

WORKINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council

28 January 2014 in the Town Hall, Workington

C Armstrong	Present
W Bacon (Vice Chair)	Apologies
J Bracken	Apologies
M Fryer	Absent
N Hardy	Absent
E Johnsen	Present
A Lawson	Absent
B Miskelly	Absent
W Reville	Present
D Rollo (Chair)	Present
M Jones (Chair of Workington in Bloom)	Present

E13.45 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs W Bacon and J Bracken.

E13.46 Declarations of Interest

There were no additional declarations of interest

E13.47 Exclusion of Press and Public

There were no issues warranting the exclusion of the public.

E13.48 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 26 November 2013 were affirmed as a true record.

E13.49 Back Lanes Current

The clerk reported that the work was virtually complete, and would chase the County Council and contractor for confirmation of completion. There were a couple of outstanding payments to finalise and settle.

Going forward the committee noted that it had allocated money in the budget for continuing to improve the back lanes, but that it would be 2015 before the capital pot was sufficient to address more lanes. This would allow time for research into where the improvements were most needed, and where there would be the sufficient 'buy in' from Cumbria County Council to fulfil the task.

Resolved: To note the report.

E13.50 Workington in Bloom

The chairman reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 6 February. It was noted that the winter planting on the Mandelion bed had not been successful. The clerk was asked to investigate what had happened to the agreement with West House to do the work.

Resolved: To note the report.

E13.51 Workington Community Emergency Plan

The clerk reported that he had been approached by the Environment Agency to see if the council would support the development of a community resilience/emergency plan for Workington. It was suggested that this should involve as wide a community as possible. There would be a meeting in the Town Hall on 11 February at 1.30 and the clerk would report back.

Resolved: To note the report

E13.52 Allerdale Urban Bee Initiative

The committee reviewed a proposal that the Allerdale Urban Bee Initiative is funded for three years at £750 per year. It was noted that the project was predicated on successful bid to the lottery, and that any Town Council funding would be subject to that funding being secured. It was further noted that the bee project had initially approached the Allotments Committee for space for a hive project on the allotment estate, but that subsequently a site had been identified on Allerdale Borough Council land at the walled garden in Curwen Park. It was noted that the Committee did not currently have a budget for this amount, but should recommend to Policy and Resources that money is allocated from previous budgetary underspends.

Resolved: To recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee that sponsorship is funded at the level of £750 per annum.

E13.53 Dog Fouling

The clerk reported that there had been an increase in complaints about dog fouling around the town. The committee considered what the council's options were in this regard, from employing its own enforcement officers, developing a partnership with Borough Council staff to tackle the issue, lobbying for greater Borough Council action or increasing publicity and education around the issue.

It was noted that this would make a suitable topic for the council's newsletter. Anything on social media or YouTube would require a gimmick to have more reach. The Borough Council had experimented with this several years ago, but the effect had been limited. It was suggested that local schools be invited to develop a video, perhaps through a competition.

Resolved: The clerk, chairman and any other interested parties would form a working group to develop this solution, including a press release and contact with the local schools. Any cost implications would have to come back to the committee.

E13. 54 Workington Nature Partnership

The committee considered suggestions from the Borough Council's Parks and Open Spaces Officer for areas that might form part of the initial three month work schedule of the new Workington Nature Partnership Officer.

It was noted that the council had already committed itself to supporting the Harrington Reservoir Nature Reserve, including work to restore its open water. The committee agreed that this should be the priority of the partnership initially, alongside work to develop a whole valley approach to the natural environment in Harrington. Support should also be given to the Salterbeck Reservoir community as required.

Resolved: To convey these priorities to the WNP Steering Group for further action.

The meeting closed at 7.03pm.