

# WORKINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Policy and Resources committee of Workington Town Council Tuesday 9 July 2013 in the Town Hall, Workington

Ap	C Armstrong	P	J Osborn
P	M Bainbridge (Chair)	P	N Schofield
Ab	D Coe	P	J Wright
P	K Hansen		
P	M Jones		

### **P13.11 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr C Armstrong

### **P13.12 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Bainbridge drew the committee's attention to her interest in the Trades Hall (item 4); Cllr Hansen drew the committee's attention to his interest in the Theatre Royal (item 4).

### **P13.13 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were received and affirmed as a true record.

### **P13.14 Grants and Sponsorship**

The committee considered a report from the clerk on the way that the council distributes money through grants and sponsorship.

It was noted that many people in the town are unaware of the differences between the various authorities and that Workington Town Council is active in supporting a wide variety of community groups.

It was suggested that the logo and name of the council should always be displayed prominently.

**Resolved:** To set new grants and sponsorship criteria for 2014, including protocols for publicity and small grants.

**Resolved:** To task full council with identifying strategic causes suitable for longer term sponsorship arrangements.

**Resolved:** To assist full council by setting criteria in time for October meeting.

### **P13.15 Community led Planning**

The Clerk reported that new dates in September/October had been sought from Action with Communities in Cumbria for councillor training on CLP.

### **P13.16 Code of Conduct**

The Committee considered the council's current Code of Conduct following a number of issues that had arisen in the previous six months. It was noted that the Code, which was based on the countywide monitoring officers' recommended version, was a year old this summer and so had now had some time to show any problems that it might contain.

The most obvious issue had been related to the directions given to councillors when declaring an interest that was not pecuniary. The council's current code refers on page 3 to 'restrictions the council places on your involvement in matters where you have a pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest as defined by the council'. However no further restrictions are placed on councillors beyond the statutory ones relating to pecuniary interests.

It was noted that this allowed councillors with declared non-pecuniary interests to take part in debates and vote on issues which might relate to those interests.

It was noted that the NALC model of the Code of Conduct was far more prescriptive and less open to interpretation.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk bring a paper to Full Council with the recommendation that the council adopts the NALC model Code of Conduct.

### **P13.17 Health Inequality**

The Committee considered the issue of health inequality following a request from CALC's Chief Officer that the council offer some comment on the subject, which had arisen at a recent county level Chief Executives' meeting. It had been observed that the county demonstrated some glaring health inequalities, with some Wards in Workington appearing to be 20 years poorer (in terms of life expectancy) than wards near Penrith.

It was noted that the Town Council was beginning to address issues such as healthy eating through its development of the allotment estate and a variety of other initiatives, but that perhaps it could do more to bring partners together. Education and good advice would always be in demand and the Town Council should explore ways of bringing in the various sources of help and advice together, perhaps through a survey.

**Resolved:** The clerk would feedback to CALC that the council was interested in exploring partnership initiatives that strengthened the community and contributed to its aims of bringing sustainable prosperity to the town.

**The meeting closed at 8pm**