that required play areas but suitable sites were not yet attainable. Due to the imminent transfer of Harrington play area, this location was suggested as most suitable for the equipment. A councillor highlighted the requirement for additional sites to host panna football. There was a discussion about the most suitable locations, where it was stressed that both Salterbeck and Moorclose would benefit from the installations. It was noted that parking could be an issue for the site at Salterbeck.

Resolved: To investigate the costs to solve the drainage and equipment issues at Moorclose.

Resolved: To establish the suitability to install a panna court at Moorclose.

E17.36 Vulcans Park

The clerk confirmed that the transfer of Vulcan Park was progressing with the prospect of completing the transfer by the end of October. The clerk gave a brief report on the proposal from the Estate Team Leader to create a remembrance garden in the park. It was highlighted that the proposal had been initially presented at Culture for approval as the costs derived from the Remembrance Budget.

Resolved: To present a full plan of the remembrance garden at the next committee meeting.

E17.37 Workington in Bloom

It was reported that Workington had achieved a Silver Guild Award from its Cumbria in Bloom entry. The committee commended the work put into in bloom and hoped that developments in the park would improve the town entry further for next year.

Resolved: To note the report.

The meeting closed at 19:11