

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of Workington Town Council, 6pm Tuesday 19 June 2018 in the Town Hall, Workington

A Bales	Present
B Cannon	Present
M Fryer (vice chair)	Apologies
A McGuckin (chair)	Present
B Miskelly	Present
J Osborn	Present
D Rollo	Present
M Rollo	Present
N Schofield	Apologies
J Wright	Present

In attendance: Town Clerk

PR18.1 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor M Fryer and N Schofield.

PR18.2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr D Rollo drew the committee's attention to her role at Lakes College, in relation to item 7.

PR18.3 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

It was agreed that the press and public should be excluded from agenda item 10 due to the confidential nature of staffing arrangements.

PR18.4 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The committee received and accepted the minutes of the meeting on 13 March 2018.

PR18.5 ABC Town Centre Grants

The Clerk reported that permissions were now being sought for the relocation of the existing Hub matrix board to a position above Central way, facing down Upton Street. It's replacement LED display board will require new conventions for artwork etc, and these are being developed. A councillor requested that information being displayed on the Hub board be communicated to councillors. It was agreed that this should be possible.

Resolved: To note the report.

PR18.6 Budget Progress 2018-19

The Committee reviewed its progress against the current budget headings.

Resolved: To note the progress.

PR18.7 Standing Orders

A councillor reported that some members had expressed concern about the length of time individuals were speaking for in council meetings. It was noted that Standing Orders already provided for chairs to enforce time limits on speakers and the length of meetings.

Resolved: To bring chairs and all councillors' attention to the relevant sections of the Standing Orders.

PR18.8 Remembrance Budget

The Committee considered a request from the Culture Committee that it add £2,000 to the in-year budget for Remembrance. This was due to a better than anticipated response from members of the community for activities commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

Resolved: To allow the committee to raise its budget by an additional £2,000, this to be funded from outturn underspends across the whole budget.

PR18.9 Active Cumbria

The committee considered a proposal from Active Cumbria that it supports their proposed lottery funded project to develop healthy eating in primary schools in Workington. There was some discussion about the benefits of teaching children about healthy eating as opposed to ensuring their parents had access to healthy food. It was noted that the FareShare initiative supported by the council over Christmas and subsequently continued with the backing of Derwent Rotary addressed this latter issue, and there was no reason why the council shouldn't support both approaches.

Resolved: To offer support to the proposal from Active Cumbria with an indicative budget of £500 from the Youth Provision budget.

Resolved: To investigate the opportunities to support the FareShare or similar initiatives in the future.

In line with Resolution PR18.3, the press and public were excluded from this part of the meeting.

PR18.10 Resources and Staffing Allocation

A councillor requested that further to PR18.3, Officers also be excluded from this part of the meeting. The Committee agreed that this was appropriate. The Clerk spoke briefly about a Report submitted with recommendations on the future structure of the council, and then left the room. The issues raised in the report were discussed, and a number of suggestions made. The following resolutions were agreed and the Clerk returned to the meeting.

Resolved: To review the appointment of an apprentice gardener in 12 months time.

Resolved: To look at short term staffing arrangements (including additional hours) to ensure current work is completed effectively, including support of the Twinning Association and other administrative roles.

Resolved: To convene a sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee, to be chaired by the Chair of Finance, Property and Employment. Membership will be the chairs of Committees and the Mayor. The sub-Committee will conduct a root and branch review of the council's staffing arrangements and ancillary matters. The sub-Committee would have three months to report back.

Resolved: To look further at a proposal to bring in a peer review of the council's operations.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm