

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Culture Committee of Workington Town Council, 6.30pm Tuesday 12 January 2020 hosted remotely through the Zoom web platform.

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

In attendance: Town Clerk and Events Officer

C19.88. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted as being for approved reasons under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972, s85, from Cllr Herbert Briggs, Cllr Sean Melton and Cllr Paul Scott.

C19.89. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

C19.90 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were at apparent at this point.

C19.91. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting on 10 November 2020.

Resolved: To affirm them as a true record.

C19.92. Mayor Making

Mayor Making will take place on 5 May 2021. The Carnegie Theatre & Arts Centre has been provisionally booked for this date. The committee discussed the potential format for the Mayor Making ceremony considering current COVID-19 restrictions including options such as live streaming and a restricted capacity. It was suggested flower arrangements could be used on stage and donated to care homes after the event.

Resolved: To proceed with planning the event in line with COVID-19 guidance.

C19.93. Town Assembly

The Town Assembly is on 26 April 2021. The committee discussed the potential format and how the meeting can be held safely under current COVID-19 restrictions. Depending on the guidance, it was suggested that the meeting could be restricted to councillors and staff and the public could watch and participate via livestream.

Resolved: To proceed with planning the event in line with COVID-19 guidance.

Resolved: To provisionally book the Moorclose Community Centre.

C19.94. Budget

The committee discussed the current projected underspends due to the postponement of the events programme during 2020. The committee agreed that underspends should be reviewed at year end as projects are ongoing and additional applications for funding might be submitted.

C19.95. Christmas Lights

The Chair provided a report on the 2020 Christmas lighting, including the new lighting installation on Station Road. The committee thanked the events team and the lighting contractors for their work on the lighting scheme. The Chair raised that a working group may need to convene to look at potential additions to the display.

The Events Officer passed on feedback from a member of the public. It was suggested that the area around Udale Street Car Park would benefit from additional lighting.

C19.96 VE Day Soldier statue

The Chair provided an update on the progress of the project. A deposit has been paid for the statue. Landscaping has started with the planting of oak trees along the path.

The Chair reported the working group had discussed the location of the statue and they recommend that the statue should be sited in the originally proposed location; the site of the beacon. A removable beacon could be purchased for ceremonies and events. The working group would like the estates team to look into the possibility of the beacon being surrounded with a tree guard style structure so plants could grow around the base.

Resolved: To locate the VE Day statue on the originally proposed site of the Beacon.

Resolved: To research the costs of a portable beacon. To research a tree guard style structure to be attached to the base of the beacon.

C19.97. Events

The committee reviewed the proposed events programme for 2021. The Chair noted that dates may need to be rescheduled depending on COVID-19 restrictions. Cllr King suggested that more environmentally friendly options should be sought for the Christmas umbrella parade.

Cllr Wilkinson discussed the plans for the COVID-19 memorial and mentioned that additional events may need to be planned depending on the final installation date. The Chair thanked Cllr Wilkinson for the update and asked he provide a full report at the next meeting.

The committee received a report on 2020 activities. The report summarised the activities that had taken place instead of the scheduled programme, which was mostly postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The committee reviewed the list of suggested activities. The Chair expressed a particular interest in the sensory trail and felt that it would benefit from additional research.

Cllr Wilkinson raised that the stone painting activities for the COVID-19 memorial would need to be scheduled and requested a meeting with the Events Officer and Estates Team Leader to discuss in more detail.

Resolved: To accept the reports.

Resolved: Event Officer to organise a meeting with Cllr Wilkinson and the Estates Team Leader.

C19.98. Grant Applications

The committee reviewed a grant application from Workington RFC for the installation of solar panels. The committee requested more time to review the application and additional information from the applicant.

Resolved: The Town Clerk to check if the Town Council can allocate community grants for building projects. The Town Clerk to confirm if the application should be reviewed at the Environment Committee, rather than the Culture Committee.

Resolved: To request additional information from Workington RFC and confirm if they have sought additional funding from elsewhere.