

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council, 6pm on 15 November 2016 in Northside Community Centre, Workington

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

In attendance: Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Cllr Hilary Harrington

* arrived late

E16.49 Apologies

No apologies were received.

E16.50 Declarations of Interest

There were no items specified.

E16.51 Exclusion of Press and Public

No issues.

E16.52 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 13 September 2016 were affirmed as a true record. There was a brief discussion about minute E16.48. The Chair confirmed that young people should be invited to a future meeting to discuss play provisions.

E16.53 Workington Nature Partnership

The clerk gave a brief verbal report on the activities of the Workington Nature Partnership Officer and highlighted that Salterbeck Reservoir has been transferred back to Allerdale Borough Council and Planning consent for desilting Harrington Reservoir is being processed. There was a discussion about the ongoing work on the footpath in Salterbeck. Councillors commented on the persistent issues with dog faeces in this area and the possibility to promote the dogs on lead restriction.

Resolved: To note the report.

E16.54 Workington in Bloom

The clerk reported that the Workington in Bloom working group had held its first meeting to plan the 2017 entry. The working group had discussed creating a lifeboat and coastal theme for displays. A similar planting regime, to those used previously, would be employed with additional mangers along the quay.

Resolved: To note the report.

E16.55 Grants

The committee considered the following applications for grant funding.

a) Beckstone Parent Teachers

Request: To complete the pathway off the main road at High Harrington to start from the top of the old Railway line to Beckstone School.

There was some discussion about the materials used to update the footpath and Cumbria County Council's financial responsibility for its maintenance. The clerk explained Cumbria County Council's funding restraints and the benefit from the path in easing school traffic.

Resolved: To provide £7,000 of funding from the Back Lane budget.

b) Harrington Flying Club

Request: To purchase a porta cabin to store pigeon baskets during the winter.

The committee noted the current and proposed location for the storage cabin. There was a discussion about awarding grants to flying clubs and how each funding request would be considered on its own merit. It was noted that helping keep older people active was desirable end in itself.

Resolved: To provide funding of £300.

E16.56 Back Lanes

The clerk reported that the tenders for the redevelopment of Frostoms Back Lane had been considered in October and Thomas Armstrong had been awarded the contract. Officers are currently ensuring the Town Council complies with The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (CDM) 2015. There is an expected start date within the upcoming weeks. The clerk explained that residents' feedback had highlighted the requirement for lighting in the back lane. The final costs for the work would be approximately £65,000.

Resolved: To note the report.

E16.57 Play Areas Development

The clerk reported on the successful opening of the new play area on Wordsworth View. There was some concern over the condition of the grass mat. The clerk explained that there was a delay in planting the grass seed in August and that the current condition of the grass mat will resolve over time. The Committee was

presented with a map of the current play provisions throughout Workington. Councillors discussed the Town Council's priority areas for installing new play provision. The clerk explained that funding had already been allocated for a new play area in proximity to the Persimmon site at Forge Hill. The committee highlighted that there is a want for play facilities adjacent to Senhouse Walk. The clerk noted that provision on these two sites would be provided for under 11s.

Play provisions for over 11s was discussed. Following the youth presentation at August's Full Council Committee, the Town Council, Allerdale Borough Council and TCV are pursuing a project for this age group. The Town Council has previously proposed to contribute £25,000 towards funding and supply ongoing maintenance for the project at the site situated between Jane Pit and the Zebra's ground. Councillors raised concerns about anti-social behaviour arising from the name of the site, and it was suggested this would be kept neutral.

Councillors discussed the influence of the Town Council on planning applications. It was suggested to send representatives to Allerdale Borough Council's Development Panel if there are strong objections towards a planning application. The clerk highlighted that the Planning Committee are improving consideration of applications for larger developments and these need to be monitored over a period of time, particularly with regard to play provision.

Resolved: To include play areas at Northside, Senhouse Walk and Forge Hill as priorities for developing under 11s play provision.

E16.58 Northside Play Area and Village Allotments

The clerk proposed that the Town Council adopt the play area and village allotments at Northside from Derwent and Solway. The clerk gave a brief description of the condition of the allotments and the refurbishment required in the play area. The committee discussed the possible cost for these renovations and the interest from groups to use the plots. A councillor highlighted the need for accessible plots; the clerk reported that the site at Wastwater Ave was layout out for greater accessibility and would be beneficial for those wanting to develop cultivation skills.

Resolved: To accept the proposal to adopt the play area and village allotments at Northside.

Resolved: To support the development of Wastwater Ave allotment.

E16.59 Flood Plan

The clerk gave a brief report on the recent communications with the Flood Action group. New flood sack facilities are due to be placed in Barepot and Hall Park View, the compound in Barepot will also include a flood alleviation pump. A councillor highlighted the risk of flooding and the affect that any flooding may have with the construction of National Grid pylons.

Resolved: To note the report.

Resolved: To include flooding concerns in the Planning Committee's response to the National Grid consultation.

E16.60 Budget 2017-18

The committee considered a report on its budget priorities for the coming year, and its portion of the medium term financial plan. This included:

- Maintaining the budget for Workington in Bloom to continue the success of this year's entry.
- Reducing the budget for Allotment Running costs and reviewing them in 2018.
- Reducing the Back Lane budget. The development work on Frostoms Road back lane is the last major development required. Smaller jobs will be considered in the future, the feedback from these suggests they provide a greater impact to the community.
- Maintaining the budget for Flood Resilience and reduce this over time.
- Continuing to earmark £20,000 per annum to Vulcans Park Development budget. This will build up funds over time to replace immediate expenditure when the Park is transferred.
- No additional funds are required in the Harrington Marina budget as the previous £10,000 has yet to be spent.
- Increasing Additional Improvements budget. This will cover the cost for smaller capital works where needed.
- Maintaining £25,000 budget for play areas for the future development of facilities. With an additional £8,000 into the Play Area R&R budget to cover unexpected repairs and vandalism.

There was a discussion to consider an additional budget for the land purchase from Iggesund. Councillors noted the additional liabilities of the land and the extra work load for the Workington Nature Partnership Officer. The clerk confirmed that these liabilities would be covered in the Finance Property and Employment Budget.

Resolved: To approve the provisional budget and present to the Policy and Resources Committee.

The meeting closed at 19:40