

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Workington Town Council held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 12 June 2019 in the Council Chamber, Allerdale House, Workington.

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

In attendance: Town Clerk

Also present: Inspector R Gale and Sgt L Murphy, Cumbria Police, for the period of their report; Chaplain, Canon John Watson; around 20 members of the public and press.

The Mayor's Chaplain was represented by Canon Watson, who led a prayer at the start of the meeting.

Public Participation Session

A number of members of the public were anxious to speak about recent revelations that the Deputy Mayor had been in prison for deception in the past. A member of the public drew the Council's attention to an online petition asking for the Deputy Mayor to resign. Several people asked for the Mayor to also resign. This issue was raised a number of times.

A member of the public expressed his disappointment that nothing formal marked the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, and suggested that his veterans' group would like to erect a memorial bench in Vulcan Park. The Mayor thanked him for the offer and directed his enquiry to the Environment Committee, who she understood were reviewing the Council's seating policies.

Police Report

Inspector Gale reported that shoplifting had been a recent priority in St Michael's ward. This had brought crime numbers down, but recent releases of certain individuals had seen them increase again slightly.

A project in Moorclose targeted Anti-social behaviour, and this had resulted in a 52% decrease in reported crimes. Targeting drug supply and working with partners, particularly through a 'Stronger Together' programme with academic input was proving very positive. In St Michael's Ward, the police were working with partners to target drug-related crime. There was a slight reduction in reports, month on month. A project with Allerdale Borough Council was aimed at helping private landlords to be more responsible. PCSO Alison Renney had been awarded the mini police PCSO of the Year award for her work with Victoria Junior School.

Questions and comments from councillors included the following: A councillor reported that a recent call to 999 in response to ongoing anti-social behaviour outside the Trades Hall Club had led him to being admonished by the responders because it was not an emergency. He explained that he had not been able to get through on 101 and believed there to be a drug-related crime in progress. He asked if the inspector could consider the issue. Another councillor congratulated PCSO Renney and suggested the Mini-Police followed on from the successful introduction of Fire Cadets in the past. She went on to draw the police's attention to the problem of speeding traffic in Salterbeck and Harrington. She was worried about people crossing the road or coming out of driveways. Also in Salterbeck, a councillor reported that the Salterbeck Residents Association had been told by Impact Housing that drug-related incidents should be reported to the police. Residents were aware of drug dealing but there was not a culture of reporting this to the police.

19.11. Apologies

The Council received and accepted apologies from Cllrs M Bainbridge, D Farrar and J Hunter for reasons approved by the Council under the terms of Local Government Act, 1972, s85.

19.12. Declarations of Interest

No additional interests were noted.

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

No issues were raised.

19.14. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Council received the minutes from the meeting on 15 May 2019.

There was a query about the absence of names for proposers and seconders. The Mayor referred this to the Clerk who replied it was not usual Town Council practice to do this, but he would refer the matter to the Council's F&GP Committee for consideration.

A Councillor observed that the Minutes were factually incorrect in two parts. He had proposed that the apologies be received, but had not used the term 'accepted' and it would be wrong to include it in the minutes, since that was not what he proposed. The Mayor's membership of the Helena Thompson Museum Trust management committee was a matter of fact and it was wrong of the Minutes to imply that this was only 'believed' to be the case. The Council accepted these two points.

Resolved: To amend the minutes to show that the apologies had been received but not explicitly accepted.

Resolved: To amend the minutes to show that the Mayor is an ex-officio member of the Helena Thompson Museum Trust management committee.

19.15. Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor reported on the following Civic activities.

Mayor's calendar of events since Full Council Meeting on 15 May 2019

Date	Event	Time
Monday 20 May 2019	Annual Meeting of Carlisle City Council & Election & Installation of Mayor, Civic Centre, Carlisle followed by luncheon at Tullie House	10.30 for 11.00am
Saturday 25 May 2019	Party in the Park, Vulcan Park	11.00am onwards
Sunday 2 June 2019	Ballad of Lucy Sands, Workington Heritage Group, HTM	10.40 for 11.00am
Saturday 8 June 2019	Workington Ju-Jitsu Club, accompanied by Cllrs Armstrong, H Briggs and S Stoddart	10.30am
	Seaton Children's Carnival	12.30pm onwards

Deputy Mayor's calendar of events since Full Council Meeting on 15 May 2019

Date	Event	Time
Wednesday 22 May 2019	Allerdale Borough Council AGM & Mayor Making Ceremony SEN Centre, Lakes College	6.00 pm
Saturday 25 May 2019	9 th Annual Wigton Open Art Exhibition, Cumberland Suite of Wigton Market Hall	10.45 am

It was noted that a former Councillor, Gerald Humes of Moorclose, had been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. The Mayor confirmed that she would write to Mr Humes expressing the congratulations of the Council.

There was a brief interruption at this point, during which a motion was proposed from the floor to briefly adjourn the debate. The Mayor suspended the meeting for a moment, but order soon returned and the meeting resumed without significant interruption.

Resolved: To note the report.

19.16. Annual Governance Statement

The Council reviewed the annual governance statement from the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), line by line.

- We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.
- We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.
- We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances
- We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.
- We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.
- We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.
- We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.

Resolved: That the Council could tick yes for each box required.

Reports from Committees

19.17. Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Council received the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 21 May 2019. It was noted that the Committee had considered staffing arrangements, and requested a breakdown of staffing costs, though the previous committee had considered this in detail following a consultant's report. The Chair confirmed that the new Committee had requested sight of the Consultant's report for information prior to its next meeting.

The Chair was asked if a timescale had been set for the introduction of new software. The Clerk confirmed that he expected installation and training to be completed next week. The Chair also confirmed that the Committee would be reviewing options for electronic banking at its next meeting.

A councillor inquired whether the Asset Register should include the Mayoral Chain currently on loan to Allerdale Borough Council for use by its Deputy Mayor. The Clerk explained to the Council why this might be appropriate – the chain was lent to the principal authority by the Charter Trustees for the Borough of Workington in April 1974.

Resolved: To add the Deputy Mayoral Chain (on loan to Allerdale Borough Council) to the Asset Register.

Resolved: To accept the minutes.

19.18. Annual Accounting Statements

The Council considered a recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee to accept the Annual Accounting Statements for 2018-19 (AGAR p5).

Resolved: To accept the statements.

19.19. Internal Auditor's Report

The Council considered a recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee to accept the Internal Auditor's Report for 2018-19 (AGAR p3).

Resolved: To accept the report.

19.20. Planning Committee

The Council received the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting on 1 April 2019 and the draft minutes from the meeting on 3 June 2019.

Resolved: To accept the minutes.

19.21. Culture Committee

The Council received the minutes of the Culture Committee meeting on 18 April and the draft minutes from 4 June 2019. There was a query about a proposal for a plaque commemorating Earth/Black Sabbath's gig at Banklands in August 1969. The Chair reported that the Committee was still reviewing the evidence, and any personal experiences could be shared with the Deputy Mayor who was conducting further research. A Councillor congratulated the Events Team for its considerable efforts and drew the Council's attention to the Root and Branch Staffing Review from the previous year which concluded that the Council 'punched above its weight' in this sphere.

Resolved: To accept the minutes.

19.22. Environment Committee

The Council received the Draft Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 6 June. It was noted that the minutes were still very much draft, as there had been little time for their preparation and subsequent review prior to the meeting. There was some discussion concerning the valuable contribution of volunteers to the Workington/Cumbria in Bloom process, though it was observed that the benefits should be felt right across the town, not just on the Judges' route. A member drew the Council's attention to the state of the bus shelters by Asda in Northside Ward, which could also be considered for subsequent adoption if the Committee was considering adoption. A Councillor praised the Estate Team Leader and hoped she would be supported by the Council going forward, and that Allotments and In Bloom would continue to concentrate on sustainability.

There was some discussion about the funding of footway lighting and whether there was money earmarked at Allerdale Borough Council for maintaining them. A Councillor suggested

that there wasn't but that some had been allocated for the replacement of lighting attached to electricity supply poles in the past.

The issue of Back Lanes and Gating Orders was raised, with particular reference to the condition of the rear lanes at Grey Street and Ashton Street/Northumberland Street. There was praise for the Town Council's work in the past on this matter, then some discussion about the role of Cumbria County Council as Highway Authority.

Resolved: To accept the minutes.

The meeting closed at 20.05.