

# Workington Town Council

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## Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council, 6pm on 27 January 2015 in the Town Hall, Workington

C Armstrong	Present
W Bacon	Present
H Harrington	Present
E Johnsen	Absent
M Jones (Chair of Workington in Bloom '14)	Present
A Lawson	Apologies
B Miskelly	Present
W Reville	Present
D Rollo (Chair)	Present
M Rollo (Vice Chair)	Present

In attendance: Town Clerk

### **E14.50 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A Lawson.

### **E14.51 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **E14.52 Exclusion of Press and Public**

No issues

### **E14.53 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 25 November 2014 were affirmed as a true record.

### **E14.54 Workington Nature Partnership (WNP)**

The chair reported that she and the clerk had recently attended a meeting of the WNP Steering Group. The WNP Officer has been doing a lot of work with volunteers from Lakes College, and this had netted some good publicity lately. She was enrolled on a Volunteer Leadership course to enhance her skills. The de-silting programme in Harrington was on track but there was still a long way to go. Local residents in Brierydale had received 'Love your Rezza' leaflets to encourage them to look out for dog fouling. Siddick had Little Egrets and otters well established now. Working with Groundwork NE & Cumbria and Cumbria Wildlife Trust there was a 'Nature Detectives' group established in South Workington. Though numbers were not vast, the response of late had been positive so the project was being persevered with.

**Resolved:** To note the report

**E14.55 Workington in Bloom**

The committee considered a proposal from the Town Centre Manager (Allerdale Borough Council) that the Town Council funds the planting of three additional trees in the centre of Workington. A quote for the work from ISS required £411 for three Sorbus Aria 12/14 bare root trees.

**Resolved:** To fund the work from the In Bloom Development budget.

**E14.56 Workington in Bloom**

The committee considered what steps were required to ensure an effective Cumbria in Bloom entry in 2015. It was noted that Cllr R Jones wished to continue his involvement and that schools engagement should be commencing.

**Resolved:** That In Bloom is coordinated by a working group reporting to this committee, and that group would be convened by officers initially for a Thursday in February.

**E14.57 Allerdale Leisure Strategy**

The committee considered making a response to Allerdale Borough Council's Consultation on their Leisure Strategy. The strategy was based on work by consultants which did not appear to be completely satisfactory: in a Workington context it contained a number of errors. The strategy itself seemed a little too generalised and the committee struggled to identify how it related to the town. The committee noted that the Town Council's Culture Committee had considered the same document the night before and had also found it challenging. There didn't appear to be any attempt to delineate provision for adults and children. There was some debate about how the consultants had identified the Open Spaces elements, but there was general agreement that Open Spaces really required planning recognition.

**Resolved:** To add the committee's comments to those of the Culture Committee for feedback on the consultation.

**E14.58 Back Lanes**

The committee heard a brief update from the clerk on the progress of various Back Lane initiatives. Cumbria County Council were keen to cooperate, but the recent cuts had dramatically reduced their capacity. However, reorganisation at a local level was now bedding in and should result in some movement, particularly in relation to Frostoms Road very soon.

#### **E14.59 Play Area Consultation**

The committee considered a report on the responses to the Moorclose Green Play Area consultation. The results were fairly inconclusive in so far as they did not demonstrate overwhelming demand for a play area, but did indicate some resistance from some members of the community to play facilities in specific areas on the Green. It was clear that no consensus could be identified at this stage, despite several attempts at consulting the community. As a result, no specific site could be identified for the project. Councillors were clear that the funding should be retained and available for a Play Area in Moorclose, but felt that more work was required with the community, and with the social landlord - Your Derwent and Solway. It was further noted that some consideration should be given to private homeowners in the Moorclose neighbourhood.

**Resolved:** To take no action in Moorclose at this stage, but to retain the funding for the Moorclose Play Area as earmarked funds.

**Resolved:** To seek a meeting between the chair and Cllr Armstrong and Your Derwent and Solway to seek further support for a Play Area in Moorclose.

#### **E14.60 Play Area Development**

The committee considered what plans it could make for further Play Areas in Workington. It heard that the Chair and the Clerk had attended a series of meetings with Impact Housing Association and the Salterbeck Residents Association. The small play area on Walker Road required renovation, and town council funding and ongoing expertise was sought. A proposal for a new Play Area on the site with a £10,000 contribution from the council, £10,000 from Impact and the ongoing maintenance to be delivered by the council was brought forward. The Residents Association would supply benches and bins.

**Resolved:** To bring this proposal for £10,000 expenditure from the PA Development budget, and further proposals from discussions with Derwent and Solway concerning Moorclose, and other proposals, to a future meeting of this committee, to be convened on 24 February.

The meeting closed at 19.00