Workington Town Council

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**Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting of Workington Town Council, held on Thursday 22nd May 2025 at 6.30pm in the Workington Town Council Offices, Town Hall, Oxford Street, Workington, CA14 2RS.**

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| Cllr Michael Heaslip (Chair) | Present | Cllr Bernadette Jones (Vice Chair) | Present |
| Cllr Mary Bainbridge | Absent | Cllr John Mills | Present |
| Cllr Beth Dixon | Present | Cllr Billy Miskelly | Present |
| Cllr Sue Martin | Present | Cllr Patricia Poole | Present |
| Cllr Sean Melton | Absent\* | Cllr Mike Rollo | Absent\* |

Substitutes in attendance: Cllr Allan Hodgson for Cllr Mike Rollo and Cllr David Farrar for Cllr Sean Melton. Also in attendance: Chief Officer/RFO and 1 member of the public.

The Chair welcomed Cllr Miskelly to his first environment committee meeting since his election in February 2025.

**E25.1 Absences:** Absences notified prior to the meeting were noted from Cllr Sean Melton and Cllr Mike Rollo.

**E25.2 Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Billy Miskelly declared an interest in agenda item 12, as an allotment holder at Siddick.

**E25.3 Exclusion of Press and Public:** None

**E25.4 Public Participation:** None.

**E25.5 Minutes of the previous meeting**

**Resolved:** Committee approved the minutes from 9th April 2025 and affirmed them a true record.

**E25.6 Public Questions:** None.

**E25.7 Questions and Statements from Members:** None.

**E25.8 Motions on Notice:** None.

**E25.9 Budget 2025-2026**

Committee noted the budget monitoring report for information.

**E25.10 Environmental Activities**

Committee noted the report for information.

**E25.11 Streetscene**

**a) Town Hall Defibrillator**

**Resolved:** Committee approved a cost of up to £670 for the installation of an outdoor defibrillator to be located at the Town Hall from the Streetscene budget line.

**Resolved:** To send a link of all defibrillator locations in Workington to committee.

**Resolved:** To establish Cumberland Council owned defibrillators in Workington that may require attention and contact Cumberland Council to discuss.

**b) Defibrillator at Barepot** – Committee noted that this would be installed shortly, and a press release would be issued once complete.

**c) Workington Gateway Pocket Park** – the Chair advised that a meeting was attended by himself, Chair of F & GP and the Chief Officer with Cumberland Council on 15th May, but no further information was available and what was discussed the Council was already aware of. Updates will be brought to future meetings if appropriate.

**d) Police Update** - Cllr John Mills gave an update on the Neighbourhood Policing Pledge meeting that he attended on 6th May as a representative for Workington North. It was discussed that there were no reports or updates from the Police and those who attended were asked to give feedback on what the Police can do / help with. Committee discussed that Councillors previously received reports from the Polce with useful statistics and data and it would be beneficial to receive this again as well as the Inspector attending Full Council meetings.

**Resolved:** CO to inform CALC of feedback following the meeting and to request the CO be informed of when future meetings will be held.

Cllr Miskelly and the member of public left the meeting.

**E25.12 Allotments**

**a) Mountain View Allotments**

**Resolved:** Officers to action the following:

* Inform Cumberland Council that the Council wishes to retain the seven plots being used as allotments and hand the rest of the land back to Cumberland Council from Oct 2025.
* Give notice to tenants on land not viable as allotments that no new tenancy agreements will be issued and from Oct 2025, they need to contact Cumberland Council for any issues/concerns.

**b) Water Provision**

**Resolved:** To purchase IBCs for Stoneleigh and Siddick allotment sites up to the value of £4,700 from the Allotments budget line. Once complete, remove taps / access to mains water.

**c) Allotment plot measurements**

**Resolved:** To give notice to tenants that the Council is carrying out a re-measuring exercise of all allotment plots and this will be reflected in their next tenancy agreement in Oct 2025 some prices may decrease, but some may increase.

**Resolved:** To provide committee with a full overview and recommendation of price per square metre per allotment site at the September committee meeting.

Cllr Miskelly and the member of public returned to the meeting.

**E25.13 Cumberland Council’s License to Grow**

Committee noted the report for information.

**Resolved:** Officers to feedback committee’s support for the initiative.

**E25.14 Estate Management**

Committee noted the update on The Ranch for information.

**E25.15 Estate Development**

**a) Cast Iron lampposts**

**Resolved:** To investigate the lampposts being used in the park as finger sign posts and hanging baskets.

**b) Activity markings**

**Resolved:** To purchase activity markings for up to £2,000 from the Estate development budget line to be located in appropriate places around the paths in Vulcan Park.

**c) Accessible picnic tables**

**Resolved:** To purchase two accessible picnic tables with wheelchair access from Solway Recycling for up to £1,700 from the Estate development budget line.

**Resolved:** To send proposed locations of picnic benches within Vulcan Park to committee for consideration.

**d) Feenans Community Garden**

**Resolved:** To enter into an agreement with Victoria Infants and Victoria Junior School to tend to two of the beds at Feenans Community Garden.

Committee agreed to Barnados taking over the other two beds in September when they are able.

**E25.16 Workington Nature Partnership**

Committee noted the report for information.

The Chair advised that the Council is still waiting for a meeting with Cumberland Council planning officers to discuss the issues of silt getting into the rivers/becks following new housing developments in or around the town.

The meeting ended at 7.36pm.