Workington Town Council

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**Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting of Workington Town Council, held on Thursday 7th November 2024 at 6.30pm in the Workington Town Council Offices, Town Hall, Oxford Street, Workington, CA14 2RS.**

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| Cllr Michael Heaslip (Chair) | Present | Cllr Bernadette Jones (Vice Chair) | Present |
| Cllr Mary Bainbridge | Present | Cllr Nath Martin | Absent |
| Cllr Beth Dixon | Absent\* | Cllr Susan Martin | Present |
| Cllr Sue Fryer | Absent\* | Cllr Sean Melton | Absent\* |
| Cllr Hilary Harrington | Absent |  |  |

In attendance: Cllr David Farrar, Cllr John Mills and Chief Officer/RFO.

The meeting started at 6.43pm.

**E24.68 Absences:** Notified absences prior to the meeting were received from Cllr Dixon, Cllr Sue Fryer and Cllr Melton.

**E24.69 Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Jones at agenda item 12 and Cllr Heaslip at agenda item 13d.

**E24.70 Exclusion of Press and Public:** None.

**E24.71 Public Participation:** None.

**E24.72 Minutes of the previous meeting**

**Resolved:** Committee approved the minutes from 19th September 2024 and affirmed them a true record.

**E24.73 Public Questions:** None.

**E24.74 Questions and Statements from Members:** None.

**E24.75 Motions on Notice:** None.

**E24.76 Environment Budget**

Committee noted the report for information.

Committee discussed the replacement cost for a swing which had been vandalized at Cusack Crescent play area. Committee approved a cost of £1,923.86 from the Park maintenance budget line.

Committee discussed that this budget line does not have a lot remaining to last until the end of March. The CO advised that some money had been released from the committed budget line so there was a bit more than the report showed, however there was still not a lot left.

There is money left in the allotments budget line; it was agreed to wait until after the allotment holders meeting on 11th November to determine what this may need to be spent on.

**Resolved:** To purchase a replacement swing as required to the value of £1923.86 from the Park Maintenance budget line.

**E24.77 Street Displays**

Tender documents have been advertised and the deadline for submission is 18th November.

Tender decision and approval of spend will need to go to Full Council on the 28th November.

**E24.78 Environmental Activities**

1. Cumbria in Bloom - Committee thanked Officers and all involved in Cumbria in Bloom for their hard work in obtaining a Silver Gilt award for Workington in the large town category.

Workington has been nominated by Cumbria in Bloom for the RHS Britain in Bloom awards in 2025.

1. Environmental activities annual calendar – Committee were asked for any suggestions to add to the calendar for 2025 and if there are specific areas in their wards that they wish Officers to tackle during the monthly litter picks.

Officers will tie in with Workington Nature Partnership and Tivoli for the removal of waste.

1. 100 years of Vulcan Park – Committee discussed activities to celebrate 100 years of Vulcan Park; ‘100’ flower bed, old photo displays and to provide 100 free bee bombs to give out at Party in the Park.

**Resolved:** To accept the invitation to enter the RHS Britain in Bloom awards.

**Resolved:** To carry out the environmental activities calendar for 2025.

**Resolved:** To create a ‘100’ flower bed, create boards with old photos of Vulcan Park and purchase 100 bee bombs to give away at Party in the Park 2025.

**E24.79 Green Grants**

Cllr Jones declared an interest in this agenda item, however leaving the room would mean the meeting was inquorate, therefore the agenda item is referred to the next Full Council meeting for consideration.

**Resolved:** Defer a request for funding from St Patrick’s Catholic Primary School for £1,000 from the Greens Grants budget line to Full Council.

**E24.80 Streescene**

1. **Public Rights of Way** – The Chair advised that Councillors would be required to carry out their own work for any PROW they wished Officers to submit to Cumberland Council. There is a formal process to follow and specific forms that need to be completed by residents, so it is not as easy as submitting a list of names and addresses.

To clarify, Workington Sailing Club is the club at Workington quayside and not Harrington. This is possibly owned by Sustrans and part of the Coast-to-Coast route, so there may be different requirements for this area.

1. **Latest police newsletter** - Committee were requested to send any questions or concerns they have to the Chief Officer prior to the next Full Council meeting for the Inspector to answer on the night.

It was discussed that there are concerns of unsafe driving and parking outside Stainburn and both Ashfield schools during school drop off and pick up times and that this needed to be addressed by the police.

1. **Christmas trees:** Committee noted the report for information.
2. **Workington RFC funding request**

Cllr Heaslip declared an interest in this agenda item, however leaving the room would mean the meeting was inquorate, therefore the agenda item is referred to the next Full Council meeting for consideration.

**Resolved:** Defer a request for funding from Workington RFC (Zebras) for £750 for a new community defibrillator from the Streetscene budget line to Full Council.

1. **Defibrillators**

Committee noted the report for information.

**Resolved:** Committee approved the draft defibrillator agreement, which will now be signed between WTC and organisations who house defibrillators installed by the Council.

**E24.81 Estate Development**

1. **Play area update:** Committee noted the report for information.
2. **Funding opportunity with the Lawn Tennis Association:** Committee agreed that this would be a welcome addition to Vulcan Park and an official opening could take place at Party in the Park and 100 years of Vulcan Park. Officers are working with the LTA and Cumberland Council to discuss what funding is available and if WTC will be required to provide some match funding.

Maintenance of the courts would be the responsibility of WTC once installed and a ‘sink fund’ of £4k has been added to the draft budget for 25-26 to allow for this.

**E24.82 Allotments**

Committee noted the report for information.

The Chair advised that tenancy agreements must start during the non-growing season. So, agreements and invoices can be sent out earlier if this is preferred by Officers, but the tenancy agreement should start from 1st November.

**Resolved:** Committee reviewed the non-cultivation process and requested the 3rd site visit be removed from the process.

**E24.83 Workington Nature Partnership**

Committee noted the minutes from the WNP steering group meeting for information.

The Chair advised that there is an ongoing issue at Harrington Reservoir because of housing developments and the silt that is blocking the waterways.

Cllr Heaslip and Cllr Denise Rollo for Cumberland Council are having a meeting with the Head of Planning to discuss the concerns and actions required.

**E24.84 Budget 2024-2025**

Committee discussed the proposed budget for 2025-2026 and requested the following amendments:

Move play area maintenance costs from estate development to play areas budget line.

Increase Vulcan Park budget line to £19,000.

Add in possible £100,000 to Estate development for the potential tennis court project.

Committee discussed the increase to the WNP budget line for additional staffing. There are currently two staff members who are both part-time. An additional staff member would allow the partnership to take on future worthwhile projects and assist with the management of volunteers.

**Resolved:** To take the proposed budget to F & GP and Full Council.

The meeting ended at 8pm.