

# WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Present:** Councillor C Hayes (Chairman); Councillor R Gill; Councillor C Maudling; Councillor B O’Kane; Councillor G Roberts; Councillor R Redmond; Councillor C Walmsley

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Andrea Winters from Disruptieve and Representatives from BEC

### **1891/21 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received as follows

Councillor J Rayson,	Ill
Councillor E Dinsdale	Family Commitment
Councillor G Dinsdale	Family Commitment

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the apologies be noted and accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the apologies be noted and accepted

### **1892/21 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor C Maudling declared an interest in Item 5 as he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel

Councillor G Roberts declared an interest in the Christmas lights as he was a member of CCC

### **1893/21 Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

### **1894/21 Minutes of the Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th September 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 5 Councillors

voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained.

**RESOLVED** -That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **1895/21**     **Planning Applications**

The Council considered a report on Planning Applications received and shown at Appendix 1.

- (i) Before considering Appendix 1 Councillor O’Kane made a proposal that a letter be sent to CBC’s Planning Officer to ask the question that if the Council makes an objection to or a representation on a planning application will these go to the Planning Panel. This was seconded by Councillor Roberts. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

**RESOLVED** – That a letter be sent to CBC’s Planning Officer to ask The question that if the Council makes an objection to or a representation on a planning application will these go to the Planning Panel.

- (ii) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that following consideration of the Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1 CBC be informed that the Council had no representations to make. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

**RESOLVED** - That following consideration of the Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1 CBC be informed that the Council had no representations to make.

## **1896/21**     **Finance Report**

The Council considered a Finance report.

- i. Appendix 1 – The Clerk reported that there were 9 extra invoices to be considered namely:

Chris Hayes	WTC Plaques - £72.00
St James Community Hall	Room Hire - £18.00
CBC	Grass Cutting (Nov) - £1995.62
CBC	Allotment Contract (Nov) £717.42
CBC	Ranger Contract (Nov) £3325.44
CBC	As.RangerContract(Nov) £2199.02
Bauer Radio	CFM Advertising - £642.07
V Gorley	200 Cable Ties £26.98

Derwent recycling

4 skips £1152.00

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 together with the 9 invoices above be approved and paid. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That the Invoices shown on Appendix 1 together with the 9 invoices above be approved and paid.

- ii. Appendices 2 and 3 – It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

**1897/21 Presentation on Digital Grid**

The Council heard a presentation from Andrea Winters of Disruptieve and representatives from BEC on a Digital Grid in Whitehaven.

Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the Council give its full support and offer all the support it could so far as it was legal to do so to the Digital Grid Project. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the Council give its full support and offer all the support it could in so far as it was legal to do so to the Digital Grid project

**1898/21 Appointment of Internal Auditor**

The Council considered a report on the appointment of an Internal Auditor for 2022. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that 3 quotes be sought from competent and experienced people for the provision of an Internal Audit Service on the basis of 2 Internal Audits for 2022. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That 3 quotes be sought from competent and experienced people for the provision of an Internal Audit Service on the basis of 2 Internal Audits for 2022.

**1899/21 Recommendations from Allotments Advisory Group**

The Council considered a report containing recommendations from the Allotments Advisory Group as follows:-

It was recommended that the procedure for dealing with non-cultivated plots be amended

- i. to remove the stage where the tenant is contacted by telephone and issued with an informal warning and given 14 days to make improvements and
- ii. To move immediately to the non cultivation letter giving 28 days to make improvements and referring to the appropriate clauses in the Allotment Agreement
- iii. That on the 30<sup>th</sup> day if no improvements have been made a Notice to Quit will be issued giving one month's notice
- iv. That when an offer of an allotment is made to someone on the waiting list that a maximum of 7 days be given for the person to accept the allotment site and sign the tenancy agreement and pay the fee.

It was proposed by Councillor Walmsley and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the recommendations in i to iv above be approved and actioned. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That that the recommendations in i to iv above be approved and actioned.

## 1900/21 Recommendations from Events Advisory Group

The Council considered a report on recommendations made by the Events Advisory Group at a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

- i. The Council considered details of the events recommended for 2022 and costings. The Clerk reported that quotes had been received for the provision of marquees for the 2022 events in St Nicholas Gardens and that 4 quotes had been sought with no reply from one supplier a reply from another supplier to say there were no marquees available on the specified dates and 2 as follows:

Supplier A                      £9,135.00 plus VAT

Supplier B                      £9,997.48 plus VAT

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote from Supplier A in the sum of £9,135.00 be accepted. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - that the quote from Supplier A in the sum of £9,135.00 be accepted

- ii It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that a letter be sent to CBC asking what had happened to the Welcome Back Fund. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That that a letter be sent to CBC asking what had happened to the Welcome Back Fund.

- iii It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the recommendations numbered 1 to 13 in Appendix 1 to the Report be approved and actioned. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the recommendations numbered 1 to 13 in Appendix 1 of the Report be approved and actioned.

Councillor Maudling informed the Council that the 2 Christmas trees donated by Iggesund for St Nicholas Gardens would be arriving on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

## **1901/21 Recommendations from Policy and Resources and Finance Committee**

The Council considered a report on recommendations made by the Policy and Resources and Finance Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the following recommendations be approved and actioned:-

- i. That the Finance Report and Budget monitoring figures be noted and approved
- ii. That a three year contract for the supply of electricity be entered into at a cost of £3,099.00per annum
- iii. That a Budget Working Group be set up comprising those on the Policy and Resources and Finance Committee to work on setting the Budget for 2022/23 and to make recommendations to full Council

A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That the recommendations made by the Policy and Resources and finance Committee in i to iii above be approved and Actioned.

## **1902/21 Remembrance Sunday**

The Council considered a report on Remembrance Sunday.

- i. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that the cost of £205.00 for Whitehaven Brass Band to play on Remembrance Sunday be approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the cost of £205.00 for Whitehaven Brass Band to play on Remembrance Sunday be approved.

- ii It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that in view of the current situation and the concerns raised by the URC about a large number of people being in the Hall that the Council does not provide tea/coffee/biscuits/sandwiches in the URC Hall following the Church Service. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That in view of the current situation and the concerns raised by the URC about a large number of people being in the Hall that the Council does not provide tea/coffee/biscuits/sandwiches in the URC Hall this year following the Church Service.

- ii. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that next year the Order of Procession for Remembrance Sunday be agreed by Full Council. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That next year the Order of Procession for Remembrance Sunday be agreed by Full Council.

### **1903/21 Christmas Closing**

The Council considered a report on Christmas closing. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council Offices be Closed from noon on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2021 until Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the Council Offices be closed from noon on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2021 until Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### **1904/21 Recommendations from Steering Group on Office Accommodation**

The Clerk reported on recommendations made by the Steering Group on Office Accommodation which were as follows:-

- i. That full documentation concerning the project for the regeneration of the Council Offices at 148 Queen Street Whitehaven be sent to external agents in the next two weeks
- ii. That 2 questions be asked of Sellafield
  - a. Can they offer any up- front support for the project and
  - b. When complete is this facility something that they could buy into and hire from a company point of view
- ii. At the first opportunity a meeting be arranged with the Architects relating to :-
  - a. The overall build
  - b. A phased approach depending on the money we have
  - c. To discuss the planning situation and when the Architect would put in the initial planning application
- iii. That various people/organisations be contacted to ask if they could help with the regeneration of the Council Offices

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the recommendations in i to iv above be approved and actioned. A vote was held and it was unanimously



**RESOLVED** - That the recommendations in i to iv above be approved and actioned.

**1905/21**      **Councillor Ward Matters**

- i. Councillor Walmsley referred to dog mess and broken glass by the pigeon lofts on the cycle track. Also reports of glass bottles being smashed and left. He asked if the Council could get a litter bin on there. The Clerk said she would ask CBC about this and that she would send him a plan so that he could mark where the litter bin was required.
- ii. Councillor Maudling said there had been a lot of youths congregating in Whitehaven on Saturdays and that a lot of female staff in the shops were worried about it. He said it was great that we were getting CCTV in Castle Park and asked if some pressure could be put on to get the CCTV manned and upgraded in the town centre as in 18 months there had been 2 ram-raids and windows smashed. Councillor Maudling said that windows are constantly smashed in town at weekends and he had tried to get in touch with the Police Commissioner to see if there was any money left for this.
- iii. Councillor Hayes said there wouldn't be a problem in Castle Park if the bandstand wasn't there and it needed to be taken down.
- iv. Councillor Gill said he disagreed with that as he had fought to keep the bandstand because it had been given to the town by the miners and that it was a monument to the mining history in Whitehaven.
- v. Councillor Hayes said the problem was what kind of event could you hold in the bandstand? Councillor Gill said it used to be used for the town band practice.
- vi. Councillor Hayes said it was a waste of money putting CCTV in Castle Park.
- vii. Councillor O'Kane said the state of the play park in Castle Park was an abomination and asked if CBC could be asked how often the play area is checked for safety. Councillor Hayes said it was checked every Monday morning. The Clerk said she would write to CBC about this
- viii. Councillor O'Kane referred to Bransty Bus Stop and the Clerk said she was waiting for CBC to come back regarding ownership
- ix. Councillor O'Kane 2 Councillors had had a meeting with CCC Local Committee for traffic. He said the surveys that were going around were almost finished around St Benedicts and Whitehaven Academy and there was massive data sufficient to put 3 plans into existence on a computer model and that when it was finished they were going to consult the residents in that area to see what the best solution is because they realise that the area around is completely chaotic. That request was accepted because the building of the proposals around that area from Hensingham through Moresby through to Harras Road etc and the amount of houses that are being proposed the CCC need to review in depth the whole area around there to see to what extent the traffic provision in that area meets the future needs.

- x. Councillor O’Kane said we should be congratulating the Harbour Commissioners and John Baker in particular for the state of the Harbour because the transformation was incredible and it was 99% litter free.
- xi. Councillor Roberts said the drinkers were drifting back into the centre of the town and making nuisances of themselves and that there was a young woman now making a nuisance of herself at the Lowther Street bus stop.
- xii. Councillor Gill referred to parking and said a survey was going to be done at the hospital as the estate he lives on was it is choc a block with cars from people at the hospital and he had asked them to consider resident only parking.
- xiii. Councillor Gill said he had been standing in for the Mayor and had been putting some pictures on the Harbour with Gerard Richardson when a lady who was visiting Whitehaven for the first time approached them and congratulated the Council on what was being done and said it was a beautiful place. Councillor Gill told her it wasn’t the Council but the Harbour Commissioners who had carried out all the work.
- xiv. Councillor Hayes said he had had a visit to the inside of the main lighthouse and it was amazing what had been done.
- xv. Councillor O’Kane asked the Chairman if he could ask John Baker to come to the next Council Meeting.
- xvi. Councillor Hayes said the new super estate for 139 and possibly 200 houses had got everyone on Kells up in arms. There was no sign of a school extension. Councillor Gill said on the estate opposite there was a school going on there.
- xvii. Councillor Hayes said the play park was getting abused by people and that he was in talks with residents about sorting the problem out.

**1906/21      Date and Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes seconded by Councillor Roberts that the next Council Meeting be held in the Beacon Portal at 6.00pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the next Council Meeting be held in the Beacon Portal at 6.00pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021.

**IN PRIVATE**

**1907/21** That prior to the following item of business the Chairman moved the following resolution: -

That in view of the special or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public and or press be instructed to withdraw from the meeting.

Councillor Roberts proposed this and Councillor Gill seconded it. A vote was held and it was unanimously.



**RESOLVED** – That in view of the special or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be instructed to withdraw from the Meeting. All members of the public and press then left the Meeting.

**1908/21 Councillor Ward Grant – CVG**

Further to Minute 1890/21 the Clerk reported that Allan Forster had returned the unspent amount of the Councillor Ward Grant to the Council.  
There was no decision to be taken on this and it was noted.

The Meeting closed at 7.30pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hayes', written in a cursive style.

Chairman