

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Workington Town Council held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 4 December 2019 at Christ Central, Central Square, Workington.

C Armstrong	Present	J Hunter	Apologies
M Bainbridge	Present	D King	Present
L Baldry	Present	J King	Present
H Briggs	Present	P McCarthy	Present
R Briggs	Present	S Melton	Apologies
B Cannon	Apologies	B Miskelly	Present
B Dixon	Present	D Rollo	Present
D Farrar	Present	B Sansom	Present
S Fryer	Apologies	P Scott	Present
G Glaister	Present	S Stoddart	Present
H Harrington	Present	W Wilkinson	Present
M Heaslip	Present	L Williams	Present
J Holliday	Present		

In attendance: Town Clerk

The Mayor's Chaplain was represented by Father Simon Hawksworth, who led a brief prayer.

Public Participation Session

The meeting was attended by staff from AgeUK West Cumbria. It was agreed that they would make a brief presentation at the end of the meeting.

Police Report

PCSO Lisa Jackson sent her apologies that she was unable to attend. She asked that councillors pass on any concerns or information that they may have through the Clerk. Councillors' queries included concern about speeding motorists on Stainburn Road whilst the A66 night time closure is in force, and ongoing issues with motorists and others on Walker Road and Monkhouse Road in Salterbeck, where the Residents Association has arranged for a meeting with police.

19.43. Apologies

The Council received and accepted apologies from Cllrs B Cannon, S Fryer, J Hunter and S Melton for reasons approved by the Council under the terms of Local Government Act, 1972, s85.

19.44. Declarations of Interest

Cllr W Wilkinson drew the Council's attention to his existing declarations as an allotment tenant at Feenans.

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

No issues were raised.

19.46. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Council received the draft minutes from the meeting held on 2 October 2019 and affirmed them as a true record.

19.47. Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor expressed her condolences and those of the Council to Councillor Barbara Cannon and family on the recent death of her father.

She went on to present her diary of events, noting also that she had hosted Bankfield Garden staff and volunteers in the parlour earlier in the day. The Mayor expressed particular thanks to the Events staff and the Estate team for their tireless work during the Christmas Festival.

Mayor's calendar of events since Full Council Meeting on 15 June 2019

Date	Event	Time
Monday 23 September 2019	Workington Heritage Group Helena Thompson Museum	6 for 6.30pm
Friday 4 October 2019	Workington Derwent Rotary Musical Theatre Evening to celebrate their 40 years Hunday Manor Hotel	7 for 7.30pm
Tuesday 8 October 2019	WAOS Production of The King & I Carnegie Theatre	7 for 7.15pm
Friday 11 October 2019	Hospice at Home West Cumbria AGM, W/haven Golf Club	1pm lunch 2pm AGM
Saturday 12 October 2019	Opening of sports club at Salterbeck Industrial Estate	12 noon
Wednesday 16 October 2019	Age UK West Cumbria Bake Sale & Open Day Bradbury Independent Living Centre	12 noon
Tuesday 22 October 2019	Met staff and young people at Cumbria Youth Alliance	2pm
Thursday 24 October 2019	Workington Musical Festival Dance Festival, Carnegie Theatre	5pm start 9pm presentations
Saturday 26 October 2019	Cumbria County Poppy Appeal RBL & process to The Hub	10am onwards
Wednesday 30 October 2019	Met Young Carers at Crafty Workshop	4pm
Wednesday 30 October 2019	Attended National Care Leavers Week event at Helena Thompson Museum	5pm
Monday 4 November 2019	Workington Heritage Group agm,	2pm

	Helena Thompson Museum	
Sunday 10 November 2019	Remembrance Day Parade, Harrington Remembrance Day Parade, Workington Presentation of the Squadron Crest (following Remembrance Service) at RBL Workington Musical Festival Speech & Music Festival Carnegie Theatre	9.30am onwards 1.45pm onwards 3.45pm 6.30 for 7pm 9.30pm presentations
Thursday 14 November 2019	Bankfield Day Services Award Presentation (Cumbria in Bloom)	3pm
Friday 15 November 2019	Mayor of Workington fundraiser Pie, Peas & Bingo, RBL Club	7pm
Wednesday 27 November 2019	Mayor selling Christmas cards at Dunmail Park (Produced by Young Cumbria & West Cumbria Carers)	
Saturday 30 November 2019	Christmas Parade and lights switch- on.	4pm

Resolved: To note the report.

19.48. John Sherwen Charity

The Mayor took nominations from the floor for the three appointed members of the John Sherwen Charity. Cllrs D Farrar, S Stoddart and W Wilkinson were nominated. No further nominations were made, so no vote was required. A councillor raised a query about eligibility for the charity. One reference he had read appeared to suggest the Charity was open only to members of the Church of England. The Clerk suggested he was unaware of this restriction, and had no recollection of reading it in the Charity documents he had read. However he would make appropriate inquiries.

Resolved: That Cllrs D Farrar, S Stoddart and W Wilkinson be appointed to the Charity for the duration of their current terms of office (until May 2023).

19.49. Committee Vacancies

The Council noted that Cllr P McCarthy had resigned from the Finance and General Purposes, Planning and Environment committees, due to work commitments. Cllr L Williams also took this opportunity to resign from the Planning Committee for the same reason. The Mayor took nominations from the floor and the voting on the positions is recorded as follows:

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr R Briggs 13 votes

Cllr D Farrar 7 votes

Planning Committee

Cllr S Stoddart 13 votes

Cllr B Miskelly 7 votes

Cllr G Glaister 13 votes

Environment Committee

Cllr P Scott 13 votes

Cllr B Dixon 7 votes

Resolved: That Cllr R Briggs joins the F&GP Committee. That Cllrs S Stoddart and G Glaister join the Planning Committee and Cllr P Scott joins the Environment Committee.

Reports from Committees

19.50. Planning Committee

The Council received the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings on 7 October and 4 November and the draft minutes from the meeting on 2 December 2019.

Resolved: To accept the minutes

19.51. Culture Committee

The Council received the draft minutes of the Culture Committee meeting on 12 November 2019. The Chair of the Committee reported that the Jane Pit Project was currently being considered by Workington Heritage Group for inclusion in their operation. The Christmas Tree in the car park in front of the Town Hall would have a Carol singalong by children from St Michael's School on Wednesday 18 December at 10.30am, and Councillors were encouraged to show their support.

A councillor raised a query about the Funding agreement with the Workington Heritage Group. Although not contesting the funding itself, he was concerned that the Committee members had not dealt adequately with their interests in the matter. He asserted that since all Allerdale Borough Council members are effectively trustees of the Helena Thompson Museum charity, and the Heritage Group runs the Museum on behalf of the charity trustees, the Councillors had a registerable interest in the matter which should preclude them from considering it. The Clerk noted that only one councillor present at the meeting was not also a Borough Councillor, so it is likely that had this interest been considered crucial, dispensations would have to have been given to allow the business of the Council to proceed. A councillor suggested that Custom and Practice might allow museum issues to be considered since the Council has clearly considered matters relating to the Museum before without being fettered by such interests. In the past it had been suggested that ABC Councillors ought not accede to funding the Helena Thompson Museum Charity, because they are Trustees of the Charity. Since the whole Council was broadly in favour of funding the Heritage Group in order to support the Museum, the Chair suggested that the matter be noted and that the Clerk seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer for future reference. A suggested workaround involved the consideration of the matter being delegated to members who were not also Borough Councillors, but there was insufficient support for this position to be developed.

There was a brief discussion about whether Black Sabbath lingered in Workington following their gigs in 1969 (playing as Earth or Black Sabbath). It was suggested that they are more likely to have driven back to Carlisle. A Councillor reported that he thought there was specific mention of Pow Street in a Black Sabbath biography. The Clerk confirmed that he would continue to seek a suitable secondary location for a plaque, instead of Banklands.

Resolved: To accept the minutes

19.52. Environment Committee

The Council received the draft minutes of the Environment Committee meeting from the meeting on 14 November 2019. Cllr Wilkinson was thanked by a number of Councillors for driving the Allotments Sub-Committee forward. The Ward Councillor for Northside drew attention to the lack of work done at Northside Play Area following a site visit with the Clerk, the Chair of the Committee and staff from Castles and Coasts Housing Association. The Chair asked the Clerk to contact Castles and Coasts to confirm their plan of action and to let the Councillors know the outcome.

Resolved: To accept the minutes.

19.53. Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Council received the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 26 November 2019. It was noted that contrary to the draft minutes published, Cllrs Sansom and Scott were present at the meeting. There was some discussion about whether it was appropriate for one of the Council's Committee's to use a variety of paid-for venues when the Town Hall meeting room was available for free. It was suggested that the cost was marginal and that the money was well spent if it helped support small community venues around the town.

The Clerk drew the Council's attention to the Committee's recommendation concerning the possible purchase of the Princess Street Day Centre from Cumbria County Council. It was noted that the Council did not know the likely cost of moving the Council's offices to the site, since it didn't yet know how much the County Council would charge for the building. The Clerk confirmed that he would lay the business case in front of the Council as soon as this information was available.

Resolved: To confirm the Council's interest in purchasing the building from Cumbria County Council.

Resolved: To accept the minutes.

Public Participation

Mr David Hole and Ms Jane Mindar from Age UK West Cumbria gave a brief presentation about the charity's work, emphasising the projects it had developed with veterans and developing ideas around 'social prescribing'. They wanted to encourage people to use their services in Workington for home improvement grants and benefits checks for the over 55s. Age UK is also able to help people who are caring for elderly parents. A Councillor was concerned about elderly people accessing Salterbeck Cemetery. It was suggested that individual issues could be discussed after the presentation. Mr Hole also reported that Age UK were seeking trustees and volunteers, and encouraged councillors to 'put the word out' for them. The Mayor thanked Mr Hole and Ms Mindar for their presentation.

The meeting closed at 19.25.