

WORKINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, Oxford Street, Workington, Cumbria CA14 2RS
Telephone: 01900 702986
Email: workingtontowncouncil@allerdale.gov.uk
Website: www.workingtontowncouncil.com



Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council 16 July 2013 in the Town Hall, Workington

C Armstrong	P	B Miskelly	Ab
W Bacon Vice chair	P	W Reville	P
J Bracken	Ap		
D Coe Chair	P		
M Fryer	Ab		
N Hardy	Ab	M Jones (chair of Workington in Bloom)	P
E Johnsen	P	K Hansen (Mayor)	Ab
A Lawson	Ab		

E13.13 Apologies

No apologies were received at the meeting
Cllr Bracken's apologies were not received in time for the meeting.

E13.14. Declarations of Interest

There were no additional declarations of interest

E13.15 Exclusion of Press and Public

There were no issues warranting the exclusion of the public.

E13. 16. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 23 May 2013 were affirmed as a true record.

E13.17 Play Areas

The clerk updated the committee on the progress made towards the acquisition of the play areas at Siddick, Newlands Lane and Brewery House. There had been some confusion over the extent of the Newlands Lane site and the reason why such a large site was required. Initially it had been suggested that this might be to accommodate an allotment garden partnership on other areas of the open space, however this plan had not come to fruition, but the additional space would allow sufficient distance from the road for goalposts to be sited in relative safety.

It was noted that the next time this committee considers the issue it should be to finalise the play equipment.

E13.18. Back Lanes Current

The Clerk reported that the first two lanes were approaching completion. 89-119 was now being progressed and a completion date was awaited.

E13.19. Back Lanes Plans

The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with the County Council Area Support Manager for Allerdale to discuss the back lanes at Lime Road and Archer Street, Harrington.

Cllr M Rae had been proposing to spend some of her County member's funding on environmental improvement here, and had been in discussion with the Town Council about a suitable way to deliver the project. County Highways staff had been reluctant to get involved because they didn't feel the lanes were suitable for adoption. This might have left the Town Council with a problem in their risk assessment, since County advice was one of the key factors in mitigating any risks the council might be exposed to. One solution that had been discussed quite early on in the process was the prospect of getting Harrington residents to manage the process themselves. This was now the preferred route for the funding from Cllr Rae and would be put to Allerdale Local Committee in due course.

The committee welcomed Cllr Rae's efforts to expedite the work and wished them well.

The committee then considered where to go next with the Back Lanes project. Mountain View, Salterbeck, and Yeowartville were put forward for work and the clerk was instructed to prepare the necessary background material and elicit the support of relevant authorities.

Additionally, some research would be made into the alleyway between Salterbeck Road and Cedar Court, which had been the source of several complaints to Ward Councillors.

Resolved That the clerk begins the process for Yeowartville and Mountain View, and talks to Impact Housing about Cedar Court/Salterbeck Road.

E13.20. Workington in Bloom

The Chairman of Workington in Bloom reported that the town was as ready as it could be for the judging at the end of the month. There had been some graffiti to deal with and there were question marks over the late arrival of the mangers on Washington Street. The goalposts on Vulcan's Lane were still awaiting a rugby ball.

She commended the following expenditure for grants:

a) Beckstone School	
for garden development project	£500
b) Harrington Rainbows and Brownies	
for gardening work on the harbour	£250
c) Quayside residents group	
for work on raised beds	£500
d) St Michael's Residents Group	
for work on raised beds by the Quay	£500
e) Senhouse Residents Group	
for work on raised beds by the Quay	£500
f) Rathbones charity	
For planting on the corner of Washington Street	£250

Resolved: That the grants from the Workington in Bloom budget were all ratified by the committee with the following provisos. Grants c), d) and e) are subject to Cllr Johnsen providing evidence that the correct permissions had been sought for the work on the raised beds by the Quay.
f) No proper application had been received, but an invoice from ISS for the plants would be paid up to the value agreed.

The committee thanked Cllr M Jones and her committee for their considerable efforts and wished her well for the coming weeks.

E13.21 Gardens Competition

The clerk reported that an entry form for the Gardens Competition had been placed in the Times and Star on Fri 12 July, with judging promised the first week in August. The entry form had also been placed on the Town Council website and was linked from the Times and Star's website.

Resolved To consider including an allotment element in 2014 and a growing competition.

E13. 22. Activity Proposals

It was noted that Full Council had approved the recommendation from the last meeting to enter into discussions with Allerdale Borough over the employment of an officer dedicated to the Nature Reserves and natural environment in the town. It was further noted that this process had been stalled whilst some legal challenges were dealt with. It was now considered however that the process could begin.

It was queried whether or not the full amount of money allocated could be spent on addressing Harrington Reservoir's problems. It was noted that the silting up of the reservoir, and its affects further down the water course, was an urgent issue for the drainage authority (Allerdale Borough) to address. There was also an assertion of the belief that if the silt in the reservoir was contaminated then the 'polluter' should pay for the remedial work.

There was some concern about the state of Soapery Beck after the bridge by Hall Brow. The beck was reported as being silted up and dry, especially beyond Allerdale House.

Resolved To begin talks with Allerdale Borough about how an officer might be employed.

Resolved To ensure that the officer is tasked with problems at Harrington/Salterbeck as a priority.

Resolved To contact the Borough Council bringing their attention to the parlous state of the reservoir at Harrington and requesting some proposals for action.

Resolved: To contact the Environment Agency about the state of Soapery Beck to inquire what might be done to improve matters.

The meeting ended at 7pm.