

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council, 6pm on 26 January 2016 in the Town Hall, Workington

D Rollo (Chair)	Present
C Johanssen	Apologies
F Johnston	Absent
A Lawson	Present
P McHarry	Present
B Miskelly	Present
V Morgan	Present
J Osborn	Apologies
B Reville	Present
T Wardley	Apologies
C Armstrong (mayor)	Present

In attendance: Town Clerk, Cllr M Heaslip, Allerdale Borough Council Portfolio Holder for Locality Services, Michael Hall, Allerdale Borough Council Parking Services Manager.

E15.54 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs C Johanssen, J Osborn and T Wardley.

E15.55 Declarations of Interest

No additional interests to those previously declared.

E15.56 Exclusion of Press and Public

No issues

E15.57 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 10 November 2015 were affirmed as a true record. It was noted that the Mayor was also present, attending ex officio.

E15.58 Parking Charges

The committee heard a presentation from Cllr Heaslip and Michael Hall on the proposed changes to parking charges in Workington on car parks owned and operated by Allerdale Borough Council. They were told it was 4 years since the last review and that the process should be put in the context of central government removing £600,000 in funding. Car parking was a valuable revenue stream which must make its contribution to the continuation of public services. In Workington the

principal changes would be an increase in the charges on Udale Street car park, which was currently overcrowded. Other charges in the town would stay the same but the charging period would now extend to 9pm.

Resolved: To offer feedback to the consultation as follows:

- Question 1. The committee agrees with the charging proposals
- Question 2. The committee agrees with the proposed changes to the permit charges
- Question 3. The committee agrees with the proposed changes to the maximum stay
- Question 4. The committee agrees with the changes to the charging hours.
- Question 5. The committee agrees with the introduction of an overnight rate.
- Question 6. The committee agrees with the proposal to introduce new machines.
- Question 7. The committee expects the Borough Council to keep the changes under review to ensure that the outcomes match the expectations.

E15.59. Workington Nature Partnership

The committee heard that a meeting of the Nature Partnership Steering Group was scheduled for 22 February. In the main, projects were proceeding to plan, with the Harrington Reservoir desilting project now progressing to detailed specialist specification.

E15.60. Workington in Bloom

The committee were told that the Events Officer would schedule a meeting of the Steering Group on her return from leave. The theme for 2016 would be red to tie in with Paint the Town Red. The clerk was reviewing the 'Welcome to Workington' signs with a view to their replacement, however this would be done in the context of general signage changes being proposed by Allerdale Borough Council.

Resolved: To note the report

E15.61. Bus Shelters

The clerk reported that he was still accumulating material for a report on Bus Shelter provision in the town, but he expected to complete his work in the coming week.

E15.62. Bus Routes

The committee considered a proposal from Cumbria County Council for a revised bus stop on John Street. There was some concern that the proposed area for a stop

was in a congested part of the street, and the resulting loss of parking spaces would cause some inconvenience.

Resolved: That the clerk should attend the Bus Liaison group meeting and convey the committee's concerns.

E15.63. Floods 2015

The committee considered the response to the flooding which accompanied Storm Desmond in December 2015. It was noted that Allerdale Borough Council staff and others responsible for the emergency response had demonstrated that they were effectively prepared for the task. The Town Council's limited resources had been deployed effectively and generally the crisis had been managed well. There were some important learning points however. The response to the preliminary warnings in Workington had been slow. This appeared to be because they required police initiation, and most of the police response was dealing with the emerging crisis upstream. This meant that by the time evacuation and reception measures were taken in Workington itself, the water was already in Hall Park View. This feedback would be taken to the emergency response teams. There was some concern that in the recovery period, the flow of information concerning highways management had been ineffectual. It was particularly noted that there appeared to be conflicting information concerning the closure of Workington (Calva) Bridge, and that the restoration of full traffic flows had happened too early for the householders to be able to clear their premises of damaged property. As a consequence there was some danger to people and vehicles in the street. The clerk reported that he had a meeting scheduled with Iggesund the following week to look at the damage to their water extraction plant and to see if any measures could be taken to alleviate the concerns of Hall Park View residents about the level of Soapery Beck. The clerk also reported that he believed there were some simple measures the Town Council could assist with financially at Barepot that would help the continued resilience of the community. He would bring proposals forward in due course.

Resolved: To submit relevant feedback to appropriate bodies, and to keep the issue under review.

E15.64. Back Lanes

The clerk reported that the progress on Frostoms Road back lane was awaiting staff time. The gating of Murray Road rear lane would require a Public Space Protection Order, and this was being prepared by the Police for submission to Allerdale Borough Council. In the meantime the gates were being designed by apprentices at Shepley

Engineering, with the oversight of the Rotary Club. The clerk would be attending a meeting with the police and the rotary club on 3 February to progress the planning application.

Resolved: To note the report.

E15.65. Play Areas Development Wordsworth View

The committee considered proposals from three suppliers for the redevelopment of the play area on Wordsworth View, by the Oval Centre.

Resolved: To recommend the proposal from Play and Leisure for the site, though the specification of the large play unit may be reviewed to ensure it matches the correct age group. This will now be discussed by Impact Housing and the Salterbeck Residents' Association. The final project would be subject to a successful funding bid to Wren for the Impact contribution to the work.

E15.66. Play Areas Development Ashfield Road South

The committee considered proposals from three suppliers for the development of a play area on Ashfield Road South.

Resolved: To develop the proposal from Kompan as supplier. Councillors felt that the sprung units were not suitable for the context, that the bench supplied should be more robust and there should be two of them. The specification should ensure that there are toddler swings as well as the basket swing and flat swings.

E15.67 Other Play Areas

The clerk reported that the Westfield Play Area would probably be agreed in principal by the landowner (Allerdale Borough Council), but that it may have to await outline plans coming forward for a housing development in the Moss Bay area. Vulcan Park's transfer to the council was being prepared by the Borough Council's legal and property team and was expected to be ready by June 2016. Transfer of the play area in Harrington and the remaining football pitch at Bankfield were progressing on track.

Resolved: To note the report.

The meeting closed at 19.49.