Workington Town Council

Town Hall, Oxford Street, Workington, Cumbria CA14 2RS

Telephone: 01900 702986

Email: office@workingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.workingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

**Minutes of the meeting of Workington Town Council held at 7pm on Wednesday   
9th June 2021 at Moor Close Community Centre.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| C Armstrong | Present | J Hunter | Apologies |
| M Bainbridge | Present | J King | Present |
| H Briggs | Present | S Melton | Apologies |
| R Briggs | Present | B Miskelly | Present |
| B Cannon | Apologies | D Rollo | Present |
| B Dixon | Present | B Sansom | Present |
| D Farrar | Present | P Scott | Present |
| S Fryer | Apologies | S Stoddart | Present |
| G Glaister | Present | W Wilkinson | Present |
| H Harrington | Present | L Williams | Present |
| M Heaslip | Present | A McGuckin | Apologies |
| P Poole | Present | E Woods | Present |
| J Kirkbride | Present |  |  |

**In attendance:** Town Clerk of Workington Town Council

**Public Participation**

Two members of the public observed the meeting but did not raise any items for discussion.

**21.00. Apologies**

The Council received and accepted apologies from Cllr Sue Fryer, Cllr S Melton, Cllr J Hunter, Cllr B Cannon, and Cllr A McGuckin for reasons approved by the Council under the terms of Local Government Act, 1972, s85.

**21.01. Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

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

Agenda item 12 Employment was identified as requiring the exclusion of press and/or public.

**21.03. Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting**

The Council received the minutes of the meeting on 17th May 2021 and affirmed them as a true record.

Cllr B Miskelly raised the point that he thought that these minutes had previously been noted, however this is incorrect therefore, the minutes have been received.

**Resolved:** To affirm the previous minutes from the 17th May 2021 as a true record.

**21.04. Mayoral Announcements**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the Mayor did not have any new Mayoral Announcements.

Cllr B Dixon stated that as it was Pride Month and that as a council we should fly the Pride flag. All councillors agreed for the pride flag should be raised on the 28th June 2021 – Pride Day.

**21.05. Annual Governance Statement**

Town Clerk read through each part of the statement, points 1 to 8.

Cllr M Heaslip proposed a motion to oppose points 1, 3 and 8.

Vote For 7 Against 12 Abstain 1

The motion was declined

**Resolved:** To accept the Annual Governance Statement.

**Reports from Committees**

**21.06. Finance and General Purposes Committee**

a)  To receive the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 25 May 2021.

b)  To accept the Risk Assessment recommended by the Committee at its meeting on 25 May 2021.

c)  To accept the Annual Accounting Statements for 2020-2021 (AGAR p5).

d)  To accept the Internal Auditor’s Report for 2020-2021 (AGAR p3).

It was noted that the minutes sent out with the agenda were for March not May therefore they could not be received by the council.

**Resolved:** To reject point a.

**Resolved:** To accept points b, c, d.

**21.07. Planning Committee**

The Council received the draft minutes of the Planning Committee meetings on the 5th April 2021 and 4th May 2021.

**Resolved:** To accept the minutes from the 5th April 2021 and 4th May 2021.

**21.08. Environment Committee**

The Council received the draft minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 3rd June 2021.

Cllr B Miskelly offered points for the minutes…

1. Allerdale Borough Council have tackled the subject of providing dog fouling enforcers by training their PCSO’s.
2. Evenings are not the most advantageous time to patrol for dog fouling and that early afternoon might heed better results.
3. Enforcing dogs on leads in Vulcan Park will be a difficult to enforce.
4. If reintroducing gates to the park please consider those with mobility issues.

Further points were offered

1. Play equipment in the parks are aged and the adult gym not used – Cllr H Harrington assured the council that this is an ongoing subject and that two separate play equipment companies have been contacted to provide advice and ideas to improve our play areas.
2. Cllr D Rollo enquired what was happening with the Nature Partnership, the Town Clerk has a meeting with the Nature Partnership on Wednesday 16th June 2021.
3. Cllr D Rollo enquired about the defibrillators that will be installed, Cllr H Harrington replied that at the moment this issue was being investigated – costings, installation and training for use, etc...
4. Cllr M Heaslip challenged the use of the word ‘Resolved’ in the minutes, suggesting that the correct word to use is ‘Recommendation’ as the issues are then brought before Full Council before they are resolved. Town Clerk replied that the minutes have always stated ‘Resolved’.

**Resolved:** To accept the minutes from the 3rd June 2021.

**21.09. Culture Committee**

The Council received the draft minutes of the Culture Committee meeting on 1st June

2021.

Cllr C Armstrong provided an update on the issue of the Beacon in Vulcan Park…

1. Cllr C Armstrong took responsibility for the planning application for the Beacon.
2. The VE/VJ Day statue will now be located in the circular flower bed to allow this to be installed as soon as possible.
3. A decision regarding the future of the Beacon will be resolved once external agencies had provided feedback.

Cllr B Miskelly enquired how many replies had been received from the online consultation and questioned if it could be called a consultation as it was only online?

Cllr J Kirkbride enquired how much the planning application had cost?

Cllr D Farrar enquired how much the Day Cummins report cost.

Cllr M Heaslip questioned the use of the word ‘yet’ from point C21.08. Town Clerk replied that this was because we are still in talks regarding the future ownership of Jane Pit.

Cllr M Heaslip questioned why officer time was being withdrawn from the Jane Pit project – Town Clerk explained that there was not much movement on the project therefore, time was being spent on other issues and when the project was moving forward officer time would be reallocated.

At this point Cllr L Williams excused herself to leave for work.

Cllr M Heaslip questioned the validity of an EGM held in May – this point has previously been addressed by the Town Clerk and evidence to clarify the position of WTC had been sought from CALC. The then Mayor Cllr J King had also sought clarification from the monitoring officer at ABC. Both external organisations supported the actions of WTC and the matter was resolved. Cllr M Heaslip disagreed with the findings and a discussion ensued.

**Resolved:** Town Clerk to inform all councillors of costs of planning application and Day Cummins report.

**Resolved**: Town Clerk to circulate the findings from CALC and ABC (regarding the May EGM) to all councillors.

**Resolved**: To accept the minutes from the 1st June 2021.

**21.10 Asset Transfer**

Cllr P Scott reviewed the assets currently offered by ABC…

* 1. Toilets at Harrington Marina, (with a contribution of £8,000.00)
  2. Dept mayoral chain,
  3. Allotments at Mount View.
  4. They are still considering financial support to transfer ownership of Workington Hall, Helena Thompson Museum and Jane Pit, which they see as a heritage package.

Cllr B Dixon enquired whether the package included Workington Hall with the parks or without?

Cllr M Heaslip highlighted that the parks at Workington Hall already belong the WTC and the council may wish to consider charging ABC for dilapidation.

**Resolved**: To note the report.

Members of the press and public were asked to leave the meeting at this point.

Cllr D Farrar pointed out that at the previous FG&P meeting he and a fellow councillor (not on the committee) had been asked to leave when employment issues had been heard. Town Clerk apologised, she had thought that all members acting as public had to leave but would not ask this in future.

**21.11 Employment Issues**

Cllr p Scott presented the following employment issues…–

* 1. Emma Chapmen has the new role of Culture and Events Team Leader,
  2. Andrew Burns has been offered the role of Projects and Events Officer,
  3. Interviews for the Admin Asst will take place on Thursday 10th June, 2021,
  4. Interviews for the Estates Team Leader will take place on Thursday, 17th June 2021,
  5. Propose to reduce the hours for the Estates Grounds Person from 37 to 25 per week, (this will allow for AA hours).

Cllr B Miskelly raised concerns that reduction in grounds staff could be detrimental, Cllr P Scott assured Cllr B Miskelly that as we are currently running on 50% of our normal man hours that once we were at 100% of given hours the estates team would be supported by Andrew Burns who will provide H&S support thus freeing up hours for the estates team.

**Resolved:** To receive the report

*The meeting closed at 8.32pm.*