

# Workington Town Council

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## Minutes of the Culture Committee of Workington Town Council, 6.30pm Thursday 4 June 2019 in the Town Hall, Workington

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

In attendance: Town Clerk, Events Officer. Mr F Johnston for Agenda item 5.

### **C19.1. Apologies**

None were submitted.

### **C19.2. Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

### **C19.3. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)**

No issues.

### **C19.4. Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting on 18 April 2019.

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

### **C19.5. Funding and Grants Proposals**

The Council considered the following Proposals for Funding:

#### **a) Workington Ju-Jitsu Club**

Amount: £1,362.50

Project Title World Ju-Jitsu Championships 2019

Suggested budget head Sport\*

\*This has been funded from the Youth Provision budget in Policy and Resources (now F&GP) in the past.

The Committee received a brief presentation from Mr F Johnston, a parent of one of the members of the Ju-Jitsu Club. He explained that the Council had funded a bus to the International Championships in Wolverhampton in previous years, and this had allowed over 40 young people from Workington to attend the event. Without the bus, the number would be fewer than ten. Members returned with four European titles in 2018, which demonstrated that the Town could compete at the highest level. Mr Johnston went on to explain the governance and history of the Club and its imminent move to premises in Salterbeck, in which he had an interest. Committee members asked Mr Johnston about disabled facilities, which he confirmed were not currently available, and the number of adult members of the Club, which was a handful. Mr Johnston confirmed that he had extended an invite to all committee members to see the workings of the Club this coming weekend. The Chair thanked Mr Johnston for his presentation and he left the room prior to the Committee's consideration of the matter. There was general support for the work the applicant was doing for young people in the town and many members felt that this represented a good investment.

**Resolved:** To award £1,362.50 from the Sport budget heading for the transport to the World Championships in July 2019. The Committee requested that the applicant approach the Council with at least 3 months' notice in future.

#### b) **Cumbria Youth Alliance**

Amount: £2,500 for three years  
Project Title: Workington Get Active Project  
Suggested Budget head: Sport

The Committee considered an application from Cumbria Youth Alliance for part funding of a Summer activity project in Workington, aimed at 14-17 year olds and developing diet and activity awareness, addressing mental health issues and fitness. The project aimed to engage with 80 to 100 young people in a six week programme over the Summer. Councillors felt this was a worthy cause, and addressed some timely issues.

**Resolved:** To award the project £2,500 for a duration of up to 3 years from the Sport budget.

#### c) **WAOS**

Amount £1,500  
Project Title The King and I  
Suggested Budget head Cultural Groups

The Committee heard that Workington Amateur Operatic Society were producing The King and I in 2019 and were seeking financial support for the costumes. They estimated over 50 children's costumes would be required. The total budget for the production was £25,000. Councillors were impressed by the Society's fund raising capacity and many expressed an interest in the activities of an organisation of which several members confessed they had no

prior real knowledge beyond an awareness of the name. It was suggested that the Society might offer councillors a familiarisation visit.

**Resolved:** To award the production £1,500 from the Cultural Groups budget.

### **C19.6. Funding Reports**

The Committee received a report from Theatre Royal Youth, which the Council is funding on a three-year agreement from 2018 at £2,500 per year. There are 35 young people in the group and it is developing a range of theatrical skills, from public speaking to make up and scriptwriting. The group is currently working on 'The Railway Children', and is hoping to develop links with Theatre by the Lake and the University of Cumbria. A 'Friends of Try' group is also being explored.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

### **C19.7. Events Programme 2019**

The Events Officer gave a brief verbal update on the Events Programme for 2019. The Family Fun Day in Moorclose attracted over 70 children and their families. Over 700 participants had attended Workington Go! activities, almost double the previous year. Around 3,500 attended Party in the Park, with over 35 stall holders and some very positive feedback, despite the weather. Coming up there were Family Fun Days in Moss Bay, Harrington and Vulcan Park, and the third year of Shakespeare in Hall Park, presented by Oddsocks Theatre Company. The Festival of Running is being promoted in conjunction with the Cumberland Athletics Club in August and later in the month, the Harrington Kite Festival will run over two days, after which we enter the autumn/winter programme.

The Events Officer sought the committee's guidance on a couple of issues. She would like to use a budget underspend of £700 from Party in the Park to improve the Kite Festival 'offer', and she proposed to use £1,200 from the Promotions budget to develop a Visit Workington leaflet in partnership with Scoop AM, the leaseholders at Washington Square. The leaflet would be distributed through Aha! print distribution to around 450 venues in the County. A councillor raised a query about a future event and it was agreed to consider this with the item on 2020 Events.

**Resolved:** The Committee noted the report.

**Resolved:** The Committee approved the Events officer's transfer of resources from Party in the Park to the Kite Festival and the use of the Promotions budget for a Visit Workington leaflet.

### **C19.8. Christmas Lighting**

The Events Officer reported that the Lighting provider was now in the third year of a three year agreement, which could be reviewed for 2020. For 2019 the lighting on the Carnegie would be replaced to match the wider scheme, as the old lighting was now out of lease. She confirmed that the Ramsay Brow display would be withdrawn, as it now seemed incongruous. At the behest of previous Culture Committee meetings, costs had been sought for extending the display to Upper Jane St (£730), Train station (£616) the Town Hall (£1,840), and the planter in Pow Street (£2,500). There were also design schemes for

Vulcan Park, but these were predicated on the installation of a new electrical supply system, which may not be ready in time. The Committee welcomed some of the new plans but were concerned that they didn't address all the issues of Christmas lighting in the town, and particularly the entrances. They were also quite concerned about the Town Hall proposals, which continued not to include a tree. Many councillors felt a Town Hall tree was a vital part of the traditional Workington Christmas. The Clerk explained the many problems that had befallen the Town Hall tree in previous years, however the Committee felt that these could be overcome.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

**Resolved:** Not to extend the lighting installation in the current year, but to restore the installation of a Christmas tree at the town hall, deploying alternative arrangements as required.

#### **C19.9. Events Programme 2020**

The Chair asked the Committee to give consideration to the future Events programme, particularly beyond Christmas 2019. Committee members were encouraged to come back to a subsequent meeting with their thoughts. In the meantime, several members expressed an interest in developing an event in Harrington, partly to celebrate the Marina's Town Green status, and partly to publicise the role of the emergency services in public safety. A date in late August had been identified as possible. Cllrs Briggs and Harrington would be interested in bringing forward a plan, in conjunction with the Events Officer.

**Resolved:** For Cllrs H Briggs and H Harrington to liaise with the Events Officer over programming an event on Harrington Marina on Sunday 25 August.

#### **C19.10. Jane Pit Miners' Memorial**

The Clerk gave a brief verbal update on the National Lottery Heritage Funded project to establish a memorial to the Mineworkers of Workington at Jane Pit. The announcement was due on 13 June and following a visit from a Lottery committee member, the Clerk felt that the chances of success were as good as any. He suggested that there may be scope for a Stage Three project, once the Japanese Knotweed to the rear of the site had been dealt with.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

#### **C19.11. Black Sabbath Plaque**

The Committee considered a suggestion from a member of the public that the Council funds a plaque on the wall at Banklands church rooms to commemorate the gig by the rock band "Earth", in August 1968, at which the band announced its intention to change its name to "Black Sabbath". The Committee did not feel this was an issue it wanted to explore currently, but was content for a councillor to do further research to verify the claimed facts of the occasion.

**Resolved:** To take no further action at this time, but review the matter should more information come to light.

The meeting closed at 20.02