

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Finance, Property and Employment Committee Meeting on Thursday 24 July 2014, at 6pm in Workington Town Hall

N Schofield Chair	Present
A Lawson Vice Chair	Apologies
C Armstrong	Present
B Bacon	Absent
J Bracken	Absent
B Cannon	Absent
N Hardy	Absent
K Hansen	Absent
M Heaslip	Present
R Jones	Present
B Reville	Apologies
D Rollo	Apologies

F14.14 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs A Lawson, B Reville and D Rollo.

F14.15 Declarations of Interest

No additional declarations were made.

F14.16 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 29 May 2014 were received and affirmed as a true record.

F14.17. Schedule of Payments

The committee considered the Schedule of Payments 16 May to 30 June. Payments to Rentokill were queried, and it was suggested that the council look into the cost of training Town Council staff to do the job themselves.

Resolved: To investigate training costs for pest control.

Resolved: To accept the Schedule.

F14.18. Bank Reconciliation Statement

The committee received the Reconciliation Statement as at 30 June 2014.

Resolved: To note the statement.

F14.19. Budget Monitoring Statement

The committee considered a report on the Budget Monitoring Statement for 2014 – 2015 to 30 June 2014.

Resolved: To accept the report.

F14.20. Employment Issues

The clerk reported that recruitment of an Events Officer had been successful, with 22 applicants, shortlisted to 5 interviewees. The Employment Panel had assisted the clerk in the interviewing and Amy Ferguson of Workington had been offered the post, subject to references.

Resolved: To note the report.

F14.21. Property Matters

a) Play areas

The committee received a verbal report from the clerk on the progress of the acquisition and management of play areas. Two of the land transfers are complete, but Siddick still awaits conclusion of the installation of faulty play equipment. There has been no further development on the issue of Sustrans ownership of the back of the site. Signage was planned for all three sites prior to official opening.

It was suggested that conversations be opened with Allerdale Borough Council for the support of the remaining play areas in the town – Harrington Marina, Vulcans Park, the Skate Park, as well as looking at match funding any development in Moorclose. It was noted that money from Workington Tennis Club was lodged with Cumbria Community Foundation. Inspira are currently looking at provision for young people in Workington with particular reference to Moorclose.

Resolved: To note the report and for the clerk to initiate a conversation with the appropriate officer at Allerdale Borough Council.

b) Allotment Estate

The committee received a verbal report from the clerk on the progress of the acquisition of allotment sites. The clerk had visited Rosehill, Harrington with both the solicitor and the Borough Property Officer. The solicitor had queried the extent of the land being offered, the Property Officer had confirmed that the land would necessarily include the area by the roadside currently used as informal parking. The committee recommended that the whole site be taken. At Siddick the land included a recreation field and a number of workshop plots that could not be described as allotments. The committee noted that the council had already taken a play area in Siddick and that other bits of contiguous mowing would not be out of order. The size of the Annie Pit site had created some issues with fencing boundaries, which would require careful thought. The Clerk confirmed that he had met with Borough officers and staff from St Mary's School, Harrington to look at ways that access and amenity could be preserved at the Mountain View site.

Resolved: To note the report, recommending the council approves the extent of the sites at Siddick and Rosehill.

c) Newlands Lane Play Area

The committee considered whether to expand play provision at Newlands Lane, and whether benches should be installed for parents/carers. The clerk reported that he had received a quote from Play and Leisure to supply four benches for around £1,600 for use on Newlands Lane and Brewery House sites in the same style as the play equipment. The committee felt further consultation would be required before placing additional equipment on Newlands Lane.

Resolved: To recommend proceeding with purchasing four benches for the Play Areas at Newlands Lane and Brewery House.

Resolved: To begin consultation on extending facilities at Newlands Lane.

14.22. Public Realm Issues

It was noted that Policy and Resources had not been able to discuss the virement of a budget line to pay for Public Realm works at their meeting on 22 July. The issue would now go to Full Council on 13 Aug.

The clerk reported that the ABC Town Centre Manager had commissioned a condition survey of the mural on Wilson Street. It suggested that the mural was beyond economic repair due to the condition of the underlying render, which now required replacement or renewal on sufficiently large a scale as to make wholesale repainting the only practical remedial action.

The clerk had yet to make inquiries about the condition of the Lamport Fountain.

14.23. Audit and Accountability Act 2014

The clerk briefed the committee on how the Audit and Accountability Act 2014 will affect the council's governance arrangements. By 2017 there will have to be new arrangements for external audit, but it was hoped that these would be arranged through a 'sector-led body' commissioned through NALC. The act included a number of other provisions, giving the Secretary of State power to make regulations for the distribution of meeting summonses, allowing the public to record and broadcast meetings, to direct compliance on the code for council publicity, to direct the extent of published data about the council and altering the rules for parish polls.

Resolved: To note the report.

Part Two

The committee resolved to consider the following item in the absence of the press and public, because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest under s1 of the 1960 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act).

14.24. Property issues

The clerk gave a verbal report on the progress of the Town Hall Project, a minute of which is recorded as Confidential Minute 14.24.

Resolved: To note the report.

The meeting closed at 19.25 pm.