

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council, 6.30pm on 12 September 2019 in the Helena Thompson Museum, Workington

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

In attendance: Town Clerk

Also present Cllr J Holliday

E19.30. 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.

E19.31. Declarations of Interest

None.

E19.32. Exclusion of Press and Public

No issues.

E19.33. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 25 July 2019 were accepted as a true record.

E19.34. Allotments

The Clerk reported that the Allotments Sub-Committee had met on 5 September, and agreed its terms of reference to act as an advisory body on Allotment matters to the committee.

Resolved: To note the report.

E19.35. Workington Nature Partnership

The Clerk reported that the Steering Group now had a date for its first meeting, and that the Nature Partnership Officer would make a report which could then be circulated to the Committee

Resolved: To note the report.

E19.36. Workington in Bloom

The Committee heard that the Workington entry to Cumbria in Bloom had been awarded a Silver Gilt, the second highest rating. There was some discussion about the depth of community involvement, with some councillors expressing the opinion that they felt this had been lessened in recent years. Wider community input into the route of the judges was of particular concern. There was also some disquiet about the state of public planting in the town centre, with the planters at the foot of Murray Road being particularly poor. It was noted that most of the permanent features were Allerdale Borough Council assets. The Committee discussed the possibility of more volunteer effort in the mangers and hanging baskets. It was noted that consistent watering was usually the biggest problem for such initiatives – it is harder for volunteers to water hanging baskets which must be high enough from the pavement not to cause an obstruction. Christmas time, the Committee felt, was particularly drab for planting, though it was accepted that natural colour was unlikely at this time of the year.

Resolved: To re-form a Workington in Bloom Working Group, consisting of councillors and members of the general public who were interested. The first meeting to be arranged for a Tuesday evening in mid-November.

Resolved: To investigate the possibility of planting Christmas trees around the town centre, which could be lit.

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

E19.37. Public Seating Budget

The Clerk distributed pictures of the styles of seat proposed for the various locations agreed at the previous meeting. A teak wooden 'Meridien' seat (£434) from Earth Anchors Ltd had been identified for the Harrington Marina seating, and the Musselburgh style seat from Broxap (£370) had been identified as suitable for the other areas.

The Committee saw photographs of the proposed locations, with issues arising in Westfield and Stainburmn which would require further research. Permissions for the agreed sites were still required confirmation but were not thought to be problematic.

Resolved: To order the seating as required.

E19.38 Play Areas

The Committee considered the problem of finding a suitable site in Westfield for a Children's Play Area. County Council land on the former Southfield School site still seemed the most suitable, but the Clerk confirmed that Cumbria County Council were unwilling to release this land, which it had earmarked for development. Various other pockets of land were discussed, but none seemed to fit the criteria for safe

play. The Chair confirmed she would be attending a site visit in Northside shortly to review their existing play area. It was suggested that some limited play area could be created in Stainburn on the open space at the bottom of Brierydale. The Clerk confirmed he would make inquiries about land ownership.

The Committee reviewed the locations in Moorclose where limited toddler play equipment could be reintroduced, at Ashfield Road South and close to Lakeland View. The Clerk would seek the necessary permissions. He also confirmed that repairs were scheduled to the surface at Harrington. Permissions would also be confirmed for the transfer of picnic tables from Vulcan Park to Harrington Marina.

Resolved: Toddler play at Ashfield Road South could be refitted on the play surface as it stands, if required. A swing and seat should be installed further into the Open Space, beyond the tarmacked area.

Resolved: To continue making inquiries in Westfield about suitable locations for play facilities.

E19.39. Vulcan Park

The Committee heard that only one company had submitted quotes for the work to the power supply box and Cenotaph PA system. There was some discussion about the merits of this expenditure, and whether the tasks could be performed by a temporary PA system. It was suggested that Allerdale Borough Council Events Team had recently acquired a PA which might be available to hire.

The Chair asked if she could see the inside of Park End Shelter, with a view to supporting Grow Well West Cumbria to develop the site.

It was suggested the bowling club members be invited to a subsequent meeting, to discuss their ongoing use of the Bower and Bowling Green.

There was discussion about the merits of a large water feature in the park, which might be funded from a large regeneration grant.

It was reported that a local charity had made inquiries about using the cafe in the park.

The Chair asked if local apprentices could design a bandstand like the one in Whitehaven?

Members reported that anti-social behaviour continued to be a problem and there was concern that a police presence was not being felt.

Resolved: To seek further costs for the renovation of electrical equipment.

Resolved: To arrange for the Chair to visit the Park End Shelter.

Resolved: To draw up a brief for commercial use of the cafe.

Resolved: To liaise with the Bowling Club over an invite to a meeting.

Resolved: To contact the local Community Police inspector about the police presence in Vulcan Park.

The meeting closed at 20:27