

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Policy and Resources committee of Workington Town Council, 6pm Tuesday 12 January 2016 in the Town Hall, Workington

J Wright (chair)	Present
C Armstrong	Present
M Bainbridge	Present*
A McGuckin	Present
V Morgan	Present
D Rollo	Apologies

*arrived late

In attendance: Town Clerk

PR15.33 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr D Rollo.

PR15.34. Declarations of Interest

None.

PR15.35 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

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

PR15.36. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The committee received and accepted the minutes of the meeting on 29 September 2015.

PR15.37. Youth Work in Northside

Cllr Bainbridge arrived during the discussion of this item.

The committee considered a proposal from Groundwork NE and Cumbria for the continued funding of Northside Young People's Committee and community engagement activities. It was noted that the group of young people was quite small, and that the main part of the funding was to cover staff time.

Resolved: That the project be supported with £2,000 for 12 months initially, but that this be reviewed in the autumn, with a monitoring report supplied by Groundwork.

PR15.38. Town Hall and Accommodation

The committee received a brief report from the Clerk on the current and future provision for staff and councillors in the Town Hall. The Clerk explained that it was likely that the upstairs front of the building would be let to another tenant, but that this could present an opportunity for the council to consolidate in the East Wing. From discussions with Allerdale officers, it seems likely that the landlord would support an initiative to develop facilities in the current footprint occupied by the Town Council. It was noted that the relevant Portfolio Holder at the Borough Council may have a view that would be helpful to clarify at this stage. The clerk explained that he had been asked to sketch out a very rough outline of what the council's development might include.

Resolved: To seek a meeting for councillors with the relevant portfolio holder at the Borough Council. To progress discussions between officers to work out what sort of development would be possible and some indication of the likely costs and timescale.

PR15.39. Budget 2016-17 and Medium Term Financial Plan

The committee considered the budget for 2016-17 and the medium term financial plan. Cllr Bainbridge gave a short presentation on the Trades Hall's additional funding, before withdrawing from the consideration of the budget items in which she had a previously declared interest. The chair commended the Trades Hall

Looking at its own budget elements first, it considered the relationship between the Development and Planning budget lines. It also noted that the council has a number of longer term funding commitments to several organisations. It was proposed that many of these elements be united under the single heading of Community Development.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Community Development	10000	20000	20000	20400	20800
Community Planning	10000	0	0	0	0
Community Information	10000	10000	10000	10200	10404
Commissioned Service	7500	0	0	0	0
Total	37500	30000	30000	30600	31204

The Committee proposes to continue the support for the Trades Hall and the Citizen's Advice Bureau at present levels, with an additional £5,000 supporting specific adult literacy and support goals until 2017. The council is committed to supporting South Workington Youth Partnership in the coming financial year, and members indicated that they felt this level of support may be

sustained in future years, subject to appropriate performance review. The committee also proposes to maintain support for Christmas in Company at its present level, and offer financial support to Mind in West Cumbria and Allerdale Disability Association, initially at £2,000 in the coming year, with renewal depending on appropriate feedback. It also proposes to support the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme in Workington through Cumbria Youth Alliance at £1,000 per year, again subject to review.

Resolved: To commend these budget items to the council.

PR15.40 Budget 2016-17 and Medium Term Financial Plan

The committee considered the budget areas from the rest of the council, with individual chairs guiding them through the proposals. It was noted that the Allotments Committee would not be proposing any change to its running or development budgets. With the addition of the Policy and Resources figures, they felt the budget was complete as is.

Resolved: To recommend that the council adopts the budget, precept and council tax levels, along with the medium term financial plan totals indicated on the plan appended to this minute. Note the plan presented to Full Council on 27 January 2016 may include more up to date estimated outturn values for the current financial year.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm

