

# WORKINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council, 6pm on 13 October 2014 in the Town Hall, Workington

C Armstrong	Present
W Bacon (Vice Chair)	Absent
H Harrington	Present
E Johnsen	Present
M Jones (Chair of Workington in Bloom)	Present
A Lawson	Absent
B Miskelly	Present
W Reville	Present
D Rollo (Chair)	Present
M Rollo	Apologies
M Bainbridge (Deputy Mayor)	Not present

In attendance: Town Clerk and Workington Nature Partnership Officer

### **E14.31 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Rollo.

### **E14.32 Declarations of Interest**

None

### **E14.33 Exclusion of Press and Public**

No issues

### **E14.34 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 29 July 2014 were affirmed as a true record.

### **E14.35 Workington Nature Partnership**

a) The Workington Nature Partnership Officer reported on her activities in the last few months. A 'Bioblitz' in Hall Park had resulted in 424 species being logged. This compared with a list of 107 previously logged species. The weather had been poor but around 60 people got involved in the 24 hour period. Unusual sightings included an Old Lady Moth and a Mediterranean Gull.

Himalayan balsam continued to be a problem across various sites.

The town had fared well in Cumbria in Bloom, with awards for all the Friends groups. Volunteers had been taken to work with Butterfly Conservation on Oldside developing small blue butterfly habitats.

At Harrington volunteers and ISS had been working on de-willowing the pond, and building willow spiling upstream to counter bank erosion. The work at Harrington was ongoing, and would include path strimming, meadow management, coppicing, educational visits and general tidying. The first Nature Detectives meet would be this coming Saturday, with ongoing meets every month either at Harrington Reservoir or at the Oval Centre.

New projects included looking at a management plan for the Holden Road woodlands and community projects at Banklands.

School engagement was continuing, and Turning Point was also providing volunteers.

There were currently 350 greylag geese at Siddick and three bitterns. Snipe and teal had been observed at Harrington, along with herons, which suggested water quality was sufficient to support a reasonable fish population.

**Resolved:** To note the report

A query was raised about the Small Blue project at Oldside and the grant the council gave in 2013. The clerk promised to look into how the money had been spent.

b) The committee considered its funding arrangements for the partnership. The Partnership Steering group had met on 9 October and it had been recommended that a 12-month notice period was inserted in the Partnership Agreement.

**Resolved:** To put the Partnership Agreement on a rolling core funding model with a 12 month notice period for either party.

#### **E14.36          Workington in Bloom**

The Chair of Workington in Bloom reported that the town had been awarded a Silver Gilt this year, come second to Kendal in its class and won the Allerdale Trophy. This represented a great effort, with awards to various community groups and to Maureen Dolan for services to the community around Harrington Reservoir.

As this was the Chair's final year, she had made a note of the processes required for entry, and this was passed to the clerk. There would also be a final meeting of the current group on 6 November at 10am.

**Resolved:** To note the report

#### **E14.37          Hanging Basket Competition**

The chair reported that the Hanging Basket Competition had been officiated by Workington in Bloom sub-committee members. Three outstanding homes had been selected, one commercial premises, and one community facility. Presentations would be made by the Mayor on Friday evening.

The Outstanding Homes were:

60 Honister Drive -    Mr and Mrs P Gilmore  
124 Curwendale -      Mr and Mrs Jackson

The Outstanding Commercial Premises were the Caspian Restaurant, Derwent Howe.

The Outstanding Community Building was Bolton Street Community Hall.

**Resolved:** To note the report and awards.

#### **E14.38 Back Lanes**

The Clerk reported that no further progress had been made with Frostoms Road. The Back Lane on Oxford Street/Vulcans Lane had been cleared by the Probation Service and a marked improvement had been noted. The newly appointed Borough Council street scene officer would be liaised with to continue this work on Gray Street.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

#### **E14.39 Play Area Development**

a) The community considered a number of proposals from suppliers for the play area at Moorclose. After comparisons between the different suppliers it was concluded that the proposal from Play and Leisure most fitted the committee's vision for the site.

The clerk explained that there was still an issue of the exact location to overcome to the satisfaction of Borough Council officers, but that he would liaise with them and the supplier to effect the installation.

**Resolved:** To choose Play and Leisure Ltd as the preferred supplier for the site at Moorclose, and to liaise with them and Allerdale Borough Council to install the play area as soon as possible.

b) The committee considered what other sites should be brought forward for Play Area installation around the town. Suggestions included:

Provision for adults in Harrington

Westfield Recreation Ground, adjacent to the old Miners Welfare.

On Derwent and Solway land at Bromley Court near Senhouse Street

On Derwent and Solway's site at Crummock Road

There was some discussion about liaising with housing associations.

**Resolved:** To investigate these specific sites and to liaise further with the Housing Associations over the provision on their estates.

The meeting closed at 19.17.