

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Workington Town Council held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 23 September 2020 on the Zoom web platform.

C Armstrong	Apologies	J Hunter	Apologies*
M Bainbridge	Present	J King	Present
L Baldry	Apologies	P McCarthy	Absent
H Briggs	Present	S Melton	Present
R Briggs	Present	B Miskelly	Present
B Cannon	Present	D Rollo	Present
B Dixon	Present	B Sansom	Present
D Farrar	Present	P Scott	Apologies
S Fryer	Present	S Stoddart	Apologies
G Glaister	Apologies	W Wilkinson	Present
H Harrington	Present	L Williams	Present
M Heaslip	Present		
J Holliday	Present		

* was present for the latter part of the meeting

In attendance: Town Clerk

Also present: Sgt Scott Adams, Cumbria Constabulary (until the end of his presentation)
One member of the press

The Mayor's Chaplain was unable to attend due to another commitment. The Clerk began the meeting with a minute's silence in memory of Cllr David King, the former Deputy Mayor, who passed away in July.

Police Report

Sgt Adams from Cumbria Constabulary reported that general crime levels had increased since lockdown eased. The police were particularly concerned with anti-social behaviour at a number of addresses close to the town centre, mostly in St Michael's Ward, and operations were ongoing in these areas. There was also a new initiative aimed at reducing speed related traffic incidents, and the police were interested in volunteers to help with Community speed reduction initiatives. Several councillors asked to be involved. There were further lengthy discussions about reducing anti-social behaviour and Sgt Adams was encouraged to maintain a dialogue with ward councillors on particular issues. The Mayor thanked Sgt Adams for taking the time to address the council.

Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

19.73. Apologies

The Council received and accepted apologies from Cllrs Armstrong, Baldry, Glaister, Hunter, Scott and Stoddart for reasons approved by the Council under the terms of Local Government Act, 1972, s85.. Cllr Hunter did manage to join the meeting towards the end.

19.74. Declarations of Interest

No further declarations were made.

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

No issues were raised.

19.76. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Council received the minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 2 July 2020. Cllr Fryer requested an amendment to clarify that she had left the meeting for another engagement. With this amendment the Council affirmed them as a true record.

19.77. Mayoral Announcements

The Council received a report from the mayor on her civic activities. Due to the pandemic, it had been very quiet, but she had attended a meeting with the High Sheriff and Grow Well on 21 September, and on 22 September had been able to attend the unveiling of South Workington Youth Partnership's new mini-bus, the Lottery grant for which had been assisted by the Events team.

Mayor's calendar of events since Full Council Meeting on 2 July 2020

Date	Event	Time
15 August	VJ Day Flag Raising	10am
3 September	Merchant Navy Day flag raising	10am
21 September	Grow Well West Cumbria	12 noon
22 September	SWYP Moorclose minibus unveiling	1pm
22 September (now 24 September)	Cumbria Pride Week flag raising	11am

Resolved: To note the report.

19.78 Recruitment of a new Town Clerk and RFO

The Council considered a report on the recruitment of a new Clerk. interviews are scheduled for 26 September. Some concern was raised that it was proposed to delegate the power of employing the Clerk to a sub-committee.

Resolved: That the Sub-Committee make a recommendation to a specially convened meeting of the Council on Wednesday 30 September at 7.30pm.

19.79 Princess St Day Care Centre

The Council considered a proposal to borrow £110,000 for the Public Works Loan Board for the purchase and renovation of the former Princess Street Day Care Centre in Vulcan Park, from Cumbria County Council. There was concern from several councillors about whether this represented good value for money, and whether the Town Council should really be

holding out for a Community Asset Transfer from Cumbria County Council, as had been done by the County Council in relation to other surplus properties. There was some discussion about whether it was even appropriate to vacate the Town Hall building. It was suggested that the decision should be made following discussions between senior councillors at the County Council and Town Councillors, rather than officers talking to officers. It was suggested that Cllr Cannon (a former County Councillor) may be able to effect a more favourable outcome with a direct approach to the Leader of the County Council. Moving the issue to a vote, the Council decided to defer a decision on the purchase of the property to allow time for Cllr Cannon and others to raise the matter with the leadership of the County Council.

Resolved: That the purchase of the Princess St Day Care Centre be deferred to allow time for Cllr Cannon to raise the matter with the Leader of the County Council.

19.80 Financial Regulations

The Council considered a proposal for amending the Council's Financial Regulations to allow for the use of online banking methods.

Resolved: To adopt the amended Financial Regulations

19.81 Motion from Cllr MJ Heaslip

The Council considered a motion from Cllr MJ Heaslip relating to the transfer of property from Workington Borough Council, to Allerdale District Council, and subsequently to Workington Town Council as the successor parish tier authority for the civil parish of Workington. Councillors noted that the issue was related to the item concerning the Princess Street Day Care Centre and the possible imminent reorganisation of local government in Cumbria to create a unitary authority with enhanced roles for town and parish councils. Following a brief debate the motion was carried by 14 votes to 2.

Resolved: That the Council open early discussions with Allerdale Borough Council about: a) the return to Workington Town Council of any property assets taken from Workington Corporation in 1974, whether classed as "corporate land" or "parish land" or otherwise under the legislation; and b) the transfer of any other Community Assets held in Workington for charitable purposes or community benefit by Allerdale Borough Council.

Reports from Committees

19.82. Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Council received the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 21 June 2020.

Resolved: To accept the minutes.

19.83. Planning Committee

The Council received a list of the Planning Applications considered since the last meeting. It was noted that these had been considered under delegated powers. A councillor queried whether this was still necessary, since other committees were now meeting effectively through Zoom. The Clerk explained that the September meeting had been cancelled because there was a single Planning application, but hoped future applications would be

considered by a meeting of the Committee on the first Monday of the month, as has been the practice.

Resolved: To note the list.

19.84. Environment Committee

The Council received the draft minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 2 September 2020. The Councillor for Northside ward expressed her thanks that she had been able to take part in the item relating to her ward. The Northside play area continued to present a risk to children in the ward. The Clerk suggested one of his remaining tasks prior to departure would be to write to Castles and Coasts Housing Association to express the Council's concern on the matter. There was discussion about the ongoing issue of developing a Children's Play Area in Westfield. The Chair suggested she will arrange a site visit once the new Clerk is in post to review the options, as once a site is found, it could be installed within six months.

Resolved: To accept the minutes.

19.85. Culture Committee

The Council received the draft minutes of the Culture Committee meeting on 8 September 2020.

Resolved: To accept the minutes.

19.86 Town Clerk

The Town Clerk was thanked for his service to the Council since he joined in 2013. The Council wished him well on his appointment as Town Clerk in Kendal.

The meeting closed at 20:55