

# Workington Town Council

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## Minutes of the Culture Committee of Workington Town Council, 6.30pm Thursday 16 July 2019 in the Town Hall, Workington

Cllr C Armstrong (chair)	Present
Cllr H Briggs (vice chair)	Present
Cllr R Briggs	Apologies
Cllr H Harrington	Present
Cllr J Holliday	Apologies
Cllr S Melton	Present
Cllr S Stoddart	Present
Cllr P Scott	Present
Cllr W Wilkinson	Present
Cllr L Williams	Apologies
Cllr D King (Deputy Mayor)	Present
Cllr J King (Mayor)	Present

In attendance: Town Clerk, Events Officer

### **C19.12. Apologies**

None were submitted.

### **C19.13. Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

### **C19.14. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)**

No issues.

### **C19.15. Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting on 4 June April 2019.

**Resolved:** To affirm them as a true record.

### **C19.16. Funding and Grants Proposals**

The Committee heard that an applicant from Active Cumbria was not present, though he had been expected to make a presentation and answer queries.

**Resolved:** To defer consideration of the application until the applicant is able to attend.

**C19.17. Curwen Fair**

The paper relating to a proposal for a Curwen Fair was withdrawn by the proposer.

**C19.18. Black Sabbath Plaque**

The Committee received a report from Cllr D King supporting the proposal for a plaque to commemorate the gig at which it is widely believed that Black Sabbath first publicly announced their name change from 'Earth', in August 1969. There was continued discussion about the definitive evidence for this. There were queries about how much a plaque would cost, whether the Church had been approached for permission, and whether public subscription would be a more appropriate method of raising any necessary funds. There was a further suggestion in the report that the Council host a showing of the 1963 horror film *Black Sabbath*. The Chair thanked Cllr King for his report, but suggested the film showing probably belonged in the category of Mayoral fundraising event, and so would be for the Mayor to initiate herself.

**Resolved:** To consider the plaque issue further once the likely costs and relevant permissions had been sought.

**C19.19. Ballad of Lucy Sands filming**

The Committee considered a proposal from the Director of an independent feature film concerning the death of Lucy Sands in Northside in 1881. He was seeking funding for cast and crew to film in West Cumbria and was offering to run workshops on various aspects of film making in return. It was noted that the Mayors of Workington and Allerdale had attended a preview film at the Helena Thompson Museum. There was concern that the film seemed to be a privately-funded project, and that none of the organisations who would usually fund such projects appeared to on-board. It was noted that the hotel accommodation costs which made up the larger part of the funding bid, was for a hotel outside Workington. There was a short discussion on what the film would actually contribute to Workington, and whether this represented good value for money. There was also a question mark over where any funds might be located in the current year's budget.

**Resolved:** To decline the request for funding.

**C19.20. Twinning Association**

The Committee noted that the Association had recently held its agm and several members of the Council were in attendance. Following a change to their constitution, they required two councillor delegates to the Association's Executive Committee. It was suggested that there still a number of deficiencies in the association's constitution and that the presentation of the accounts appeared not be audited.

**Resolved:** To request a written report from the Association on its council-funded activities

**Resolved:** To appoint Cllrs H Briggs and S Melton to the Association's Executive.

**C19.21. Events Programme**

The Clerk ran through the up and coming events which included the Festival of Running on 4 August – the response has been positive; the Harrington Kite Festival (workshops are filling up) and Family Fun Days in Moss Bay 10 August and Vulcan Park 24 August. Cllr

Briggs reported that the Harrington Marina celebration was taking shape for 25 August. A Walking for Health initiative would begin in Vulcan Park on 23 July. The Events Officer was now trained to lead this one hour activity, and if successful it was thought could be extended to other venues. The Vulcan Park event is monthly, with the three other leaders from partner organisations taking it in turn to lead. A response from the supplier was still awaited concerning the return of the Christmas tree to the Town Hall car park.

The recent Oddsocks Theatre performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream in Hall Park had attracted nearly 1,000 visitors, around 300 on the Thursday and 650 on the Friday. There has been very positive feedback and the altered layout of the field meant there were very few comments about not being able to hear the play.

Looking to 2020, it was noted that the Committee was due to include consideration of the 75 year anniversary of the end of the Second World War at its next meeting. There was concern that this should reflect all three tiers of local government in the town as well as the wider community. The crucial day would be 15 August, the anniversary of VJ Day, though it was noted that the government had moved the May Day Bank Holiday to the following Friday to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

#### **C19.22          Shakespeare in the Park 2020**

The meeting heard that two days (25th and 26th) in June 2020 were available from Oddsocks Theatre for performances of A Comedy of Errors, subject to confirmation and programming constraints. There was a query about whether the Company also offered workshops prior to their performances, which could be run for young people in the town.

**Resolved:** To authorise a provisional booking for these two dates on the basis of similar costs, and to make inquiries about the possibility of running workshops.

#### **C19.23          Jane Pit Miners' Memorial**

The Committee heard that the application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for the second part of the Jane Pit Project had been unsuccessful, despite an apparently positive response at the last meeting with Lottery representatives. A further meeting with the NLHF was scheduled for August, but the Clerk was pessimistic about the likely outcome. A new approach would be required to fund the restoration of the site, which had been estimated at a cost of around £190,000. It was suggested that approaches are made to the wider community – industry and trade unions – as well as the new Portfolio holder at Allerdale Borough Council.

**Resolved:** To continue to pursue options for alternative funding of the scheme for the restoration.

The meeting closed at 19.01