

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Culture Committee of Workington Town Council, 6.30pm Thursday 12 November 2019 in the Town Hall, Workington

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

In attendance: Town Clerk

C19.38. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted as being for approved reasons under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972, s85, from Cllr S Melton and Cllr D King.

C19.39. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

C19.40. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues.

C19.41. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting on 10 September 2019.

Resolved: To affirm them as a true record.

C19.42. Twinning Association

Margaret Jones, joint chair Chair of the Association, gave a brief presentation on the Association's history and recent activities. She described its origins with the Selm charter in 1994 and the Val de Reuil charter in 1997. She emphasised that the Twinning Association does not fund members to make trips – individual members pay their own way. The Council does fund one trip per year for the Mayor to attend, and the Association makes grants to

organisations making trips which support its aims, for instance Scout and School exchanges, choir visits etc. Current schemes included seeking a Workington primary school to develop links online.

Members of the Committee asked a variety of questions including the possibility of Twinned musicians playing in Vulcan Park. Mrs Jones explained that a programme was being prepared for the coming year, which they hoped could be integrated with the Town's events programme.

Resolved: The Chair thanked Mrs Jones for her report, which the Committee noted.

C19.43. Funding and Grants Proposals

The Committee considered grant and funding proposals as follows:

a) Proposer: David Jones

Amount proposed: £100

Project: To assist in overhead costs for a charity concert in aid of Barnardos.

Charity concert

Suggested budget: Community Service Grant

The Committee observed that it would not be able to give a grant to an individual, but was sympathetic to assisting in the concert.

Resolved: To liaise with the applicant over an eligible recipient for the funding of £100.

b) Proposer: James Horne, Workington Derwent Rotary Club

Amount proposed: £300

Project: To assist in redecorating the entrance/reception of the Royal British Legion Club, which is currently also used for the Rotarian's 'FareShare food pantry'.

Suggested budget: Community Service Grants

The Committee noted that the Workington RBL was not itself a part of the Royal British Legion charity, but a members' club. Whilst it had sympathy with the aims of the Rotary initiative, it did not feel that was appropriate to help fund this particular scheme at this time.

Resolved: To decline the grant application.

c) Proposer: Workington Community Emergency Response Group

Amount proposed: £300

Project: To assist in essential insurance cover for the group's activities.

Suggested budget: Community Service Grant

The Clerk gave a short background to the Emergency Response group in the context of the flooding in 2009 and 2015.

Resolved: To offer a grant of £300

d) Proposer: Helena Thompson Museum

Amount proposed: £5,000 per annum for three years

Project: To assist in the development and delivery of the museum's facilities.

Suggested budget: Museums and Exhibitions

Cllr Holliday drew the Committee's attention to his interest in the matter as a volunteer at the Museum. He took no part in the consideration of the item. The Committee considered a three-year funding proposal that would see the Council contributing funds to support the development of the Museum's core business.

Resolved: To fund the Museum's proposal for three years at £5,000 per annum.

19.44. Black Sabbath Plaque

The Clerk confirmed that the Parochial Office at Our Lady and St Michael's had declined permission for a plaque to be erected on their premises, so a new site would now have to be sought. A possible suggestion was one of the town's pubs where the band may have resorted before or after the series of gigs they played in the late 1960s.

Resolved: To note the report

19.45. Jane Pit Miners' Memorial

The Chair reported that the Council had hosted a public meeting to gauge support for creating a 'Friends of' type group or other mechanism for generating a viable third party to take on the running of the project. Around 32 people attended the meeting and a subsequent smaller group would be meeting on 20 November to consider the matter further.

Resolved: To note the report.

19.46 Events Programme and Budget for 2020-21

The Committee considered the Events programme for the coming year as a part of their budgeting process. There was some concern about the cost of the Harrington Kite Festival, which was budgeted around £10k. It was suggested that the events team bring forward a different proposal, perhaps adding value to the Harrington Village Green Day. The precise date for this would not be known until the tide tables were confirmed in the new year. Other observations on the Harrington day were that it should have more for children, more toilets and more stalls.

Some sort of event in Stainburn was requested, and councillors concurred that the ward did not benefit from the Council's events programme in the same way as other wards. It was noted that this was largely due to the lack of an appropriate venue.

It was observed that the Shakespeare event was expensive, and a councillor queried whether this could be held on one day instead of two. The Clerk explained that this might be possible in future years, with a different supplier, but for 2020, the Committee had already agreed to provisionally book Oddsocks and they preferred a two day performance. The two day performance was well attended in 2019, though a councillor suggested greater seating efficiency could have been achieved if chairs had been set out for the occasion. It was noted however that this might detract slightly from the nature of the event. It was suggested that additional income could be made during the event from traders and sponsorship.

Resolved: To not hold the Harrington Kite Festival in 2020, but to retain the budget for use elsewhere in the programme.

Resolved: To seek a venue for an event in Stainburn.

Resolved: To support the Harrington Green Day.

The Committee turned its attention to the remainder of the proposed budget and agreed to forward it to the Finance and General Purposes Committee with the following observations.

The Remembrance budget was to give the Council financial headroom to support commemorations that tie in with 75 years since the end of the Second World War.

The Town Band should be reminded that performing at Remembrance is one of the Council's key objectives for their funding.

Christmas lighting will be reviewed at the end of the current contract in January. A review should include extending the display to areas of Station Road.

Cllr King left the meeting at 20.28.

The Family Fun Days were considered and it was suggested that Allerdale may be able to supply cheaper marquees. There was some discussion as to how the town's various cadets might be encouraged to participate, and officers were asked to explore this.

It was suggested that the Workington Music Festival might be supported through the sponsorship of more cups and trophies, though it was noted by the Chair that the Town Council was quite well represented on the days that it did support cups, medals and prizes.

Resolved: To recommend the following budget to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for inclusion in the overall Council budget.

The meeting closed at 20:48

Draft Culture Budget 2020-21

Culture	2019	estimated outturn	o/t as % of budget	2020	% of 2019	Notes
Festivals	30,000	30,000	100%	35,000	117%	To fund Party in the Park, Shakespeare, Village Green Day etc
Sport	10000	9,300	93%	12,000	120%	Includes £5k for Workington Go (moved from F&GP), £4k for Festival of Running and £2.5k for Workington Get Active
Heritage projects	10,000	10,000	100%	5,000	50%	Added to earmarked fund to support Jane Pit renovation as miners memorial
Town Band	1,200	1200	100%	1,200	100%	Core funding which sustains Town Band since its revival in 2014
Christmas lights	48,000	50,000	104%	49,000	102%	Includes hire, installation, inspection and repair of Christmas lighting
Christmas festival	20,000	20,000	100%	20,000	100%	Single day festival in Town Centre for lights switch on.
Remembrance	2,000	1500	75%	4,000	200%	Uplifted from 2019 levels for activities relating to 75 year commemorations
Twinning	5,000	5000	100%	5,000	100%	Core funding to support activities of association
Promotion, advertising and publicity	5,000	5000	100%	7,500	150%	Marketing and promotional budget for town, council and activities
Community Grants	3,600	3000	83%	3,600	100%	Total pot for Community Service Grants
Family Fun Days	12,000	10,000	83%	12,000	100%	Family Fun Days in partnership with South Workington Youth Partnership
Theatres	8,000	7400	93%	5,000	63%	Discretionary funding to support theatre provision across the town's three venues
Museums and Exhibitions	5,000	5000	100%	5,000	100%	Discretionary funding to support museum provision in town
Cultural groups	7,000	7000	100%	7,000	100%	Discretionary funding for town's Cultural groups (WAOS, WADAMS, Playgoers etc), but also £2.5k to Youth Theatre (Y3 of 3)
Technology tournament	500	500	100%	500	100%	Core funding for Rotary Club's School technology tournament
Total	167,300	164,900	99%	171,800	103%	