

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council, 6.30pm on 12 November 2020 on the Zoom virtual meeting platform.

Cllr H Harrington (Chair)	Present
Cllr C Armstrong	Apologies
Cllr H Briggs	Present
Cllr R Briggs	Present
Cllr G Glaister	Present
Cllr J Hunter	Present
Cllr P Scott	Present
Cllr S Stoddart	Present
Cllr W Wilkinson (vice chair)	Present
Cllr L Williams	Present
Cllr J King (Mayor)	Present

Town Clerk: Apologies

In attendance: Events Officer (to take minutes and to assist with Zoom)

E19.89 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted as being for approved reasons under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972, s85, from Cllr C Armstrong.

E19.90 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wilkinson reminded the Committee of his allotment tenancy at Feenans (plot 6).

E19.91 Exclusion of Press and Public

No issues that require the exclusion of press or public.

E19.92 Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 3 September 2020 were accepted as a true record.

E19.93 Allotments

The Chair of the Allotments sub-Committee reported that the Committee has been on hold due to current COVID-19 restrictions. Sub-committee meetings will be restarted when restrictions are lifted.

The Vice Chair, Cllr Will Wilkinson, presented a proposal for the Feenans allotment site to be self-managed. Cllr Wilkinson confirmed he is an allotment holder on the site, which would be considered a declaration of interest. The presentation was accompanied with a PowerPoint presentation (Appendix 1). The Vice Chair described the site's current condition and areas that require improvement. Some

plots have not been used for growing produce for a number of years. This includes a plot with contaminated soil and another plot that was covered with hardcore. The neglected plots are prone to being used for fly-tipping (particularly Plot 1). The lane is in poor condition and liable to flood. A contract to resurface the lane (with proper drainage) was approved at a previous meeting. However, the lane, and wider site, would benefit from improved security measures, such as a new gate.

Plans for the future include:

- Progress towards self-management, following the template set by Newlands Allotment Site. The Secretary of Newlands Allotment site, Mike Barnes, has offered to help with initial planning and fundraising advice.
- The development of a 'nature corridor'.
- Plant 500 trees and hedgerow plants. This includes Hawthorne, Blackthorn, Dogwood, Goat Willow and Dog Rose. The plants have already been sourced with assistance by Mike Barnes.
- Creation of composting areas and a plant nursery.
- To redevelop Plot 1 (currently unused and often used for fly-tipping) as a community plot.
- To work with Victoria Junior School. The headteacher of the school, Pauline Robertson, has confirmed they would be interested.

Cllr Wilkinson proposed that the Feenans Allotment site should follow the same process as Newlands Lane Allotment site. The site would continue to be owned by the council but offered to the Feenans Allotment Site Committee for a peppercorn rent. Cllr Wilkinson explained that before they could take on management of the site, they would need assistance from the council to bring the site up to an acceptable working standard. This would include practical assistance with planting and with the removal of fly-tipping as well as financial support.

The Chair thanked Cllr Wilkinson for his presentation and for moving the project forward. The Chair confirmed money had been budgeted for the lane improvements. Cllr Wilkinson confirmed that three quotes had been sought for the work, but only one contractor has come forward with a quote. The quote was within the set budget (under £7000).

Cllr Wilkinson confirmed the work on the fencing and hedgerows would cost:

- 103.65m of mesh fencing (£38 per linear metre): £18,294.10
- Tin sheeting and wooden posts: £3,998.80
- Tin sheeting and concrete posts: £52.45 linear metre
- Waste clearance: £838.53
- Mini-digger: £150 (one day hire)
- Mixed hedgerow plants: £1059.30

Cllr Wilkinson received questions from the committee. Cllr Wilkinson confirmed that the tenants are supportive of self-management. Cllr Wilkinson then left the meeting during the committee's discussion due his interest in the site (as a tenant).

Resolved: To agree in principle that the Feenans Allotment site should become self-managed. Any additional costs associated with the process need to be presented at the next meeting for approval.

E19.94. Bus Shelters

Two areas have been identified as requiring a bus shelter; Salterbeck and Moss Bay. The proposed site for Salterbeck was agreed at a previous meeting. The Chair explained that an additional site at Moss Bay was identified (adjacent to the old entrance to the Steel Works). Estimated costs for both bus shelters were not available for the meeting and would need to be confirmed.

Resolved: To agree that a bus shelter is required at the proposed site in Moss Bay (adjacent to the old entrance of the Steel Works) and permissions from the landowner should be sought.

Resolved: Officers to follow up on the previously agreed work at Salterbeck and provide an update to the committee.

E19.95. New Town Signs

The committee reviewed the designs for the new 'Welcome to Workington' signage. Cllr King questioned whether a sign for Salterbeck could be created. The Events Officer confirmed it would be possible but may have cost implications. The quote for the current design is £880.

The chair questioned whether a new sign had been installed at Harrington play area. Cllr Scott confirmed the signage had been ordered and was due to be installed.

Resolved: To proceed with the production of the 'Welcome to Workington' signs as quoted. The overall design was approved but the committee has asked to see if it's possible to customise one sign for Salterbeck.

E19.96. Vulcan Park Nightingale Garden

Work is progressing as planned. The landscape design has been approved. The base of the monument and the statue itself has been ordered. The chair questioned whether seating is included in the design. Cllr Wilkinson confirmed seating was included in the design.

The chair requested if a representative from the Estates Team could be present at future meetings. The Events Officer confirmed the request would be passed on for consideration.

Resolved: The committee noted the report.

E19.97 Vulcan Park Path Renovation

Cllr King reported that the resurfacing had been started but did not seem to have successfully resolved the problem.

Resolved: To pass on the report from Cllr King to the Estates team. To request an update from the Estates team with a projected timeline for completion of works. Update will then be circulated to committee members.

E19.98. Stainburn Bench and Sign

Cllr King reported there was a debate with Allerdale Borough Council over the installation of the bench and who should be responsible for the works.

Cllr Hunter raised that two new seats had been approved for his ward. Both seats were due to be installed near Westfield School. However, one has not been installed and the other seat has been installed on Rowe Terrace.

The chair confirmed the Stainburn bench and signage had been approved and requested Officers continue with arrangements for installation.

Resolved: Officers to continue working on the arrangements for the installation of the sign and bench and an update to be circulated to committee members.

Resolved: A meeting to be arranged with the Town Clerk and Estates Team Leader to look into the location of the seats in Westfield.

E19.99. Harrington Park

The Committee reviewed the design for new play equipment (an inclusive 'orbit'). The total cost is quoted at £10,042.48 (the orbit is £5,099). The chair questioned the cost of the groundworks and asked the Estates team to review the plans and see if savings could be made by carrying the work out 'in-house'.

Resolved: To proceed with the order of the play equipment. The Estates Team should review installation costs and see if savings can be made by doing any aspects 'in-house'. However, health and safety should be prioritised over cost saving measures. If no additional savings can be made, work can proceed as proposed and quoted.

E19.100. Vulcan Park

The Events Officer provided a report on the 'Friends of Vulcan Park' scheme. The scheme has been advertised on the town centre colour screen, online and on banners on the park gates. No volunteers have signed-up for the project yet. The Events Team will continue to look for opportunities to promote the scheme.

Resolved: The committee noted the report.

E19.101. Helena Thompson Museum

The chair expressed an interest in the Helena Thompson Museum being returned to Workington Town Council for management (rather than the management being continued by Allerdale Borough Council). Cllr Scott confirmed that Allerdale Borough Council currently financially support the museum, so financial considerations would have to be made before anything was confirmed.

Cllr Wilkinson confirmed the Town Clerk is currently reviewing the asset list.

Resolved: The committee noted the report.

E19.102. Play Area Development

Cllr Stoddart clarified the recent developments with the play areas in Moorclose. Seven Slides play area is managed by the housing association, Castle and Coasts.

Castle and Coasts are working towards replacing the equipment as required. This project is separate to the work being done on Moorclose Green.

Cllr Stoddart confirmed the goalposts for Moorclose Green need to be 3.2m x 1m high with a mesh backing. The quoted cost is £3572.00.

Cllr Hunter expressed concern about the lack of play equipment in Westfield. The chair confirmed Allerdale Borough Council is in discussions about a play area being included in the new housing estate.

Cllr Williams asked if health and safety checks had taken place at Northside play area. This play area is managed by Castles and Coast. The chair confirmed that Castles and Coasts have done a survey but not yet carried out the work and a follow-up enquiry would need to be made.

The chair raised a question about the Christmas tree at Northside. The Events Officer explained that Cllr Dixon had been contacted about the tree and was awaiting a response. The chair explained that the land was owned by Castles and Coasts so permission would need to be sought prior to any work.

Resolved: To proceed with the order and installation of the goalposts as quoted.

Resolved: The committee confirmed they agreed with the proposed location for the play area in Westfield and that negotiations should be made with Allerdale Borough Council about costings.

Resolved: To propose £40,000 be budgeted for Westfield play area at the next Full Council meeting.

Resolved: The Events Officer will follow-up correspondence with Cllr Dixon regarding the Christmas tree and seek permission from Castles and Coasts if required.

E19.103. Budget 2021-22

The chair opened the floor for discussions. The provision of additional bus shelters was discussed. Cllr Stoddart proposed a new bus shelter on Honister Drive (near mini-roundabout). Cllr Glaister proposed a bus shelter on Harrington Road.

Resolved: The chair to meet with the Town Clerk, Cllr Stoddart and Cllr Glaister to look at the proposed sites for the bus shelters.

Resolved: To look into costings for approximately four new bus shelters.

The meeting closed at 20.17