Workington Town Council

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**Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting of Workington Town Council, held on Thursday 30th May 2024 at 7pm in the WTC Community Centre, Princess Street, Workington.**

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

In attendance: Interim Proper Officer.

**E24.15 Absences:** Absences were noted from Cllr Mary Bainbridge, Cllr Bernadette Jones and Cllr Sean Melton.

**Resolved:** Committee to request to Full Council to change the time of the meetings to 6.30pm.

**E24.16 Declarations of Interest:** None.

**E24.17 Exclusion of Press and Public:** None.

**E24.18 Public Participation:** None.

**E24.19 Minutes of the previous meeting**

**Resolved:** The committee approved the minutes from 18th April 2024 and affirmed them a true record.

**E24.20 Public Questions:** None.

**E24.21 Questions and Statements from Members:** None.

**E24.22 Motions on Notice:** None.

**E24.23 Environment Budget**

Committee noted the report for information.

It was noted that the Estate Development budget line does not yet show commitments to the three play area projects currently out to tender.

**E24.24 Estate Management**

1. **The Ranch** – committee noted that currently there had been no official hire agreements received for use of The Ranch. A meeting will be held with Workington Juniors once their tournament is over on 8/9th June to discuss a way forward.
2. **Hospital Wall Project** – Committee noted the update.

**Resolved**: Committee were happy for the artwork planned for the hospital wall to be painted on the back of the bowling club building instead and for the planters to be along the wall (leading from Vulcan’s Lane into the park) as originally planned but not attached to the wall.

1. **Letters to Heaven Composting**

**Resolved:** Committee approved the purchase of a fire bin at a cost of £40 from the Park Maintenance budget line.

**E24.25 Estate Development**

1. **Bowling bower:** Committee noted the report for information.

**Resolved:** Committee agreed for officers to add this building to the Council’s annual pest control contract at a cost of £270 per year from the Park maintenance budget line.

1. **Green hub:** Committee noted the report for information. The project is currently on hold as this building is now being used for Estates equipment due to the Park depot being closed.
2. **Park depot:**

**Resolved:** Committee agreed to defer plans for the Park Depot to F & GP to form part of their asset management plan.

Cllr Harrington asked about the Office and Estates Staff moving to the Town Hall and asked why this hasn’t gone to Full Council. The Chair advised this was a question for the Mayor and Chair of F & GP and not this committee.

1. **Concrete sports:** Committee liked this idea, but agreed to wait to see what budget was left following the play area projects before committing.
2. **Raise Cumbria project:** Committee noted the report for information and agreed these were great ideas for projects if they would be funded by Raise Cumbria.

**Resolved:** Site visits for Cllrs to be arranged at Stoneleigh allotments.

**E24.26** **Allotments**

1. **Allotments policy** – Committee discussed the following amendments

Introduction: Add a definition of an allotment under the Act i.e. growing flowers and vegetables.

The sites: identify Mountain View and Stoneleigh as temporary sites. WTC does not own the land.

Eligibility: take out 3rd paragraph; we now understand that to be a community garden.

**Resolved:** Committee were happy to approve the policy once these changes had been made and take to Full Council for consideration and adoption.

1. **Community garden policy report** – committee noted the report for information.
2. **Intermediate Bulk Containers report (water butts)**

**Resolved:** Committee requested a full report with breakdown of all costs per allotment site for the next meeting to enable committee to decide if they can progress with replacement of taps for water butts within the current budget.

1. **Mountain View allotments**

Committee discussed that there was some land at Mountain View that could be kept as allotment sites; since the last committee meeting the Estates Team Leader has seen a significant improvement on site.

**Resolved:** Officers to arrange a site visit with Cumberland Council to determine which piece of land WTC would require land ownership of and put a recommendation to F & GP to request ownership transfer.

**E24.27 Streetscene**

1. **Defibrillator request:** Committee noted the report and there was a discussion around the request from a resident to again have a community defibrillator installed on a private residential property.

The council is not able to agree to this.

**Resolved:** Officers to confirm to local resident outcome of investigation into their request and suggest submitting a funding request to fund a defibrillator themselves alongside a local community group within Harrington.

**E24.28** **Workington Nature Partnership Report**

Committee noted the report for information and commended the work of the WNP Officer/Nature Ranger and all their volunteers.

An evening of celebration was enjoyed by those who attended the 10 year anniversary event at the Helena Thompson Museum on 24th May. The event was held to thank all the volunteers for their help and hard work over the last 10 years, they were each presented with a trophy and certificate.

**The meeting ended at 7.40pm**