Workington Town Council

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**Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting of Workington Town Council, 7pm on 27th October 2022 at the WTC Community Centre, Princess Street, Workington.**

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| Cllr Beth Dixon | Present |
| Cllr Carole Armstrong | Present |
| Cllr Michael Heaslip | Present |
| Cllr Bernadette Jones | Present |
| Cllr Patricia Poole | Present |
| Cllr Ellie Wood | Present |
| Cllr Jacqueline Kirkbride (Vice Chair) | Apologies |
| Cllr Ryan Briggs | Apologies |
| Cllr Hilary Harrington | Apologies |
| Cllr Billy Miskelly | Present |
| Cllr Lynda Williams | Apologies  |

In attendance: Town Clerk

**Public Participation**

Mr Alan Jenkinson from Vulcan Park Bowling Club addressed the committee with regards to the recent meeting between the WTC TC and the Vulcan Park Bowling Club. Mr Jenkinson ask the following questions.

* What financial contribution would WTC provide if VPBC took over self-management of the bowling green and bower (given that WTC would want periodic public access)?
* What are the utility costs?

**E22.67 Apologies**

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr(s) J Kirkbride, R Briggs, H Harrington, and L Williams.

**E22.68 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr B Miskelly declared an interest in item 10 as he is an allotment holder. It was agreed that Cllr B Miskelly would not contribute to this discussion.

**E22.69 Exclusion of Press and Public**

No issues that require the exclusion of press or public.

**E22.70 Minutes of the last meeting**

The committee accepted the minutes of 5th October 2022.

**Resolved:** To accept the minutes of 7.7.2022.

**E22.71 Bowling Club Update**

The committee received a verbal report on the meeting between the TC and Vulcan Park Bowling Club (VPBC) representatives. The TC informed the VPBC that WTC would need to reduce the costs spent on the bowling green and bower, in order to achieve this WTC offered two options; one – for WTC to pay one year’s membership for the members of the bowling club to join the closest bowling club; two – for the VPBC to self-manage the bowling green and bower with periodic access for the public.

This was not well received by the VPBC and they will have a meeting with the rest of the club before replying.

**Resolution:** To note the report

**Resolution:** To offer the TC to attend the club meeting to answer any questions.

**E22.72 Environment Budget**

The committee reviewed the Environment Budget to-date.

Budget lines 4700 has income showing £12,496.00 – this to be paid into budget line 4720, Park & Play Area Development.

Budget line 4770 shows income of £820.00. – this to be paid to general reserves.

Budget line 4800 shows an overspend of £1,546.00 – this figure to be moved to Backlines budget line.

**Resolved**: To note the Environment Budget.

**Resolved**: To move income £12,496.00 to budget line 4720.

**Resolved**: To add income £820.00 to general reserves.

**Resolved**: To move spending from budget line 4800 to the budget line Backlines.

**E22.73 Workington In Bloom**

The committee noted …

a. Feedback from the Cumbria in Bloom and RHS Britain in Bloom judges and note recent awards won by Workington.

b. Minutes from the In Bloom working group meeting that took place on Thursday 20th Oct.

c. Arrangements for In Bloom 2023.

**Resolved:** To note feedback from Cumbria in Bloom & RHS in Bloom judges and awards won by Workington.

**Resolved:** To note minutes from In Bloom meeting, 20.10.2022.

**Resolved:** To note feedback from Cumbria in Bloom & RHS in Bloom judges and awards won by Workington. arrangements for In Bloom 2023.

**E22.74 Mini Pump Track**

The committee noted that officers had met with a contractor on the proposed site to discuss the project. The contractor will now put together proposed visuals and costs which will then be brought to the next committee meeting for consideration before a community consultation with residents and schools takes place.

£600 from the youth provision budget line has been paid to the contractor to provide the information required for the consultation and committee consideration.

**Resolved:** To note a report will be produced by a contractor with proposed designs and costing.

**Resolved:** To allocate £600 from the Youth Provision budget for consultation.

**Resolved:** To contact ABC to investigate the possibility of a partnership to bring tracks to Workington.

**E22.75 Additional CCTV**

The committee considered purchasing an additional CCTV camera to be installed on the Princess Street building to cover the area of Vulcan Park which accommodates Grow Well and the Bee Happy Garden.

The cost of the additional camera and installation, by the company who did the original installation Kompass, is £1468.03 ex VAT.

**Resolved:** To purchase additional CCTV cameras at a cost of £1468.03.

**E22.76 Tennis Court Update**

The committee noted that as WTC have not received grant funding for tennis courts therefore officers will purchase an, already approved, mini tennis net.

**Resolved:** To note officers will now purchase a new mini tennis net.

**E22.77 Allotment Cost Increases**

The committee would like to send their deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr Mike Barnes (Newlands Allotments) who sadly died last month.

The committee considered increasing the charges for allotment holders, after a number of years of charges staying the same. The committee agreed to a 10% increase.

Councillors have been undertaking allotment visits over the past few months. Cllr M Heaslip has provided feedback from his allotment visits.

* Mount View – this has poor access; ground has a steep gradient.
	+ No 1 plot is suitable as an allotment, but the other sites are not suitable, this area should, ideally, be given over to the nature reserve that is sited at the back of the allotments.
	+ Area with current holders should not be offered for rent when a site becomes vacant, those long-term holders could possibly be given an option (and a twelve-month notice) to move to another site.
* Washington St - owned by Castles & Coasts, need to view details of management agreement in view of potential issues.
* Salterbeck – this is owned by Riverside Housing Assoc, need to view details of management agreement in view of potential issues.
* Stoneleigh – owned by ABC, need to view details of management agreement in view of potential issues.

Report From Cllr P Poole.

* Soapery – a good site but with poor access to water therefore requiring water butts.

**Resolved**: To send condolences to the family and friends of Michael Barnes (Newlands Allotmentts) who sadly died last month.

**Resolved**: To increase rent for allotment sites by 10% given no increase for the past few years.

**Resolved:** To Keep plot 1 at Mount View and to not rent out any plots that become vacant.

**Resolved:** To provide details of management of site for those sites not owned by WTC; Wastwater Ave, Salterbeck and Stoneleigh.

**Resolved:** To provide water butts to those sites with piped water, inc Soapery.

**E22.78 Stoneleigh Water Charges**

The committee considered water charges for Stoneleigh Allotment site, there has been a leak that was fixed part way through the year therefore the water charges are higher than other years. WTC will pay half of the water charges with the rest of the cost being split between the allotment holders as is normal practice. Allotment holders will pay £20.00 for the year.

**Resolved:** To charge allotment holders at Stoneleigh Allotments £20.00 for water.

**E22.79 Newlands Lane Trees/Hedges**

The committee consented to the Estates team to use a contractor to reduce the size of the trees/hedge at Newlands Lane Allotments to a manageable state to allow the Estates Team to then manage the trees lining the edge of the allotment site.

**Resolved**: To use a contractor to bring the trees/hedges at Newlands Lane Allotment site to a manageable state.

**E22.80 Vulcan Park**

The committee considered the following issues…

**a.** Committee noted that officers received an unpaid invoice from 2020 from Greaves for tree felling work carried out in the park in 2020 to the cost of £1180.80. This has been paid for out of this year’s parks and play area maintenance budget line.

**b.** Committee considered costs for a survey of all trees in Vulcan Park. Three companies were contacted for costs, only one responded at a cost of £2,600.

**c.** Committee considered costs for tree cutting in Vulcan Park for trees overhanging Vulcan’s Lane. Costs include a two-day road closure required for the work:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Tree cutting  | £960 | £480 a day |
| CCC Road Closure | £706 |  |
| CCC Road Closure advertising  | £1,280 |  |
| Road closure signage / fencing | £400 |  |
|  | **£3,346** |  |

**d.** The committee heard a verbal update for the Nightingale Garden – this is now due for completion and unveiling in time for the third-year anniversary of the beginning of COVID-19 lockdown.

**e.** The committee received an update regarding progression on the Reflection Garden including marketing materials.

**Resolved:** To pay invoice from 2022 for tree felling at a cost of £1180.80

**Resolved:** To undertake a tree survey of Vulcan Park at a cost of £2,600.00

**Resolved:** To undertake tree cutting in Vulcan Park (those trees overhanging Vulcan’s :Lane) at a cost of £3,346.00

**Resolved:** To note that the Nightingale Monument is now due for unvwiling in March 2023..

**Resolved:** To note the that the Reflections Garden is now available to the public and to note the marketing materials shown.

**E22.81 Cost for floral displays in town for 2023**

The committee considered the costs for the floral displays in the town centre for 2023 to the next Full Council meeting and to include in the budget for 2023-2024.

Tivoli have quoted £15,575.51 for the following:

Carry out supply and maintenance of the following:

* 97 x Troughs/Mangers - Washington Street & Argos Crossing (between Murray Road and Central Way).
* 12 x Troughs/Mangers Workington Quayside
* 24 x 18” Baskets Washington Square Shopping Centre
* 57 x 18” Baskets Murray Road & Finkle Street
* 4 x 18” Baskets End of Murray Road
* 7 x 18” Baskets Harrington Bridge
* 5 x 18” Baskets Town Hall, Oxford Street/Park Lane
* 2 x 18” Baskets Princess Street
* 4 x Planters Murray Road Opposite Library
* 4 x 18” Baskets Railway Station

**Resolved:** To take this item to the next Full Council meeting.

**E22.82 Estates Team Vehicle**

The committee noted that the current team van is now fixed and due to be returned to the lease holders. Going forward the committee decided that the purchase of a vehicle is preferable to leasing therefore £13,000.00 for the purchase of a new van was agreed.

**Resolution:** To purchase a van for the Estates Team at a cost of £13,000.00.

Options sent along with the agenda. Please note that there may be slight increases in these costs following the current rise in interest rates.

**E22.83 Malcolm Bishop Bench**

The Committee noted that officers are working with the council’s solicitors to draw up an agreement with Washington Square Shopping Centre to locate the bench in the shopping centre on Jane Street.

**Resolution:** To note this report.

**The meeting closed at 20.50**