

WORKINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Policy and Resources committee of Workington Town Council Tuesday 19 November 2013 in the Town Hall, Workington

C Armstrong	Present
M Bainbridge (Chair)	Present
D Coe	Present
K Hansen	Present
M Jones	Present
J Osborn	Present
N Schofield	Present (late)
J Wright	Present (late)

P13.24 Apologies

None

P13.25 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs M Bainbridge and K Hansen drew the committee's attention to their interest in the Trades Hall (item 6). Cllr C Armstrong drew the committee's attention to her interest in 5c).

P13.26 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues.

P13.27 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 19 September 2013 were received and affirmed as a true record.

P13.28 Grant Applications

In line with Full Council Minute 13.56 v) the committee considered grant applications and made the following recommendations:

a) Moorclose Community Centre

£1,735

IT installations to help the centre deliver more effective training courses

It was noted that the council had a power to help community buildings, but also that any council funding should be accompanied by an expectation that the organisation must be seen to be accountable for the money and that the Town Council's financial support must be recognised.

Resolved: To offer a grant of £1,735, though the clerk would write to the Community Centre setting out the terms of the grant.

b) Workington Town Brigadiers

£1,500

Training kits for majorettes

The committee noted that there was not a great deal of supporting information about the troupe or how they had been funded in the past. They felt more information would be required if financial assistance was to be forthcoming.

Resolved: To offer financial support up to £600 for the uniforms in line with the funding offered to sporting clubs for youth inclusion. The clerk to contact the organisation and liaise with the Culture committee.

c) Salterbeck Over 55s

£165

Christmas lunch for elderly group members

Cllr C Armstrong left the room and took no part in the discussion or vote.

It was noted that this would probably be through the council's powers under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The council does not usually pay for such things but in view of the considerable age of the residents involved, agreed to do so on this occasion.

Resolved: To pay a grant of £165

P13.29 Grants and Sponsorship

The committee considered a report on what actions were required to meet the directions of Full Council on Grants and Sponsorship.

It was noted that advertising was very important, because funding community projects was an important aspect of council business. It was suggested that the website be used as an engagement tool and this led to a discussion on how the council engages with the press and the community. Notices in the libraries seemed ineffectual, and the clerk reminded councillors that even putting notices on noticeboards had a cost implication in the time it took.

Community led planning initiatives should inform the council's strategies, but if councillors were not committed then there was no example to set. There should be an engagement strategy which included communicating with the press and general public. The website and newsletter should include examples of how the council has supported events and organisations.

The committee looked at a sample newsletter from Sandbach Town Council and considered how a Workington newsletter might look.

Resolved: To adopt the report (Appendix A) and recommend its approach Grants and Sponsorship to Full Council

Resolved: To produce a newsletter in January

P13.30 Community-led Planning

The committee reviewed the steps taken so far towards community led planning. Many issues were discussed under the previous item. It was noted that despite several attempts and plenty of publicity, there was still a poor turnout of councillors at the recent event at the Helena Thompson with Lorraine Smyth from ACT. It was noted that many of the town's residents' associations no longer involved local councillors and that action through these was often viewed with suspicion. It was suggested that a session piggy-backing on a Full Council meeting – before, preferably – would probably be the only way to achieve a captive audience.

Resolved: To continue working with ACT to develop councillors' and community capacity, through a variety of activities including a session at Full Council..

Resolved: To develop an effective engagement strategy. The clerk will draft for next meeting.

P13.31 Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Consultation

The committee reviewed the plans for responding to the Government's latest Consultation on Managing Radioactive Waste Safely, which involved a special meeting of the Policy and Resources and Planning committees to draw up a response, which would then be considered at a specially convened Full Council session on 3 December to meet the government's deadline.

Resolved: To note the plans

P13.32 Budget and Draft Service Plan

The Committee considered the Draft Service Plan for its budget allocations. Cllrs M Bainbridge and K Hansen left the room and took no further part in the discussion or voting.

There was debate about whether increasing the amount put aside to fund the Trades Hall and CAB would set a precedent, especially because many councillors were so strongly linked to the Trades Hall. It was noted that the proposed budget included a potential 20 per cent increase in the funding available, but the committee didn't feel it could go beyond this at this stage. There was some discussion about whether the council could fund a commercial venture. It was noted that it could if it had the power, but that councillors preferred it to be policy not to.

Cllr M Jones left before the vote, due to another commitment.

Resolved: To recommend the Service Plan set out in the Appendix to these minutes.

The meeting closed at 20.03