

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Workington Town Council held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 2 July 2020 on the Zoom web platform.

C Armstrong	Present	J Hunter	Apologies
M Bainbridge	Apologies	D King	Present
L Baldry	Apologies	J King	Present
H Briggs	Present	P McCarthy	Absent
R Briggs	Present	S Melton	Present
B Cannon	Present	B Miskelly	Present
B Dixon	Present	D Rollo	Apologies
D Farrar	Present	B Sansom	Present
S Fryer	Present	P Scott	Present
G Glaister	Present	S Stoddart	Not present*
H Harrington	Present	W Wilkinson	Present
M Heaslip	Present	L Williams	Present
J Holliday	Present		

* was present at beginning of meeting but connection dropped for technical reasons

In attendance: Town Clerk

Also present: Inspector Rachel Gale, Cumbria Constabulary (until the end of her presentation)

One member of the public

The Mayor's Chaplain was unable to attend due to another commitment. The Mayor began the meeting with a minute's silence for reflection on those who died during the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

Police Report

Inspector Gale from Cumbria Constabulary reported that general crime levels had dipped during April and May as the lockdown took effect, but there was an increase in anti-social behaviour crimes, mostly related to breaches of the Coronavirus regulations. The main focus of policing in the town had switched to an area in St Michael's Ward around the Cumberland Hotel, Clay Street and Milburn Street, following successful operations against properties in Headlands Close and John Street. Ongoing community focussed work in St Michael's and Moorclose wards continued to be important and the police were making increased use of Community Protection Warning Notices.

Councillors made various comments thanking the police for their work during the pandemic, but there were queries about anti-social behaviour in Harrington – particularly on the Marina and speeding cars on Church Road. There was also an ongoing issue with unauthorised encampments on the Marina. Inspector Gale reported that the police patrols in Harrington

had been increased, but encouraged people to report incidents of anti-social behaviour, substance misuse etc to the police and to the My Allerdale app.

A councillor observed that the latest iteration of the Allerdale local plan made provision for a gypsy/traveller site, but that no site had yet been provided by Allerdale Borough Council. He asked if a letter could be sent to the Borough Council seeking their reassurance that the matter would receive their urgent attention. The Mayor concurred that a letter should be sent.

Public Participation

A member of the public raised concerns about waste tipping and illegal fires on an area of undeveloped land behind Bolton Street. It was observed that the problem was long-standing and had been the subject of several multi-agency meetings to investigate possible solutions. There was a theory that the land may in fact be owned by Allerdale Borough Council (that which isn't registered), since it appears to have been managed by Workington Borough Council at one time. The investigation was ongoing, and ward councillors would remain vigilant. Further problems should be reported through 101 for police incidents and through the MyAllerdale app for environment issues.

19.63. Apologies

The Council received and accepted apologies from Cllrs M Bainbridge, L Baldry, J Hunter and D Rollo for reasons approved by the Council under the terms of Local Government Act, 1972, s85. The Council received apologies from Cllr P McCarthy, but did not accept them, as no excuse was offered.

19.64. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Cannon drew members' attention to her presence on the Board of the Carnegie Theatre.

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

No issues were raised.

19.66. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Council received the minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 5 February 2020 and affirmed them as a true record.

19.67. Mayoral Announcements

The Council received a report from the mayor on her civic activities. The Mayor added that she felt it was appropriate to record her thanks to the keyworkers, emergency services, community and volunteer groups, neighbours friends and families who had supported us all through the Coronavirus crisis. Acknowledging that she couldn't thank everyone by name she made special mention of Cllr Paul Scott and the Workington Community Emergency Response Group, Angela Good at Moorclose Community Centre, and Heather Nixon and all her colleagues at Cumbria County Council. Town Council officers and grounds maintenance staff have done sterling work keeping the business of the council ticking over, she added.

Mayor's calendar of events since Full Council Meeting on 5 February 2020

Date	Event	Time
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Sunday 2 February 2020	Licensing of the Very Revd. Dr. Francis Ward as priest in charge of St John's & St Michael's	6.00 pm St John's then on to St Michael's
Sunday 9 February 2020	Presentation to Our Lady & St Michael's from the Scouts re: - monies raised towards Stella Maris Project Group, through distribution of Mayor's Christmas cards.	10.20 for 10.30 am
Wednesday 12 February 2020	Visit to Moorclose Youth Club. WAOS Juniors' production of Oliver, Carnegie Theatre	5.00 pm 7.00 for 7.15 pm
Thursday 27 February 2020	Jobs Fair (Rotary event), St John's Church, Community Rooms.	Event 10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Friday 28 February 2020	Beckstone School, Mayor's Parlour	1.30pm
Monday, 2 March 2020	6 th Workington Scout Group, Mayor's Parlour	5pm
Thursday 7 May 2020	Flag Raising to commemorate VE Day, Town Hall, Workington	3pm
Thursday 25 June 2020	Flag raising to celebrate Armed Forces Day, Town Hall, Workington	3pm

Resolved: To note the report.

Reports from Committees

19.68. Finance and General Purposes Committee

a) The Council received the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 21 June 2020.

Resolved: To accept the minutes.

b) The Council considered the Risk Assessment recommended by the Committee at its meeting on 21 June 2020.

Resolved: To accept the Risk Assessment

c) The Council received the Internal Auditor's Report for 2018-19 (AGAR p3).

Resolved: To accept the Internal Auditor's Report.

d) The Council went through the Annual Governance Statement (AGAR p4), line by line.

Resolved: To accept the Governance Statement in the affirmative for each appropriate statement.

e) The Council considered the Annual Accounting Statements for 2019-20 (AGAR p5).

Resolved: To accept the Annual Accounting Statements for 2019-20.

19.69. Planning Committee

The Council received the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting on 2 March 2020. A councillor requested that the delegated decisions made during the Coronavirus lockdown be published. The Clerk confirmed that he would do this through the reports to the next meeting of the Planning Committee, but if this was not reasonably imminent, he would make a separate report to councillors.

Resolved: To accept the minutes.

19.70. Culture Committee

The Council received the draft minutes of the Culture Committee meeting on 10 March 2020. The Chair of the Committee drew the Council's attention to the fantastic effort by South Workington Youth Partnership to ensure that both VE Day and the Big Lunch were able to take place, despite the lockdown, through supplying food and holding virtual street parties.

Resolved: To accept the minutes.

19.71. Environment Committee

The Council received the draft minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 12 June, 2020. There was some discussion about the necessity for the bowling green in Vulcan Park to be made accessible to the general public, so as to ensure that the benefit of the new mower, authorised by the Committee, was not enjoyed solely by a very small minority of residents. A councillor also queried whether the disabled access toilet in the Bower could be made available to the general public through the radar key scheme. The Committee had talked about a park walkabout and a councillor wondered whether a date had been set for this. The Chair confirmed that it would take place in the coming weeks, subject to current regulations.

Resolved: To accept the minutes.

19.72. Annual Meeting of the Council

The Council considered a date for the Annual Meeting of the Council. The Clerk had reported that the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 on 26 March 2020, prohibited any public gathering of more than two people, and so physical council meetings and the Mayor Making Ceremony had to be cancelled. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, allowed councils to make arrangements and hold their meetings remotely, or for members to attend remotely. The regulations also made provision for any annual meeting which would otherwise be required to take place in a specific period of time, to be held over by the Council until a subsequent time to be determined by the Council, or until the following annual meeting, if that meeting's date had already been fixed in 2021.

Cllr Fryer left the meeting at 19:58 for another engagement.

Following a discussion, centring on the fairness of the current committee allocations between various groups on the Council, a motion was proposed that the Annual Meeting be held on 12 May 2021. An amendment to this was then proposed that this date be altered to 'as soon as possible in the next two months'.

Moving to a vote, the amendment was defeated by 12 votes to 5. The motion to hold the Annual Meeting on 12 May was carried by 12 votes to 1 with 4 abstentions.

Resolved: That the Council holds its next Annual Meeting on 12 May 2021, and that all current office holder remain in place until then.

The meeting closed at 20:15