

Workington Town Council

Town Hall, Oxford Street, Workington, Cumbria CA14 2RS

Telephone: 01900 702986

Email: office@workingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.workingtontowncouncil.gov.uk



Minutes of the Environment Committee of Workington Town Council, 6.30pm on 3 September 2020 on the Zoom virtual meeting platform.

Cllr H Harrington (Chair)	Present
Cllr C Armstrong	Apologies
Cllr H Briggs	Apologies
Cllr R Briggs	Apologies
Cllr G Glaister	Apologies
Cllr J Hunter	Apologies
Cllr P Scott	Present
Cllr S Stoddart	Apologies
Cllr W Wilkinson (vice chair)	Present
Cllr L Williams	Present
Cllr J King (Mayor)	Present

In attendance: Town Clerk. Also present Cllr Beth Dixon to assist with the agenda matter relating to Northside play area.

E19.76. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted as being for approved reasons under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972, s85, from Cllrs C Armstrong, H Briggs, R Briggs, G Glaister, J Hunter and S Stoddart.

E19.77. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wilkinson reminded the Committee of his allotment tenancy at Feenans.

E19.78. Exclusion of Press and Public

No issues.

E19.79. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 11 June 2020 were accepted as a true record.

E19.80

The Chair of the Allotments sub-Committee reported that the last Committee meeting had been in February and had not been well-attended. It had been agreed that further meetings should be suspended until the end of the current growing season. Plans to create a Newlands Lane-style self-management group at Feenans had continued and he hoped to set out their proposals at the next meeting of the Environment Committee. Only one quote had been received for the resurfacing of the access track between Annie Pit and Feenans, and this was in the region of £6,800 to replace the existing surface with new hardcore and re-lay drains.

Resolved: To allocate £6,800 from the Allotments Development budget for the resurfacing of the access track at Annie Pit/Feenans.

Resolved: To note the report.

E19.81. Workington Nature Partnership

The Clerk reported that the Nature Partnership Officers had continued to update councillors through their weekly activity newsletter. He drew the Committee's attention to the absence of a Steering Group meeting since the elections in 2019, for a variety of reasons and suggested that this should be remedied as soon as possible so that the Town Council could assert its proper influence over the activities of the Partnership. The Chair reported that she had seen for herself the Partnership's work at Siddick Ponds, and the wildflower areas were very popular. There was a query about the planned 'wildlife corridor' by KFC on Derwent Howe, which it was suggested did not appear to have come to fruition. The Clerk agreed to look into this with Borough Council officers.

Resolved: To note the report and request a meeting of the Steering group with the appropriate portfolio holder at Allerdale Borough Council as soon as possible.

E19.82. Workington In Bloom

The Chair introduced an item on the entry for 2021, suggesting that the Council picks up its plans for 2020 which were suspended due to Covid 19. There was some discussion about how this could be expanded into Northside and Siddick, and Cllr Wilkinson reminded the Committee that he had been growing bedding plants for use around the town on his allotment. There was consensus that the floral displays were once more a vital feature of the Town's street scene – particularly impressive on Washington Street and around the station. Cllr Wilkinson confirmed that he would be able to supply bedding plants again in 2021. Planters could be provided for areas on Station Road. A Councillor suggested the supplier used by Seaton may also be able to supply Workington.

Resolved: To carry over unused expenditure in the In Bloom budget to the current winter, or 2021 as required.

Resolved: To propose planters on open spaces in Station Road.

E19.83. Vulcan Park Nightingale Garden

The Vice Chair gave an update on the progress made by Hudson-Swan Engineering in supplying a memorial to furnish the proposed Nightingale Garden in Vulcan Park. The memorial is still at fabrication stage and there has been some discussion about how the base will be formed, whether or not there will be power and water available for the memorial, or whether this should be self-sustained. It had been hoped that an additional sponsor might donate a base for the project, however this had fallen through, and alternatives were now being investigated. The Vice Chair suggested that the Council may have to finance some aspects of the base, unless alternative sponsors could be found. There was some discussion about the price of base material and the issues surrounding the appropriate design of the base. The Vice Chair reported that he had received prices for the materials for a marble base and these were circulated around the committee members. It was noted that the generous donation of the material, design and fabrication of the memorial by

Hudson-Swan Engineering should be supported appropriately by the Council, however there was some uncertainty about some of the detail and this could be overcome by a site visit, in conjunction with other Committees.

Resolved: To arrange a socially distant site visit in Vulcan Park, to assist in identifying the parameters of the project.

E19.84 Vulcan Park Path Renovation

The Committee considered the next stages of path renovation in Vulcan Park. The Clerk apologised that the park map illustrated prior to the meeting was not as clear as it had been when the Committee considered the issue in the previous year. Some of the detail had been lost in the scanning. However, the Committee were able to confirm that they felt that the next series of priorities should be those on the Estate Team Leader's list marked Medium High in the risk category – zones 4, 7 and 8.

Resolved: to approve the allocation of £6.5-7k from the Vulcan Park Development budget for the medium high risk zones around the Lodge corner.

E19.85. Vulcan Park Bowling Green

The Committee considered whether there was anything more to add to this issue, since it had been the subject of a previous meeting and the Chair and Vice Chair had recently met the Bowling Club, accompanied by colleagues from Culture and F&GP. The Green was a valuable oasis of calm for the general public in the park, and could contribute to the Council's aims of developing the park. On this basis it was agreed that there was little to add at this stage, other than to note that membership of the club appeared to be growing, and that there was interest in involving club members and others in a Friends of Vulcan Park group.

E19.86. Vulcan Park Three Year Plan

The Committee briefly considered the need for a Three Year Plan for Vulcan Park.

Resolved: That the matter be developed by the new Town Clerk as a matter of urgency following their appointment.

E19.87. Play Area Development

The Clerk gave a brief update on current projects and issues. He suggested that in the absence of a forthcoming site for a play facility in Westfield, the Council should concentrate on improving facilities in Moorclose and Harrington Marina. These included in Moorclose, the provision of simple mini-goals and a seating installation for the tarmac area, and two sets of toddler swings, one for a location to the north of the tarmac, by the new seat, and one for a location to the south of the tarmac in proximity to the old playground, by the football pitch. New goal posts had been costed at £xxxx, and the swings had been costed at £yyyy. At Harrington, there was a replacement item to source to fill the space previously occupied by a broken item, which was a legacy of the previous Allerdale management regime.

There was some considerable discussion about the state of the play facility in Northside, with Cllr Dixon providing information for her ward. The site had been visited by the Chair and the Clerk in 2019, and it was understood that improvements would be made by the site's owners – Castle and Coasts Housing Association. However, most of the improvements did not appear to have been forthcoming. There

was still no gate preventing incursions by dogs, the play surface had deteriorated further over winter and the general air of neglect had not been addressed. It was noted that last year the Town Council had offered to take on the site's ongoing management and maintenance if it could be brought up to a manageable standard first. The Chair thanked Cllr Dixon for her input.

Resolved: To fund the improvements to play facilities at Moorclose and Harrington, subject to the appropriate procurement method and necessary agreements from the landowner in Moorclose – Allerdale Borough Council (the Town Council now owns the Harrington play area).

Resolved: To contact the Chief Executive of Castles and Coasts Housing Association to draw their attention to the problems of the play facility in Northside and ask that they take suitable and timely action to improve the site.

E19.88. Additional Street Cleaning

The Chair introduced a proposal to improve visible street cleaning in Harrington. She explained that she felt Harrington had a particular problem due to the relationship with the Marina, and asked the Committee if it would support a project to improve matters. There followed some discussion about how appropriate it might be for the Town Council to put additional resource into a function that is reserved to the Borough Council (ie street cleaning). The Clerk explained that the power to clean streets was a Borough Council function and that the Town Council could only carry this out through an agency agreement with the Borough Council. It was suggested that time might be better spent ensuring that the Borough Council's existing contract was fulfilled more effectively, if that was the problem. The Chair felt that the issue required further investigation, so advised the Committee that she would gather this before bringing a more developed proposal to a subsequent meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.19