

Workington Town Council

Annual Report 2013-14

**Councillor Konrad Hansen**

**Mayor of Workington**

Workington Town Council

Membership 2013-14

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| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Ward** |
| Cllr Konrad Hansen (Town Mayor) | St. John’s |
| Cllr Mary Bainbridge (Deputy Town Mayor) | St. Michael’s |
|  |  |
| Cllr Carole Armstrong | Moss Bay |
| Cllr Bill Bacon | Moss Bay |
| Cllr Lillian Baldry | Moss Bay |
| Cllr Anne Bales | Moorclose |
| Cllr Peter Bales | Moorclose |
| Cllr John Bachelli | St. Michael’s |
| Cllr John Bracken | Moss Bay |
| Cllr Barbara Cannon | Moss Bay |
| Cllr Denise Coe | Moss Bay |
| Cllr Mark Fryer | St. John’s |
| Cllr Nik Hardy | Moorclose |
| Cllr Hillary Harrington | Harrington |
| Cllr Michael Heaslip | St. John’s |
| Cllr Carl Holding | St. Michael’s |
| Cllr Gerald Humes | St. Michael’s |
| Cllr Elsie Johnsen | St. Michael’s |
| Cllr Frank Johnston | Moorclose |
| Cllr Margaret Jones | Stainburn |
| Cllr Richard Jones | Stainburn |
| Cllr Andrew Lawson | St. Michael’s |
| Cllr Billy Miskelly | St. Michael’s |
| Cllr Jim Osbourn | Harrington |
| Cllr Marjorie Rae | Harrington |
| Cllr Bill Reville | Moss Bay |
| Cllr Mike Rollo | St John’s |
| Cllr Neil Scofield | St. John’s |
| Cllr Stephen Stoddart | Moorclose |
| Cllr Joan Wright | Moorclose |

Annual Report

2013/14 has been a year in which Workington Town Council has reached beyond its expectations and realised some its aspirations. It has been a year in which we have taken our pledge to improve allotment services one step closer to fulfilment with the employment of our Senior Estates Worker, Joe Copsey. It has been a year in which we have taken our ambition to improve the reservoirs and green spaces of the town one step closer to happening with the employment of our Workington Nature Partnership Officer, Reagan McKay. It has been a year in which we have taken our dream of becoming a ‘Quality Council’ one step closer to reality with the first full year of employment of our full time Town Clerk, Chris Bagshaw.

These are all policies that have been planned, budgeted for and brought to fruition.

It’s not all about work - sometimes it’s about play – and on that note I’m delighted to announce that your Town Council has at last taken over the play areas at Siddick, Newlands Lane and Brewery House, Harrington. It’s taken some time to get there, but it’s another promise we made and it’s another promise we have fulfilled.

We have achieved so much this year and I’m pleased that we can now communicate this to people, and get our message across through our website ([www.workingtontowncouncil.com](http://www.workingtontowncouncil.com) ), which has been comprehensively overhauled this year. We have also produced our first townwide newsletter, ‘The Workington Town Council Crier’. This is distributed by the local newspaper group to every household in Workington. Its aim is to to let people know what we do for them now and what we are planning to do in the future.

The council has committed itself to a number of policies to help all the communities of Workington. We will continue to put your needs first, and to you that whatever you need us for we will continue to serve you with the dedication you deserve.

I look forward to Workington Town Council achieving even more in 2014/2015.

**Cllr Konrad Hansen, Town Mayor**

An overview of the Town Council’s Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2013

The council collected £327,928.93 from council tax payers in 2013-14. Additionally it received £69,191 as a Council Tax Support Grant, a payment from central government ‘passported’ though Allerdale Borough Council. This allowed the council to begin to deliver on some of its promises about increased staffing levels and additional investment.

Amongst the largest of these was a contribution of nearly £100,000 for environmental improvement work to the back lanes of Harrington Road and Frostoms Road. The council has committed to funding back lane renovation in the future, though this will depend on the scale of support available from partner authorities in the town.

The council has continued to pay for Christmas lighting in the town centre, spending over £40,000 on this and the short Christmas festival in December.

The council has supported a number of the town’s third sector and voluntary organisations over the year, including West Cumbria Trades Hall, Citizen’s Advice Bureau, Moorclose Community Centre, Harrington Youth Club, Christmas in Company, South Workington Youth Partnership and others.

Financial support has also gone to sporting clubs in the town – rugby league, rugby union, cricket and football – to assist with their engagement with young people.

The council is still intending to recruit more staff to help with its extended workload. Money budgeted for this but unspent in 2013-14 will be carried over into the new financial year to help support ongoing projects.

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

**Income**

Precept 327,928

Council Tax Support Grant 69,191

Rents 12,013

**Total**  409,132

**Expenditure Total** 379,409\*

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

\* based on year end projections of expenditure

A View on the Budget for 2014-15

The council set a budget for 2014-15 based on a 1.5% increase in the council tax, bringing a precepted income of £332,848. This will be supplemented by a reduced council tax support grant of £47,720, meaning the council will experience a lowering of its income in the coming year. It is anticipated that this shortfall can be met through use of reserves, which had been let to run higher than normal in anticipation of this cut in grant.

The council has agreed some strategic interventions in the town’s community information services to meet the increases in demand brought about by changes in government welfare policy. In 2014-15 it has increased its financial support to the Trades Hall and Citizens Advice Bureau, as well as earmarking £10,000 to support the work of Food Banks in the town.

The council will continue to invest up to £30,000 pa in the allotment estate, and is negotiating with the borough council for the restoration of the freehold of this estate to town council control.

The council is part financing the work of a new Nature Partnership in association with Allerdale Borough Council, to support the work of volunteers on the town’s nature reserves and other natural heritage.

The council will continue to set money aside for environmental work on back lanes, and is maintaining its investment in Workington in Bloom, both through community grants and payment for horticultural services such as hanging baskets.

Money has been allocated for supporting young people in sport, and to maintain some of the town’s facilities for young people in the face of spending cuts from elsewhere.

The council continues to look at prudently growing its share of services run for the people of Workington.

**Chris Bagshaw, Town Clerk**

**WORKINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

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