

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council, 6pm on 14 March 2017 in Town Hall, Workington

D Rollo (Chair)	Present
B Dixon	Present
H Harrington	Present
A Lawson	Present
P McHarry	Present
A McGuckin	Apologies
B Miskelly	Present
J Osborn	Present
B Reville	Present
T Wardley	Absent

In attendance: Town Clerk. Two members of public.

E16.73 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr A McGuckin.

E16.74 Declarations of Interest

There were no items specified.

E16.75 Exclusion of Press and Public

No items.

E16.76 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 24 January 2017 were affirmed as a true record.

E16.77 Allotment Developments

The committee heard the Clerk give an update on the current state of the Allotment Estate, including developments towards self-governance at Newlands Lane and to deliver a better water supply at Cranbourne Street. There was some discussion about the role of allotments in the council's activities.

Resolved: to invite the Estate Team Leader to the next meeting of the committee.

Resolved: To note the report.

E16.78 Allotment Management Software

The committee considered a proposal to use Colony allotment management software, or a similar system. The clerk explained that the current allotment management process used a variety of office software packages with little integration

and poor capability for storing and retrieving information at point of need. Software such as Colony was tailored to the needs of an allotment authority and would help to coordinate the efforts of staff involved in managing the allotment estate and its tenants. Team discussions have highlighted the need to improve communications and record keeping on this diverse estate.

The MCPC software, which would be subject to compatibility with existing systems, would initially cost £3,500-4,000, followed by an annual fee of around £500. There will be a demonstration of the system on 16 March at 10am. It may be possible to make savings on existing software, as the licence for the Access database is currently one of the more expensive elements of the town council's IT system. The council would also review other systems available on the market to see which was the best. There was some discussion about the benefits of a software management solution and the savings it would bring in time and possibly money spent on existing software.

Resolved: To procure appropriate software, subject to an effective procurement exercise, up to the proposed cost limit. The cost to be attributed to the Allotments Development budget.

E16.79. Flood Alleviation

The committee considered a proposal from Keswick Flood Action Group that the Derwent catchment area is used as a 'Pathfinder' project for managing river flows from the source to the sea. The group is seeking the council's support for a possible initiative to follow up a recommendation from the Parliamentary Select Committee for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on Future Flood Prevention

Resolved: To support the initiative.

E16.80. Flood Alleviation

The committee received a brief update on the measures taken by the Town Council to support flooded communities in Workington. These include the installation of a storage facility in Barepot for a community pump and sand/flood sacks, and at Hall Park View for Flood Sacks. The council's £10,000 allotted to flood alleviation had so far been used to match fund contributions for the Workington Flood Action Group to purchase a community pump. This would be installed locally as soon as the circumstances at Barepot allowed – currently the site is the subject of ongoing flood defence work. Hall Park View would follow on at the same time.

Resolved: To note the report.

E16:81. Air Pollution

The committee considered a brief report on the impact of air pollution on congested roads in Workington. They reviewed mapping that showed the extent of NO2 levels.

Cllr W Reville left at 6.54pm.

It was noted that a member had requested information from Cumbria County Council on the traffic flows on the A597, and that this may show up perceived increases

being experienced, particularly by residents on Main Road in Harrington. It was suggested that there needs to be a greater level of joined up thinking between authorities and developers.

Resolved: To note the report and maintain observation of the issues.

E16.82. Play Areas and Open Spaces

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the progress made towards delivering Play Areas across the town. The current project for a 'Youth Hub' in Moss Bay appeared to be the most likely to be delivered in the coming year, as this had match funding from Your Derwent and Solway Housing Group, and several contractors had been approached for designs. There is an issue with the land ownership which is yet to be resolved, with Allerdale Borough Council and the Ellis Sports Ground Trust both having interests. Councillors were concerned about play facilities in Westfield dropping off the council's agenda. The clerk explained that the search for a suitable site in Westfield, particularly that served the main area of the Westfield Estate, had so far proved unsuccessful, but this didn't preclude the eventual provision of facilities. The area had been identified by the council as lacking basic play equipment, so the search for a suitable site would be ongoing until a solution was found.

Resolved: To note the report.

E16.83. Workington in Bloom

The committee received a brief update on the progress of the Workington in Bloom programme for 2017, which was developing satisfactorily, before considering the following applications for Workington in Bloom funding:

South Workington Youth Partnership

To purchase plants for their Community Garden, hanging baskets, soil, bulbs and seeds for projects for the young and disabled persons.

Resolved: To make a grant of £500

Workington Transport Heritage Trust

To renew flower tubs and supply new compost and bedding plants. Cllr J Osborn drew the committee's attention to a Declared other interest in this item, because he is a trustee and took no part in the consideration.

Resolved: To make a grant of £250

E16.64. Other Environment Concerns

No further items were discussed.

The meeting concluded at 7:38pm