

# Workington Town Council

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## Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council, 6.30pm on 25 July 2019 in Bolton Street Community Hall, Workington

Cllr H Harrington (Chair)	Present
Cllr C Armstrong	Apologies
Cllr H Briggs	Present
Cllr R Briggs	Present
Cllr G Glaister	Present
Cllr J Hunter	Present
Cllr P McCarthy	Apologies
Cllr S Stoddart	Present
Cllr W Wilkinson (vice chair)	Apologies
Cllr L Williams	Apologies
Cllr J King (Mayor)	Present

In attendance: Town Clerk

Also present: Cllr B Miskelly as a member of the public.

### **E19.16. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted as being for approved reasons under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972, s85, from Cllrs C Armstrong, P McCarthy, W Wilkinson and L Williams.

### **E19.17. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **E19.18. Exclusion of Press and Public**

No issues.

### **E19.19. Minutes of the last meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 6 June 2019 were accepted as a true record.

### **E19.20. Allotments**

The Clerk reported that an Allotments sub-committee meeting had been arranged in Bolton Street Community Hall for Thursday 5 September at 6.30pm. Notices inviting attendees were to be displayed around the sites and councillors with an interest, invited to attend.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

**E19.21. Workington Nature Partnership**

The Clerk reported that the Steering Group had not yet met since the elections, but that officers were holding a preliminary meeting in the next few days, to ensure that members were properly briefed prior to the first meeting.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

**E19.22. Workington in Bloom**

The Clerk reported that the Cumbria in Bloom judges had toured the town on 12 July, meeting volunteers in Vulcan Park and at the Library Corner, before visiting Newlands Lane Allotments, Bankfield Garden, Amatheia care home, and a garden created on wasteland at Mountain View. They were accompanied by the Clerk and the Estate Team Leader and the feedback was quite favourable. The Chair asked members what they felt about continuing with In Bloom in future years, and the consensus was that it was worthwhile. Members felt there was a lot of scope for future member and community involvement, perhaps with a closer relationship with the Allotments sub-Committee.

**Resolved:** To continue in the Cumbria in Bloom process.

**Resolved:** To explore options with the Allotments sub-Committee for developing wider involvement.

**E19.23. Workington in Bloom Development Grant**

The Committee considered a development grant application from Grow Well West Cumbria CIC, who have been developing a community garden site within the boundary of the Old Man's Shelter in Vulcan Park. The Chair reported that she had met the group recently and was due to meet them again shortly with the High Sheriff.

**Resolved:** To confirm a grant of £300, and to investigate how the group could be supported further by developing access to facilities in the park.

**E19.24. Public Seating Budget**

The Committee reviewed its budget and expenditure to identify if there were areas where money may be vired to a new budget heading for the provision of public seating. Funds were identified as follows:

Footway lighting	£1,800
Nature Partnership:	£2,500
Workington in Bloom Development:	£1,500
Total	£5,800

**Resolved:** To vire these amounts into a Public Seating budget.

**E19.25. Public Seating Installation**

The Clerk reported that the damaged Mayoral bench in Vulcan Park had been replaced, and an additional bench installed alongside it, for dedication to a commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day landings. A suitable plaque would be unveiled following consultation with appropriate veterans' groups. An additional Mayoral bench was due for installation on the northern path in the near future. A privately-funded memorial bench had been installed and adopted at Harrington Harbour under the Council's public seating procedures, and the Chair

sought other sites identified by members of the Committee. It was suggested that two were needed in Stainburn, one near the Moorlands Drive/Moor Road junction, and one on Stainburn Road itself, possibly on the grassy area close to the western entrance to the village. Two robust seats were needed in Moorclose, and two in Westfield, with the sites close to Westfield school and near the junction of Sarsfield Road cited as good potential locations. In Vulcan Park, the Senhouse Street Residents' Association had suggested two seats should be placed on the southern path to Princess Street, and the existing seat on the Vulcan Lane edge path should be renovated and moved to a less dingy position. Four seats were identified for Harrington Harbour, and an additional seat could be sited on Salisbury Street bank

**Resolved:** That the Clerk identifies precise locations for these proposals, obtains the necessary permissions, and allocates an appropriate style of seating in consultation with Ward members and the available budget.

#### **E19.26. Bus Shelters**

The Clerk confirmed that the bus shelter on Derwent Howe was scheduled for repair this coming weekend. The shelter at Salterbeck Cemetery had been re-specified and would be installed as soon as possible. There was discussion about the possibility of manufacturing shelters locally and this was considered a good idea if it could be done cost effectively and they were able to comply with appropriate safety standards.

**Resolved:** To note the report and to await further advice at a subsequent meeting on the feasibility of local manufacture.

#### **E19.27. Play Areas**

The Clerk reported that repairs to the play surface at Harrington Marina were imminent. The installation of a bankslide in Salterbeck was simply awaiting staff time. The downgrading of the Ashfield Road South facility from 2-8yrs to 2-5yrs could assist in the discouraging of anti-social behaviour from older children and youths. The installation of simple toddler swings at other parts of the Moorclose open space had been looked at and would now be costed. Ward councillors had visited the Westfield Welfare site and confirmed their belief that it was a suitable location for a play facility, however the Clerk reported there was resistance to this from the landowner, Allerdale Borough Council, who was reported to have earmarked the land for alternative use. There was some discussion about whether this was an Allerdale matter or an Allerdale Investment Partnership matter, and councillors with positions on the Borough Council agreed to take it up with officers and colleagues there. In the meantime, costs and plans should be sought for an installation. The Committee noted an outstanding commitment to Northside, and proposed to make provision for this in their budget for 2020-21.

**Resolved:** To complete the works on Garnet Crescent, Salterbeck, and to bring forward costed plans for Moorclose and Westfield. An additional play item might also be installed at Harrington Marina, subject to funds being available.

#### **E19.28. Vulcan Park**

Following the site visit earlier in the month, the Committee considered the recommendations contained in the visit report.

**Resolved**: That the remaining kissing gates be removed where possible and replaced with appropriately spaced bollards to ensure disabled access.

**Resolved**: That a seat be installed to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day landings, with an appropriate inscription following liaison with veterans groups.

**Resolved**: That the Cenotaph PA be repaired by November 2019.

**Resolved**: That the fallen tree by the lodge is left in situ for its play value, and is monitored by staff. Eventual use may be seating.

**Resolved**: To cost up a number of possible designs and uses for the old tennis courts prior to further consultation with the community.

**Resolved**: That the Adult gym be left in situ for now but the signage updated.

**Resolved**: That possible designs for the bandstand area be drafted, including the construction of a new bandstand on the site built by students from GEN2.

**Resolved**: That the Bait Cabin is renovated appropriately for staff use.

**Resolved**: That Grow Well are supported in their use of the Old Man's Shelter, with possible access to the building's interior in due course.

**Resolved**: That a meeting is sought with members of the Bowling Club to discuss how the green can be developed sustainably in the future.

**Resolved**: That the café building facilities be made available to volunteer groups using the park.

#### **E19.29. Back Lanes**

The Clerk reported that there had been considerable work done at the behest of the Borough Council Portfolio Holder for Transformation, Procurement and Commissioning (and Chair of the Town Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee), to employ the Probation Service in tidying up a range of problem back lanes that had so far eluded the traditional 'doing-up' process. In St Michael's Ward there had also been some work done by the vice chair in identifying specific issues around Findlay Place. The Clerk explained that some of these issues were related to the way in which Back Lane regeneration had been funded over the course of the last century or so, from the early adoptions by Workington Borough Council to the Neighbourhood Renewal schemes of the early 21st century. Some lanes had fallen through the net and the Town Council did not really have the financial capacity to address them, despite it £50,000 earmarked fund. However, the fund could be used to ensure the work of service like Probation were deployed on a regular basis, and could be used in conjunction with funds available from Castles and Coasts Housing, if a suitable framework could be established. A member raised a specific issue about anti-social behaviour around the rear of Scalebeck Court.

**Resolved**: To note the report, and to ensure that issues around Scalebeck Court were brought to the attention of the police and street scene officers as appropriate.

The meeting closed at 20:10