

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Culture Committee of Workington Town Council, 6pm Thursday 21 July 2016 in the Town Hall, Workington

A McGuckin (chair)	Present
C Armstrong	Present
M Bainbridge	Present*
P Bales	Present
B Cannon	Absent
H Harrington	Present
M Heaslip	Present*
B Miskelly	Present*
M Rollo	Present
T Wardley	Apologies
J Wright	Present*

*Arrived late

In attendance: Town Clerk, Events Officer, Assistant Town Clerk

C16.15. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs T Wardley.

C16.16. Declarations of Interest

No issues were raised

C16.17. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No items.

C16.18. Minutes of the previous meeting

The committee received the minutes of the meeting on 26 May 2016 and affirmed them as a true record.

C16.19 Appointment of a Vice Chair

The committee considered nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the committee.

Resolved: That Cllr P Bales be appointed as Vice Chair of the Committee

C16.20. Twinning Association

Cllr Armstrong reported on the activities of the Twinning Association from the meeting held on 7 July 2016. Cllr Bainbridge reported that the recent visit to Val-de-Reuil was successful and that the association will offer continued support and strengthen the bond with its twins further, in light of recent events.

Resolved: To note the report.

C16.21. Cultural Events Programme 2017

The Events Officer gave a report of the upcoming events for 2017. The committee considered a proposal for a Big Lunch grant, based on the £250 90th birthday grants that were issued this year. The committee welcomed this idea and agreed to consider at a future meeting.

The committee considered the proposed costings for the Kite Festival and the Urban Skills festival. This included costs of approximately £3k-£5k and £2k respectively. Councillors discussed targeting the correct audience for the Urban Skills festival and involving local schools in the development process.

The Events Officer proposed hosting a Technology Festival, with consideration of Workington Rotary Club's Technology Tournament in 2017. The funding and location for the Technology Tournament was discussed. The committee considered a plan to host a 'Ted Talk' during the Technology Festival. This would consist of a recorded talk posted internationally to Ted's YouTube channel. Previous talks generate between 11k -20k YouTube views and have an outgoing cost of approximately £4k. A Councillor suggested involving the React Foundation in the talk. The Events Officer provided an update on Opera in the Park 2017, with staging and Odd Socks performance for the event costing £2.6k. Opera in the Park will provide the opportunity to promote the Music Festival in November 2017. The costings of the pop-up opera for the festival were presented at £500 with additional £500 for workshops. It was hoped that a performance of Macbeth would be possible in Workington Hall.

Resolved : To accept the report

Resolved: To liaise with Workington Rotary to confirm details of Technology Festival

C16.22. Christmas Festival 2016

The committee received a brief update on the plans for the Christmas Festival. There would be a number of community performances, enquiries had been made into booking the Blues Brothers as a headliner but the costs looked excessive for likely budgets. There was discussion into an alternative performance including St Joseph's School.

Resolved: Events Officer to continue to look into options into a headlining act

C16.23 Arts Partnerships

The committee received a proposed job description from the Carnegie Theatre and Arts Centre for an Arts Development Officer. The Clerk reported that the role might be considered similar to the Nature Partnership Officer, this would include seeking funding and delivering projects for young people. A similar governance structure to the WNP could be employed with a steering group overseeing work. A number of councillors raised concerns that the job description was heavily focused on the objectives of the Carnegie. This would have to be expanded to include the Town council and potential partners and third parties in the project. There was a discussion around who was benefiting from the partnership and the direction it should take. Councillors highlighted that there was scope for the role to include sports as well as the arts. Councillors further discussed issues surrounding costs of the post and how the role would fit within the developments and objectives of the Town Council.

Resolved: Officers to investigate the role further with the prospect of presenting findings to an additional meeting

C16.24. Arts Venue

Councillors discussed a proposed cost for the development of a gallery space in the town centre. There was much debate into whether the projected costs would make this project viable. Concern was raised about whether gallery provision is currently required and how representative such a development would be of the needs of local residents. The positive impact of cultural amenities was discussed. This led to discussion of an alternative exhibition, on a smaller scale with reduced costs.

A Councillor proposed hiring a wall to exhibit art on a short term basis and receive feedback, the possibilities of a number of venues was highlighted. There was further discussion on the Town Council's focus on art and culture and the requirement for a Council Plan. The clerk reminded the committee that this was on the Agenda for the upcoming Policy and Resources Committee. Councillors held a vote with a majority to not develop the proposed gallery space.

Resolved: To look further into the investment in culture for the town centre

C16.25. Community Service Grant

The committee considered applications for Community Service Grants as follows:

a) Frostoms Pensioners

£300

To fund transport for the pensioners visit to Blackpool

Resolved: To offer funding of £300

b) Workington Amateur Operatic Society

£300

To construct a reusable set that can be modified for various performances

Resolved: To offer funding of £300

There was some discussion into the frequency that committees approve funding and how long term funding is agreed and monitored. The clerk reported that this was in review.

C16.26. Helena Thompson Museum

The Events Officer gave a brief overview of the recent work at the Museum, including the progress in cataloguing. There was a discussion into the funding provided and how this had been spent. The Events Officer confirmed that the information was available and would be circulated to Councillors for their feedback.

Resolved: To note the report

C16.27. Town Centre Funding Projects

The clerk presented the suggested breakdown of the £10,000 Town Centre Grant from Allerdale Borough Council. The figure for Youth Projects was amended from £3.5k to £3k.

Resolved: To accept the report and bring to Full Council for consideration

C16.28. New Zealand v Scotland Rugby League Match

Councillors discussed the previous financial support given to these events and the promotional value reflected in the town. A Councillor suggested that the Town Council should support the match by hosting events in the town centre rather than directly providing funding.

Councillors held a vote with a majority vote to approve hosting a promotional event in the town centre.

Resolved: That the Events Officer bring two proposals for events to promote the Rugby League Match in the town centre to the next meeting of the committee

C16.29. Youth Development Work

Councillors decided that previous agendas items had covered this area and that, at this stage, no further consideration was required on this item.

The meeting closed at 19.54