

WORKINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Workington Town Council held at 6pm on Wednesday 11 September 2014 in the Trades Hall, Brow Top, Workington.

Mrs C Armstrong	Present	Mr G Humes	Apologies
Mr W Bacon	Absent	Mrs E Johnsen	Present
Mrs M Bainbridge	Present	Mr F Johnston	Absent
Mrs L Baldry	Apologies	Mrs M Jones	Present
Mrs A Bales	Apologies	Mr R Jones	Present
Mr P Bales	Apologies	Cllr A Lawson	Present
Mr J Bechelli	Absent	Mr B Miskelly	Present
Mr J Bracken	Absent	Mr J Osborn	Present
Mrs B Cannon	Apologies	Mrs M Rae	Present
Mr M Fryer	Absent	Mr W Reville	Present
Mr K Hansen	Present	Ms D Rollo	Apologies
Mr N Hardy	Absent	Mr M Rollo	Present
Mrs H Harrington	Present	Mr N Schofield	Absent
Mr M Heaslip	Apologies	Mr S Stoddart	Present
Mr C Holding	Present	Mrs J Wright	Present

Mayor's Chaplain

Fr Paul Swarbrick led a short prayer.

Public Participation

There were no issues raised by the public.

14.40 Apologies

The council received and accepted apologies from Cllrs L Baldry, A Bales, P Bales, B Cannon, M Heaslip, G Humes and D Rollo.

14.41. Declarations of Interest

The following councillors applied to the Clerk for a dispensation to discuss the council's accommodation at the Town Hall, because it is owned by Allerdale Borough Council and they are members of that authority: Cllrs C Armstrong, M Bainbridge, K Hansen, H Harrington, C Holding, A Lawson, B Miskelly, M Rae, J Wright. The Clerk granted these dispensations under the Localism Act 2011, s33 c), because it was in the interests of persons living in the council's area.

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

No items were excluded.

14.43. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 13 August 2014 were received and affirmed as a true record.

14.44. Mind in West Cumbria

The Mayor explained that one of the purposes of this extraordinary meeting of the council was to assess a recommendation from the council's Policy and Resources Committee that Mind in West Cumbria be given an emergency grant of £10,000 from the council's reserves, to ensure the continuity of their valuable service in Workington. The service would run out of cash in December, due to problems with its previous management and trustees. The committee was satisfied that the charity was now under better stewardship and that the injection of Town Council funding would enable it to survive. Councillors spoke in favour of the proposal and welcomed the opportunity to be of help.

In a vote there were 16 in favour, none against, no abstentions.

Resolved: To offer Mind in West Cumbria a conditional grant of £10,000. Conditions to be set by the clerk in conjunction with expectations of diligence.

14.45. Play Area in Moorclose

The council considered a recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee that £15,000 be allocated from reserves to ensure the installation of a basic play area on the green in Moorclose. This would be in addition to the £10,000 already earmarked for Play Area Development, which councillors had already indicated they would like to see spent in Moorclose. There was some discussion about the appropriateness of the timing of the proposal, in the fourth year before an election, however it was noted that the development of Play Areas at Siddick, Newlands Lane and Brewery House had taken far longer than expected due to legal negotiations with the Borough Council and the capacity of the council prior to the appointment of a full time clerk. These factors had now been accounted for, so swifter progress could be made. The clerk explained that a consultation was taking place with local residents and children, and that several suppliers had been approached for quotes.

In a vote there were 16 in favour, none against, no abstentions.

Resolved: That the council allocates a further £15,000 from reserves to deliver a Play Area as soon as possible in Moorclose.

14.46. Town Hall

The council considered a report from the Clerk on the Town Council's accommodation, outlining a three stage approach to developing their presence on the current Town Hall site. In the short term the council now had sufficient office space for its needs, with the occupation of the former Bereavement Services rooms. In the medium term the council welcomed the re-occupation of the rest of the building by other tenants, and would work with them and the landlords (Allerdale Borough Council) to ensure that the building was operated effectively. In the longer term, the council would enter into negotiations with the landlord for the partial redevelopment of a portion of the site to better fit the long term requirements of the council. This might include the development of a council chamber space and aspects of the traditional 'Town Hall' portion of the building. It was requested that all councillors be involved in this process, and the clerk undertook to ensure that the process was as transparent and inclusive as practicalities allowed.

In a vote there were 14 in favour and none against, with 2 abstentions.

Resolved: That the council adopts the approach outlined, communicating this position to the landlord as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 18.34.