

WORKINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, Oxford Street, Workington, Cumbria CA14 2RS
Telephone: 01900 702986
Email: workingtontowncouncil@allerdale.gov.uk
Website: www.workingtontowncouncil.com



Minutes of a Meeting of Workington Town Council Culture Committee on Monday 26 January 2015 at 6pm in the Town Hall, Workington.

J Wright chair	Present
N Schofield vice chair	Apologies
C Armstrong	Present
P Bales	Present
K Hansen	Present
H Harrington	Present
M Heaslip	Present
G Humes	Absent
M Jones	Present
M Rollo	Present

In attendance: Town Clerk and Events Officer

Before the Meeting, the committee heard a brief presentation from Lee Martin-White, the Chairman of the newly formed Carnegie Theatre Trust. Mr Martin-White explained the new trust's role in the running of the Carnegie Theatre and Arts Centre, and how it had taken on the responsibility from Allerdale Borough Council. The Town Council's Event's Officer had been invited to take an advisory role. The Trust had a 125 year lease from the Borough Council and would receive a tapering grant towards its running costs.

The Chair thanked Mr Martin-White for his presentation and suggested that the council looked forward to working with the Carnegie in the future.

C14.55 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr N Schofield

C14.56 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Heaslip drew the committee's attention to his interest in the Leisure Strategy, which came under his role as a Borough Council Executive Member, and to his interest in the Rotary Club, because he is a member of that club.

C14.57 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no issues from which the press and the public should be excluded.

C14.58 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The committee received the minutes of the meeting on 17 November 2014 and affirmed them as a true record.

C14.59 Grants and Funding

The committee considered the following funding proposals:

Community Service Grants

a) Allerdale Borough Council

Contribution to promoting the Jobs Fair in the centre of Workington on 18 February 2015.

It was noted that the event was being run jointly by the Town Centre managers, the careers service and other partners. It was observed that the delivery last year had a number of issues, but that this year would be shorter, and hopefully more focussed, with more exhibitors actually present for the whole period.

Resolved: To offer a grant of £250 towards publicity for the event, on the condition that officers are satisfied that the town council's observations on the previous year had been incorporated

b) Rotary Club of Workington

To help defray the cost of installing Santa's Grotto in the town centre over Christmas 2014.

It was noted that the council did not usually offer money after the event, but that the Rotary accepted that on this occasion the necessity for effective costing beforehand had been overlooked.

Resolved: To offer a grant of £200 on the proviso that any funding requirement is flagged up front, before the event next time.

c) Workington Sea Cadets

To buy camping equipment as listed in an private sale inventory. The offer included a tent, rucksac, stove and other necessities for an expedition.

Resolved: To offer a grant of £100 to purchase the kit.

C14.60 Twinning Association

The committee received a very brief report from the chair of the Twinning Association. There had been no further developments since the committee's last meeting.

Resolved: To note the report.

C14.61 Christmas Lights 2014 and Winter Festival

The committee heard a report from the Events Officer on the Christmas lighting and switch on in 2014. The event had been generally well received, though there were a number of technical issues which would hopefully be ironed out in future years. The principal of having a local headline act had proved successful, and amongst the tweaks for future would be more schools involvement and more value from the various attractions.

It was suggested that the Sunday still felt a bit flat, but this was countered by other observations that the day was far busier than in previous years. Businesses had been mostly supportive. There had been an issue with the sound at times, but this was technical and could be easily overcome. Blind spots on the stage were harder to address and some thought was given to alternative locations for the stage which would retain the advantages that Murray Rd held over previous locations in car parks on the fringe of the town centre. It was noted that the town lacked a civic square space. It was suggested that Warwick place might be a preferable venue and this could be looked at.

It was queried how involved the licensed trade were in the event. They had been invited and more could be done to integrate their efforts.

It was suggested that the trees provided free by Iggesund were too small this year. The clerk apologised for this. The size had been agreed with ISS as landscape contractor, to improve the safety of the installations, which in previous years had proved unstable and problematic. He conceded that all three trees could be a little larger (up to 25ft) without sacrificing safety. The siting of the Town Hall tree would be reconsidered for next Christmas, along with a proposal to light up the outline of the Town Hall.

Resolved: To note the report.

C14.62 Remembrance and Commemoration of the outbreak of the First World War

The committee received a report on the plans for the siting of the memorial slab to James Smith VC outside Workington Station. The options included a position in front of an interpretive panel; mounted in the wall beside an interpretive panel; and behind a bench.

Resolved: To recommend the second option, for mounting in the wall with an interpretive panel close by.

C14.63. Heritage Budget

The clerk reported that a conservator was booked in to inspect the mayoral paintings in the town hall and make some recommendations.

The committee considered how to continue its involvement with the Helena Thompson Museum, now a three year funding agreement was in place.

Resolved: A Helena Thompson Liaison group of Cllrs J Wright and M Rollo, supported by the Events Officer would meet with representatives of the Museum to collaborate on the council-backed initiatives at the museum. They would report to this committee.

C14.64 Allerdale Leisure Strategy

The committee considered its response to Allerdale Borough Council's Consultation on their Leisure Strategy. It was noted that pitch management was not well coordinated across the town at present, and that some of the suggestions, such as putting in facilities in Hall Park, were not very practical. The cost of the survey work was questioned, and there were a number of criticisms about the content of the surveys being opaque or incorrect. It was suggested that question 4 in the consultation would elicit the wrong answers, as it did not address the consumers of the leisure activities.

Resolved: The clerk to submit appropriate answers the consultation, including the opinions of other relevant committees.

C14.65 Culture Programme 2015-16

The Events Officer reported that she was improving the coordination of events across the town and that a number of Town Council events were planned, in line with the committee's policy aims. The 'Forging Links' were continuing with the Carnegie, WAOS, WADAMS, Theatre Royal and others represented.

There would be greater engagement with schools and further attempts to work with other partners. On 13 April there would be a Family Fun Day at Moorclose Leisure Centre, delivered in conjunction with South Workington Youth Partnership and the Leisure Centre.

Resolved: To note the report

The meeting closed at 19.15.