

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Workington Town Council held on Friday 22nd May 2026 at 6.30pm in the Carnegie Theatre and Arts Centre, Finkle Street, Workington.

Cllr Mary Bainbridge	Absent	Cllr John Mills	Present
Cllr Barbara Cannon	Present	Cllr Billy Miskelly	Present
Cllr Beth Dixon	Present	Cllr Patricia Poole	Present
Cllr David Farrar	Present	Cllr Denise Rollo	Present
Cllr Sue Fryer	Present	Cllr Mike Rollo	Present
Cllr Mark Fryer	Present	Cllr Neil Schofield	Absent*
Cllr Hilary Harrington	Absent*	Cllr Kate Schofield	Absent*
Cllr Michael Heaslip	Present	Cllr Stephen Stoddart	Absent*
Cllr Allan Hodgson	Present	Cllr David Tennyson	Absent
Cllr Bernadette Jones	Present	Cllr Lynda Williams	Absent*
Cllr Paul Larkin	Present	Cllr Ellie Wood	Absent*
Cllr Susan Martin	Present	Cllr Joan Wright	Present
Cllr Sean Melton	Absent*		

In attendance: Chief Officer/RFO, WTC Projects Officer and approx. 180 members of the public.

26.1 Mayor of Workington 2026-2027

The first agenda item was chaired by Cllr David Farrar, outgoing Mayor. The outgoing Mayor asked for nominations for a new Mayor 2026-2027.

Cllr Mark Fryer nominated Cllr Sue Fryer. This was seconded by Cllr Allan Hodgson and no other nominations were received; therefore, Cllr Sue Fryer was elected Mayor of Workington for 2026-2027, signed the declaration of acceptance of office and chaired the rest of the meeting.

Resolved: Cllr Sue Fryer is Mayor of Workington 2026-2027.

26.2 Deputy Mayor of Workington 2026-2027

Cllr Denise Rollo nominated Cllr Susan Martin. This was seconded by Cllr Michael Heaslip and no other nominations were received. Therefore, Cllr Susan Martin was elected Deputy Mayor of Workington for 2026-2027.

Resolved: Cllr Susan Martin is Deputy Mayor of Workington 2026-2027.

26.3 Absences

Absences notified prior to the meeting were noted from Cllr Stephen Stoddart, Cllr Neil Schofield, Cllr Kate Schofield, Cllr Ellie Wood, Cllr Sean Melton and Cllr Lynda Williams. Cllr Harrington notified her absence prior to the meeting but was picked up by the CO after the meeting.

26.4 Declarations of Interest: None.

26.5 Public Questions: None.

26.6 Questions and statements from members: None.

26.7 Motions on notice: None.

26.8 Meeting minutes:

- a) **Resolved:** Council approved the minutes from the Full Council on 11th March 2026 and affirmed them a true record.
- b) **Resolved:** Council noted the minutes from the Culture & Social Investment Committee meeting on 14th April 2026.
- c) **Resolved:** Council noted the minutes from the Environment Committee meeting on 16th April 2026.
- d) **Resolved:** Council noted the minutes from the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 27th April 2026.

26.9 Budget 2025-2026

- a) **Resolved:** Council approved a virement of £17,000 from the salaries budget line to staff associated costs to cover other costs outside of contracted staff.
- b) **Resolved:** Council approved the year end accounts for 2025-2026.
- c) **Resolved:** Council noted the Council's expenditure incurred under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

26.10 Internal Audit

- a) **Resolved:** Council noted the report from the internal auditor for 2025-2026.
- b) **Resolved:** Council resolved to appoint Jean Airey as internal auditor for 2026-2027.

26.11 Terms of Reference

- a) **Resolved:** Council approved the Terms of Reference for Standing Committees of the Council.

26.12 Committee Membership

Finance and General Purposes Committee

The following Cllrs were nominated on block, received by the Chief Officer prior to the meeting. All were moved and seconded.

Cllr Mike Rollo, Cllr Beth Dixon, Cllr David Farrar, Cllr Allan Hodgson, Cllr Bernadette Jones, Cllr Ellie Wood, Cllr John Mills and Cllr Joan Wright.

Cllr Stephen Stoddart and Cllr Patricia Poole nominated themselves to the Chief Officer prior to the meeting. Nominations were moved and seconded. No other nominations received.

Resolved: Committee membership for the Finance and General Purposes committee 2026-2027 is as follows:

1	Cllr	Beth	Dixon
2	Cllr	David	Farrar
3	Cllr	Allan	Hodgson
4	Cllr	Bernadette	Jones
5	Cllr	John	Mills
6	Cllr	Patricia	Poole
7	Cllr	Mike	Rollo
8	Cllr	Stephen	Stoddart
9	Cllr	Ellie	Wood
10	Cllr	Joan	Wright

Culture and Social Investment Committee

The following Cllrs were nominated on block, received by the Chief Officer prior to the meeting. All were moved and seconded.

Cllr Ellie Wood, Cllr David Farrar, Cllr Joan Wright, Cllr John Mills, Cllr Susan Martin, Cllr Neil Schofield, Cllr David Tennyson and Cllr Bernadette Jones.

Cllr Patricia Poole nominated herself to the Chief Officer prior to the meeting. The nomination was moved and seconded.

No other nominations were received.

The vacancy will be addressed at the next Full Council meeting.

Resolved: Committee membership for the Culture and Social Investment Committee 2026-2027 is as follows:

1	Cllr	David	Farrar
2	Cllr	Bernadette	Jones
3	Cllr	Susan	Martin
4	Cllr	John	Mills
5	Cllr	Patricia	Poole
6	Cllr	Neil	Schofield
7	Cllr	David	Tennyson
8	Cllr	Ellie	Wood
9	Cllr	Joan	Wright
10		Vacancy	

Environment Committee

The following Cllrs were nominated on block, received by the Chief Officer prior to the meeting. All were moved and seconded.

Cllr Michael Heaslip, Cllr Bernadette Jones, Cllr Beth Dixon, Cllr Susan Martin, Cllr Mary Bainbridge, Cllr Sean Melton, Cllr John Mills and Cllr Allan Hodgson.

Cllr Hilary Harrington, Cllr Patricia Poole and Cllr Billy Miskelly nominated themselves to the Chief Officer prior to the meeting. Nominations all moved and seconded.

The Council therefore went to a vote for the two remaining places on the committee. Votes for Cllr Billy Miskelly FOR 1, Against 0, Abstain 15.

Votes for Cllr Patricia Poole FOR 9, Against 0, Abstain 7.
 Votes for Cllr Hilary Harrington FOR 10, Against 0, Abstain 6.

Votes go in favour of Cllr Poole and Cllr Harrington.

Resolved: Committee membership for the Environment committee 2026-2027 is as follows:

1	Cllr	Mary	Bainbridge
2	Cllr	Beth	Dixon
3	Cllr	Michael	Heaslip
4	Cllr	Bernadette	Jones
5	Cllr	Susan	Martin
6	Cllr	Sean	Melton
7	Cllr	John	Mills
8	Cllr	Hilary	Harrington
9	Cllr	Patricia	Poole
10	Cllr	Allan	Hodgson

26.13 Chairs and Vice Chairs

The following Cllrs were nominated as Chairs and Vice Chairs of committees:

	F & GP	Culture & Social Investment	Environment
Chair	Cllr Mike Rollo	Cllr Ellie Wood	Cllr Michael Heaslip
Vice	Cllr Beth Dixon	Cllr David Farrar	Cllr Bernadette Jones

All nominations were moved and seconded. No other nominations were received.

Resolved: Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2026-2027 are as follows:

F & GP - Chair: Cllr Mike Rollo, Vice Chair: Cllr Beth Dixon

Culture & Social Investment – Chair: Cllr Ellie Wood, Vice Chair: Cllr David Farrar

Environment – Chair: Cllr Michael Heaslip, Vice Chair: Cllr Bernadette Jones

26.14 Signatories

Resolved: Council confirmed that the following Cllrs will remain as signatories for the weekly payment runs for 2026-2027: Cllr Mike Rollo, Cllr Michael Heaslip, Cllr Dave Tennyson, Cllr Bernadette Jones, Cllr Mary Bainbridge.

26.15 Schedule of Meetings

Resolved: Council approved the schedule of meetings for 2026-2027.

26.16 Membership to outside bodies

Nominations were received, moved, seconded and appointed as follows:

Resolved:

Name of Body	Status	Appointment	Appointed
Helena Thompson Museum	Unincorporated registered charity	Appointment	Mayor ex-officio

John Sherwen Charity	Unincorporated registered charity	Appointment	Three Councillors: Cllr Denise Rollo, Cllr David Farrar and Cllr Susan Martin
Workington & District Twinning Association	Unincorporated association	Appointment	Two Councillors: Cllr Susan Martin and Cllr Joan Wright Plus, Mayor is ex-officio and President

26.17 Subscriptions

Resolved: Council noted and approved the annual subscriptions.

The Mayor moved agenda items 18 – 24 on block. All were moved and seconded.

26.18 Standing Orders

Resolved: Council approved the standing orders 2026.

26.19 Financial Regulations

Resolved: Council approved the financial regulations 2026.

26.20 Code of Conduct

Resolved: Council approved the code of conduct 2026.

26.21 Asset Register

Resolved: Council approved the asset register 2026.

26.22 Insurance

Resolved: Council approved arrangements for insurance cover 26-27.

26.23 Risk

Resolved: Council approved the risk register and risk management policy 2026.

26.24 Council Policies

Resolved: Council approved and adopted the following policies 2026:

- a) Complaints
- b) Communications
- c) Freedom of Information
- d) FOI Publication Scheme
- e) Data Protection
- f) Grievance
- g) Disciplinary
- h) Sickness and Absence
- i) Health and Safety
- j) Member/Officer Communication

Meeting ended at approx.. 7.45pm.