

Workington Town Council

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



Minutes of the Policy and Resources committee of Workington Town Council, 6pm Thursday 28 May 2015 in the Town Hall, Workington

J Wright (chair)	Present
C Armstrong	Apologies
M Bainbridge	Present
A McGuckin	Present
V Morgan	Present
D Rollo	Present

PR15.1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Bainbridge.

PR15.2. Declarations of Interest

None.

PR15.3 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No items.

PR15.4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The committee received the minutes of the meeting on 10 March 2015 and affirmed them as a true record.

PR15.5. Appointment of Vice Chair

The committee considered the appointment of a Vice Chair.

Resolved: That Cllr D Rollo be the Vice Chair.

PR15.6. Co-option of a member

The committee considered whether it needed to co-opt a seventh member. It was noted that Cllr M Jones had been co-opted in previous years, because of her prominent role in Workington in Bloom and the Twinning Association. It was further noted that the council had made a suggestion for co-option at its first meeting.

Resolved: That no further members be co-opted to the committee at this time but that the issue be kept under review, the committee noting that it reserved the power to co-opt members as it required.

PR15.7. Community Planning and Youth Democracy Initiatives

The clerk summarised the recent history of community planning and youth democracy initiatives. A presentation from young people working on 'Project D' - a council funded project with Inspira was circulated and well received. It was suggested the group make a presentation to the committee at its next meeting. The Mayor also asked that they be invited to the parlour.

Resolved: To invite the Inspira Project D group to attend the next meeting of the committee, and to extend an invitation to the group to visit the Mayor's Parlour.

PR15.8. Town Hall Management

The clerk briefed the committee on the recent meeting he had attended with Allerdale Borough Council property officers. Heads of Agreement were being drafted for a longer lease on the East Wing of the Town Hall.

Resolved: To recommend the negotiation of a 25 year lease with 5 year break clauses, subject to proper legal advice.

PR15.9. Forward Planning

The committee considered the issues that should be addressed by the council and its committees up to 2019. A central concern was the devolution of further services from Allerdale Borough Council, particularly parks and play areas, but it was noted that Borough Councillors had also been discussing footway lighting, toilets and bus shelters. The committee noted that public toilets were not a particular issue for the town, especially if Harrington Harbour Board could pick up the toilets in Harrington. The quantity of footway lights was not known, but not believed to be very large. Bus shelters presented their own problems (vandalism etc) and the committee was reluctant to consider recommending that the council take these on. Vulcans Park was an obvious draw and the committee would recommend that the council seeks to take on this and any other play areas in the town.

Resolved: To recommend that the council seeks a devolution settlement with the Borough Council for parks and play areas, and if required, footway lighting.

The committee considered the council's commitment to the Workington Nature Partnership and reaffirmed it as a core policy of the council.

The committee considered the council's commitment to engaging with young people. Clearly there were some crime and disorder concerns in the town centre and elsewhere and there was the impending loss of services in Moorclose, following the closure of the Sports Centre. It was felt that more could be done to engage with schools and colleges through the work of the council's committees, but that perhaps this committee could initiate multi agency efforts to bring a variety of projects together. Actions might include youth nights in Moorclose (subject to negotiation with the Moorclose Community Centre), empty shop drop ins and sessions for adult helpers.

Clearly enforcement was an issue for some aspects of anti-social behaviour – dog fouling for instance, or petty vandalism, and any new management of parks and open spaces should take this into consideration. Greater involvement in the management of public realm issues should be sought, with the attendant resource implications. There was some discussion of the public art from regeneration and a number of suggestions as to how this might be better cared for. This would be a matter for the FPE committee to take up.

The clerk drew the committee's attention to the 'Promoting Workington' line in the Culture committee's budget and explained that this had a number of 'Economic Development' implications. The committee confirmed that they were comfortable with that aspect of the Culture Committee's role.

Resolved: To commend the general themes of this discussion to the council, with officers drawing up plans for delivery of the council's aims.

The meeting closed at 19.16