

Workington Town Council

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21 September 2017

To Members of Environment Committee

D Rollo (chair)	B Miskelly
B Dixon	J Osborn (vice chair)
B Cannon	B Reville
A McGuckin	T Wardley
P McHarry	vacancy

(Copy for information only to other members of Workington Town Council)

You are summoned to a meeting of Workington Town Council Environment Committee on Thursday 28 September 2017 at 6.00pm in the Mayor's Reception Rooms, Town Hall, Workington.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A B' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Chris Bagshaw
Town Clerk

AGENDA

Public Participation

To discuss any items of interest to the council brought forward by members of the public. This session will last no longer than 20 minutes. The council cannot take any decisions in this session, except to bring items to a future meeting. The public are not permitted to speak in other parts of the meeting unless invited to do so by the chairman.

1. Apologies

To receive and accept any apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest relating to matters which appear on this agenda, but which have not been previously declared on members' declarations of pecuniary interest and other interests.

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

To consider whether there are any agenda items during consideration of which the press and public should be excluded.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

a) To receive the minutes of the meeting on 20 July 2017 and affirm them as a true record.

b) To note the minutes of the Allotments sub-committee on 12 September 2017.

5. Allotment Development

a) To note the creation of an Allotment sub-Committee, which will meet at least twice per year to effectively manage the allotment estate.

b) To receive a report from the Allotment sub-Committee and to consider its recommendations for rents and other matters.

6. Back Lanes

To consider a number of actions relating to the environmental improvement of Back Lanes.

Background

Following the conclusion of the improvement of Frostoms Road back lane the council has been corresponding with Cumbria County Council and Allerdale Borough Council over the adoption by the County Council of the lanes that were improved in 2013. This process is ongoing and is expected to reach some form of final settlement by the end of the current year.

In the meantime, officers have been investigating the remaining lanes cited in the list prepared for the Environment Committee in 2011. The report suggested that there were 217 adopted back lanes and 33 unadopted back lanes in the town. With the benefit of hindsight, this position seems to be inaccurate. The County Council is obliged to publish a list of the adopted highways that are unclassified. This currently stands at around 58, and excludes back lanes such as that behind Salisbury Street in Moss Bay, those behind 81 Moss Bay Road or Holyoake Terrace. These are all lanes that were 'done up' during various phases of South Workington regeneration. It seems likely that the 'adopted' list of 2011 counted all lanes that had received some form of improvement in the previous few years, and not necessarily those which had actually been formally adopted.

Clearly, unpicking the peculiar highway status of a variety of back lanes could occupy a disproportionate amount of officer time. It will continue as when resources allow until a comprehensive picture emerges. This will allow officers to correctly signpost queries, and should help the general public understand what is and isn't achievable.

Within the body of remaining lanes, however, a small handful of issues stand out, and these have been highlighted before – Yeowartville (24-40), Grey Street (4-108) and Oxford Street/Vulcans Lane (1-8/118-138). Both Yeowartville and Oxford Street/Grey Street could be improved to footway standards, without lighting.

Grey Street is a very long back lane which deteriorated markedly in the last couple of years. Putting a new surface treatment on a lane of this length and width is likely to be very expensive (initial estimates suggest in the region of £120,000, without lighting). However there are a number of existing surface treatments on the lane – cobbles, granite sets etc, which could be used as the design brief for improvement works which left much of the existing surface unaffected.

Decision required

Officers would like to cost up these solutions, and do some consultation with the local community about expectations.

7. Play Areas and Open Spaces

a) To receive a brief verbal report on the progress made towards delivering Play Areas across the town, including the 'Youth Zone' in Moss Bay.

b) To consider any actions required prior to the transfer of Vulcan Park and other play areas to the Town Council.

Background

The Council is seeking a swift resolution to the apparent impasse in the transfer of Vulcan Park. If this is successful the transfer of the park will take place within a month. The committee should give some thought as to what its overarching priorities will be for the development of the park. Officers have already anticipated how the grounds maintenance regime will be continued and assessed the initial priorities from a legal compliance point of view. Any budgetary implications for these will be brought to the November Committee meeting. In the meantime it may be that an ad hoc working group is required to bring some future proposals for the park's management to committee.

8. Workington in Bloom

To note the outcome of the Workington in Bloom gardens awards and to consider any issues relating to Cumbria in Bloom entry.