



Workington Town Council

Annual Report 2015-16

Councillor Carole Armstrong

Mayor of Workington

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Workington Town Council

Membership 2015-16

| Name | Ward |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Cllr Carole Armstrong (Town Mayor) | Salterbeck |
| Cllr Joan Wright (Deputy Town Mayor) | Moorclose |
| Cllr Mary Bainbridge | St Michael's |
| | |
| Cllr Lillian Baldry | Salterbeck |
| Cllr Ann Bales | Moorclose |
| Cllr Peter Bales | Moorclose |
| Cllr Barbara Cannon | Moss Bay |
| Cllr David Cashman | St Michael's |
| Cllr Beth Dixon | Northside |
| Cllr Mark Fryer | Stainburn |
| Cllr Konrad Hansen | St John's |
| Cllr Hilary Harrington | Harrington |
| Cllr Michael Heaslip | St John's |
| Cllr Joe Holliday | St John's |
| Cllr Christine Johanssen | Moorclose |
| Cllr Frank Johnston | Stainburn |
| Cllr Andrew Lawson | St Michael's |
| Cllr Antony McGuckin | St Joseph's |
| Cllr Peter McHarry | Ellerbeck |
| Cllr Billy Miskelly | St Michael's |
| Cllr Vonnie Morgan | Harrington |
| Cllr Jim Osborn | Harrington |
| Cllr Bill Reville | Salterbeck |
| Cllr Denis Robertson | Moorclose |
| Cllr Denise Rollo | Salterbeck |
| Cllr Kate Schofield | St Michael's |
| Cllr Neil Schofield | St Michael's |
| Cllr Stephen Stoddart | Moorclose |
| Cllr P Wardley | Iredale |
| Vacancy | Moss Bay |

All members were elected in May 2015 for a four year term.

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Annual Report

This year saw the council joined by ten new councillors, eight of whom had not been councillors in Workington before. The May elections were contested in only four of the town's eleven wards, though candidates were nominated for all but one seat, which required a co-option at the annual meeting of the council. The council and the town were saddened to lose Cllr Bill Bacon in early 2016. Bill was a long-serving member of the council, and served as Mayor in 2007-08. He also served as Allerdale mayor and was instrumental in the development of the nature reserve at Siddick, among his many interests and passions.

The council put on a full programme of summer events in 2015, with four brilliant Fun Days well attended and a programme of live music and entertainment under the Hub, keeping our town centre vibrant.

Winter was not so kind, the weekend of the Christmas lights switch-on was marred by high winds and torrential rain, causing much of the festival to be cancelled, though the Mayor and staff soldiered on and the lights were turned on from the back of a rain-soaked stage on Murray Road. The rain continued as storms merged into one another – Storm Desmond being the low point the following weekend, when the Derwent reached levels not seen since the tragic floods of 2009. Staff were deployed in the clean up, and councillors have been instrumental in co-ordinating flood response both at the community level and through the official agencies. The council pledged up to £10,000 to the Cumbria Community Fund to help with the relief effort, and has committed a further £10,000 to helping residents and agencies improve the resilience measures first introduced after 2009.

2015 finally saw the transfer of the majority of the town's allotment estate to the Town Council, ending an anomaly since the council's creation in 1982, when it was created the allotment authority but the Borough Council retained the freehold of the land. An investment programme which began in 2012 is starting to bear fruit as the allotment estate is slowly improved for tenants and council-tax payers alike.

The West Cumbria Court House was threatened with closure during 2015, and the council rose to the challenge of defending this vital service, securing its presence as the Ministry of Justice revised its plans.

An overview of the Town Council's Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2016

The council collected £349,490 from council tax payers in 2015-16. Additionally it received £33,404 as a Council Tax Support Grant, a payment from central government 'passported' through Allerdale Borough Council to compensate for changes to the way the council tax is calculated.

The council's brief year end receipts and payments (estimated, unaudited).

Income

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Precept | £349,490 |
| Council Tax Support Grant | £33,404 |
| Rents | £11,658 |
| Total | £394,552 |

Expenditure Total £384,500*

*This is an unaudited approximation of the year end figure, which still awaits some invoices.

Full audit accounts will be available for inspection by the general public on 1 June.

A year in numbers

20%* The proportion of the council's tax income which goes straight back in to the community through grants and funding schemes to local organisations.

* figures taken from 2016-17 budget

£0 The amount claimed by ordinary councillors in allowances in 2015. The mayor is paid an allowance of £3,000 to cover the expenses of office.

228 The number of mangers and hanging baskets filled with flowers and watered throughout the summer for Workington in Bloom

£50k The amount set aside in 2015 for the development of play areas in Workington.

A View on the Budget for 2016-17

The council has been bold in its vision for 2016-17.

The investment in play areas, back lanes and allotments will continue, along with the planned transfer of Vulcans Park and Harrington Marina Play Area from the Borough Council to the care of the Town. This requires the Town Council to take on more staff, and the first part of that recruitment process is already under way.

Cultural Life

Investment in the Cultural life of the town has been increased – the highlight of the summer programme being the return of Paint the Town Red – a family festival of music and entertainment in the town centre and Vulcans Park in June. The council is continuing to support the work of the Helena Thompson Museum and the Carnegie Theatre and Arts Centre – two important foundation stones in a lively town, becoming the envy of West Cumbria. The appetite of the council's Culture Committee is amply shown by the wide-ranging variety of local groups and school projects it supports through grant funding, as well as delivering events in an ever more professional and successful manner.

Green Spaces

The Workington Nature Partnership continues to demonstrate that councils can and should work together effectively, and the coming year will also see the town council teaming up with Cumbria County Council on a number of schemes including the provision of bus shelters on Derwent Howe. The council is working well with partners at Your Derwent and Solway, and Impact Housing Association to address 'green space' issues in many parts of the town, including Salterbeck and Northside.

In Bloom

The Town Council is continuing to invest in Workington in Bloom, believing that the environmental improvements it inspires serve a much wider purpose than the gaining of certificates (though a third Silver Gilt in a row is a very creditable performance!).

Community Values

2016 will also see continued support for the work of the Citizen's Advice Bureau, now successfully installed in the Town Hall 'Community Hub', the Trades Hall, on Brow Top, which continues to deliver a valuable and complementary service to those seeking employment, and South Workington Youth Partnership, demonstrating exemplary leadership in youth work in the town.

Chris Bagshaw, Town Clerk

Workington Town Council

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