

WORKINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council 23 May 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	Ap	M Jones (chair of Workington in Bloom)	P
E Johnsen	P	K Hansen (Mayor)	P
A Lawson	Ap		

E13.1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Bracken, Hardy and Lawson.

E13. 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no additional declarations of interest

E13. 3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were affirmed as a true record.

E13. 4. Correspondence

Letters had been received from pupils at Cockermouth School concerning the state of the skate park in Workington and general issues of anti-social behaviour and dog fouling. Replies had been sent explaining which part of these issues were Town Council business and which were Borough Council issues.

Resolved That the clerk contact the school to see if a delegation of pupils might wish to present to the committee.

E13. 5. Play Areas

The clerk reported the current progress made on the acquisition of play areas. It was noted that the tennis courts were now vacant and this facility was now lost to the town.

Resolved The Committee noted the report and further observed that that the extent of the Newlands Lane plot should be extended towards the white stone.

Resolved That the clerk investigate the ownership of the tennis courts on Newlands Lane.

E13. 6. Back Lanes Current

The clerk reported on the progress of Back Lane improvement work on Harrington Road and Frostoms Road. Both projects had been scheduled to start on 20 May, however there had been further delay and Thomas Armstrong staff now thought 28 May was more realistic.

A final invoice had been received from Allerdale Borough Council for the work. The additional stretch of Harrington Road was c£10,000 higher than original estimates, with contingencies coming in at £45,827.50.

The clerk drew the committee's attention to the size of the project in relation to the council's s137 allowance for 2013-14. The works would cost in the region of £96,000. The total s137 allowance for the year is £6.98 per elector (approx £133,000 for the year)

Resolved that the final sum (£45,827.50) for 89-119 Harrington Road be brought to Full Council for approval.

E13. 7. Back Lanes Plans

The committee considered proposals for the next phase of Back Lane work. Mindful of the s137 payment limit in 2013-14, it was noted that a number of streets had petitioned for attention, including Yeowartville, Mountain View and parts of Vulcans Lane. Archer Street and Lime Road had been assessed as a part of the current cycle of work and were believed to be unsuitable for the nature of improvements generally involved. County Council member M Rae had earmarked up to £10,000 of her member's discretionary budget for work on these roads, but this would require the Town Council to project manage them. Such a project would require a greater depth of risk management than had currently been done, and the schemes would require more comprehensive planning.

Resolved to contact Cllr Rae to plan a way forward for Lime Rd and Archer St.

Resolved The Clerk to summarise the current position, using the data collected previously and securing new approximate costings and risk assessments where necessary.

E13. 8. Workington in Bloom

The Chairman of Workington in Bloom reported progress so far in preparation for the judging week, which included a survey of the town and planning a route.

She commended Casson Road residents for their exceptional work.

She commended the following expenditure for grants:

- a) Harrington North Shore Residents £234
- b) Church Road Youth Club, Harrington £500
- c) Workington Station staff £120
- d) Cumbria Probation Trust £200

Resolved: That the Workington in Bloom Committee be allowed to make grants as proposed, with the proviso in grant d) that the chair satisfy herself that the project was suitable and as originally described.

E13.9 Provision of Hanging Baskets and Mangers

The chair of Workington in Bloom commended that the committee consider the quotation from ISS for the provision and maintenance of hanging baskets and mangers of £10,332.

The committee considered the quotation.

Resolved That the quotation be recommended to Full Council for approval, being over £10,000.

E13. 10. Garden Competition

The committee considered the proposal from the chair of Workington in Bloom to run a Gardens Competition in 2013.

The judges would be the Workington in Bloom committee. Advertising had been done through the Gazette in the past, but this was not considered to be cost effective. There were 20 entries in 2012.

Resolved: To hold a Gardens Competition in August 2013, with the same categories and prizes as 2012. The clerk would explore publicity methods. The mayor would invite the winners to the Mayor's Parlour. The budget would come from the £5,000 underspend from 2012-13.

E13.11. Activity Proposals - Parks and Play Areas

The committee considered what projects to bring forward to meet the its budget commitments for 2013.

Resolved: To use any surplus budget under Parks and Play Areas to develop the play equipment and associated facilities in the three play areas being transferred to the council.

E13.12 Activity Proposals - Nature Reserves

The committee considered the ways in which it might better support the Nature Reserves in the town and the natural environment generally, noting the budget underspend of £7,000 in 2012-13 and the proposed expenditure of £20,000 in 2013-14. It was noted that the previous proposal for a 'Workington Ranger' had not fared well when the committee considered it, and this may have been because the timing of the proposal was unfortunate and the project seemed to be a way for Allerdale to secure finance for one of their own staff. However the general principal of a specific worker in the town dedicated to the promotion and development of the natural environment seemed to be positive.

Resolved To seek approval from Full Council to develop a partnership with Allerdale Borough Council for the employment of an officer in the town to deliver Town Council objectives on the Nature Reserves and the natural environment.