Workington Town Council

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**Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting of Workington Town Council, 7pm on 6th July 2023 at the WTC Community Centre, Princess Street, Workington.**

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| Cllr Mary Bainbridge | Present |
| Cllr Beth Dixon | Present |
| Cllr Sue Fryer | Present |
| Cllr Hilary Harrington | Present |
| Cllr Michael Heaslip (chair) | Present |
| Cllr Allan Hodgson | Present |
| Cllr Bernadette Jones (vice chair) | Present |
| Cllr Jacqueline Kirkbride | Dispensation |
| Cllr Susan Martin | Present |
| Cllr Lynda Williams | Absent |

In attendance: Town Clerk

The chair to add item 13 – Allotment Sites to agenda.

The chair to hear public participation after item 4.

The chair will consider items 7 & 8 together.

**E23.49 Apologies**

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr(s)

L Williams – Work committments

**E23.50 Declarations of Interest**

None

**E23.51 Exclusion of Press and Public**

No issues that require the exclusion of press or public.

**E23.52 Minutes of the last meeting**

The committee accepted the minutes of 25th May 2023 as a true record of the meeting.

**Resolved:** To accept the minutes of 2/5/2023.

**E23.52a Public Participation**

Residents of Grey Street, Workington spoke regarding the situation of their back lane. It has been an issue for many years that is steadily becoming worse. The issues include flooding; drug users; fly tipping; and rats.

The Committee discussed the situation and committed to the following…

* Cllr S Fryer to find the current flood officer for Cumberland Council.
* TC to find document (prior to 1974) showing ownership of back lanes.
* TC investigate current ownership.
* TC report drugs issues to the police.
* TC to approach community service group – ‘lads’ to undertake a cleanup of the back lane.

**E23.53. Environment Budget**

The Committee reviewed and noted the Environment Budget to-date.

The Committee reviewed and noted the Allotment budget to-date.

**Resolved**: To note the Environment Budget to-date.

**Resolved**: To note the Allotment budget to-date.

**E23.54 In Bloom**

The Committee could not review the note of the meeting of 7th June 2023 and will do so for the next meeting.

Committee noted the ‘In Bloom’ judging will take place on 19th July 2023

**Resolution:** To review the minutes of the ‘in bloom’ meeting of the 7th June 2023 at the next meeting.

**Resolution:** To note the report.

**E23.55. Workington Nature Partnership**

The committee received and noted an update from WNP and that there is a meeting for all partners on 7th July 2023 to discuss the next phases of the WNP.

**Resolution:** To note the report from WNP.

**E23.56. In Bloom Development/Parks Devlopment**

Committee considered and approved the ‘Hospital Wall’ art project. Cost £1,470.

Committee considered and approved the ‘Container’ art project. Cost £600.

Committee considered and approved submitting a EOI to the Community Ownership Fund. It was considered that this fund may be applicable to the upgrading of the ‘Café’ in VP.

Committee considered and approved signing a pledge to take action to help Cumbria’s pollinating insects.

Committee noted the BEAR (Building Energy Audit and Recommendations) report has been completed for the ‘Old Man’s Shelter’ in VP.

* Committee considered and approved officers obtaining quotes to undertake works and finding the necessary funding to do so. Include the installation of a Changing Places Toilet.

**Resolution:** To approve the ‘Hospital Wall’ art project. Cost £1,470

**Resolution:** To note the report from WNP.

**Resolution:** To approve the ‘Container’ art project. Cost £600.

**Resolution:** To submitting a EOI to the Community Ownership Fund.

**Resolution:** To note the BEAR report has been completed.

**Resolution:** To obtain quotes to undertake work on the ‘Old Man’s Shelter’ as per the BEAR report.

**Resolution:** To sear for funding to complete works on the ‘Old Man’s Shelter’.

**E23.57. Parks Maintenance - The Ranch**

The Committee viewed the maintenance programme and site plans for the Ranch, costs of maintenance plan and management agreement plan are required for he next meeting.

**Resolution:** To cost the presented maintenance plan.

**Resolution:** To completed and present the management agreement plan.

**E23.58. Streetscene**

The Committee noted that the new, accessible picnic bench for the VP play area has been ordered.

**Resolution:** To note the new, accessible picnic bench for the VP play area has been ordered.

**E23.59. Projects & Resolutions**

The Committee approved offering Ashfield Rd School a grant of £500 to update their forest paths…

Ashfield Infants Forest School Paths – officers reviewed the site after committee agreed to support the school further with their forest area and they need new paths created within the area and resurfaced.

£500 is required for materials, Tivoli have pledged to provide free wood chip for this project and will work with the estates team to complete works.  If committee agree the work will be carried out at the school during the summer holidays.

Committee considered taking over the maintenance of Northside Play area – committee approved presenting to C&C that WTC would ‘adopt’ the play area

Committee noted that there will be a new Inner Wheel Flower bed created in Vulcan Park, to mark their 100th anniversary. Est. May 2024.

Committee considered taking over the maintenance of St John’s Church yard - Possibility of Town Council assuming its responsibilities under section 215 of the Local Government Act 1972 for maintenance (which does not mean ownership or exclude parishioners from being involved in general maintenance). Officers to investigate the costs and possibility of this venture.

Committee to consider asking for the transfer of land (from Cumberland Council) of Moor Close Park – and additional areas mentioned on the Resolutions list (St Michael’s Churchyard, Bank lands Cemetery and Bank field Mansion Grounds).

**Resolution:** To commission a new forest path at Ashfield Road Infants School at a cost of £500.

**Resolution:** To approach C&C with the offer to ‘adopt’ Northside play area.

**Resolution:** To investigate the possibility and cost of taking over maintenance of St John’s church yard.

**Resolution:** To approach Cumberland Council to transfer the following land - Moor Close Park, St Michael’s Churchyard, Bank lands Cemetery and Bank field Mansion Grounds.

**Resolution:** To note the new Inner Wheel Flower bed that will be created in Vulcan Park, to mark their 100th anniversary. (May 2024).

**E23.60 Allotments**

The Committee noted the following:

* Allotment holders meeting on the 3rd July 2023 – most significant issues are
  + Soapery trespassing – new locks to be installed at access gates. Local residents asked to move bridges (apart from those who own a plot.
  + Mt View allotments – not fit for purpose with the exception of plot one. As plots become vacant they will not be let and eventually the ground will return to Cumberland Council with the recommendation that the land be given to the nature area directly behind the allotment site.

The committee have expressed an interest in viewing all sites (some councillors are new to the council) therefore arrangements will be made for officers to accompany councillors on allotment visits.

Councillors to consider any sites that could be potentially be used as allotments for the next meeting.

**Resolution:** To install new locks at the Soapery Allotments

**Resolution:** To instruct local residents (who do not have allotments to remove bridges into the Soapery Allotments site. .

**Resolution:** For those councillors who wish to view allotments to contact TC .

**Resolution:** For councillors to consider future potential sllotment sites for the next meeting..

**Meeting Ended: 20.35**