

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 27th April 2023

Present: Councillor C Maudling (Chairman); Councillor E Dinsdale; Councillor R Gill; Councillor C Hayes; Councillor B O’Kane; Councillor J Rayson; Councillor G Roberts

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public

2230/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor R Redmond	Holiday
Councillor J Carr	Work Commitments
Councillor G Dinsdale	Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the apologies for absence be accepted and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the apologies for absence be accepted and noted

2231/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

2232/23 Public Participation

Two members of the public attended who were members of Whitehaven Tidy Town Campaign and had recently joined forces with Whitehaven in Bloom. They asked if the Council could supply 4 hanging baskets to go above the seat area in Washington Square.

They said they had money but needed it for other things and that if the council could provide the hanging baskets then Cumberland Council would maintain them. The Clerk said that the Council had no spare hanging baskets but that she would look into this matter and reply to the two members of the public

2233/23 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th March 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th March 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th March 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2234/23 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1. Councillor Roberts referred to page 10 of the Agenda and the proposed residential development for 23 dwellings included associated infrastructure and landscaping at Harras Park (Application No. 4/23/2088/0F1) and informed the Council that as the sitting member for Harras Ward he had submitted an objection based on traffic, highways problems and drainage and had asked to speak at the Planning Panel and this had been confirmed.

Councillor Gill said that in order to be consistent the Council should also raise an objection along the same lines as before. Councillor O’Kane said that the Council should ask Cumberland Council to provide full details of the planning process. He said he was not at this stage being critical but at the moment all the Council had was rumours.

Councillor Gill said that he was pleased to see the Planning Application No. 4/22/2332/0F1 for 109 dwellings to the west of Valley View Road

- i. Councillor Gill proposed that an objection be made to Planning Application No 4/23/2088/0F1 on the same lines as before so that the Council is consistent in its approach and this was seconded by Councillor O’Kane. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That an objection be made to Planning Application No 4/23/2088/0F1 on the same lines as before so that the Council is consistent in its approach.

- ii. Councillor Hayes proposed and Councillor Maudling seconded that having considered the Planning Applications on Schedule 1 that the Council had no further representations to make and that Cumberland Council be informed accordingly. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That following consideration of the planning applications on Appendix 1 that Cumberland Council be informed that the Council had no further representations to make.

2235/23 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance Report.

- i. Appendix 1 – The Assistant Clerk reported that there were 6 extra invoices to consider on Appendix 1 namely:-

Marlene Jewell	£5.60 for cable ties
Vanessa Gorley	£4.49 for teabags for APM
Councillor Maudling	£196.20 milage claim
Marlene Jewell	£100 voucher for painting comp.
Vanessa Gorley	£100 voucher for painting comp
Viking	£59.82 for copier paper

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 6 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the invoices shown at Appendix 1 plus the 6 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid.

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

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

- iii. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that £150,000.00 should be transferred from the current bank account into the deposit account. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That £150,000.00 should be transferred from the current bank account into the deposit account.

2236/23 Membership Renewal of CALC

The Council considered a report on the Annual Subscription to CALC. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the annual subscription fee of £2,005.98 to CALC be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That that the annual subscription fee of £2,005.98 to CALC be approved and paid.

2237/23 Insurance Renewal

The Council considered a report on the confirmation of the Council's annual insurance cover with Zurich Municipal and reported that the premium for 2023/24 was £3,497.69. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the position regarding the insurance policy be noted and

approved and the premium for 2023/24 of £ 3,497.69 be paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the position regarding the insurance policy be noted and approved and the premium for 2023/24 of £ 3,497.69 be paid.

2238/23 **WCSSG**

Councillor Dinsdale reported that there was nothing much to report. He said the Stakeholder Group Meeting was due to be held on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 and he would report back to Council.

There was no decision made on this as the item was for information only.

2239/23 **Stroke and Coronary Care**

Councillor Dinsdale reported that he had attended a Heart and Stroke Campaign Group Meeting with Lynn Simpson, Chief Executive of the North Cumbria Trust. Steven Park was also in attendance and also Louise Bookham along with members of the campaign group. He said that this was their first meeting going back to greater than 12-13 months ago when they first supported this group. Councillor Dinsdale reminded everyone that the purpose of the group was to try and get consultancy led care treatment re-instated at West Cumberland Hospital as it was in 2019.

The overall feedback from the group was that everyone felt the meeting was very constructive. He said Lynn had taken away a number of actions around statistics, around bed breakdowns, around cancellations for outpatient appointments and that she was going to come back with statistics when they re-convened in 6 weeks around ambulance shouts, where people are going, where they're not going and they were going to be submitting whether that would be in complaint format or campaign format and reasons as to why consultancy led care should come back to West Cumberland and they were going to need stats to work from. He said one key point was raised by Grant Cattanach was that for 4-5 weekends the main road out north of Whitehaven was going to be shut and this had been mentioned to Lynn and she was asked what the contingency was. She said she wasn't aware of this and that nobody had been in touch with her but she was going to prioritise it. They would be re-convening in 6 weeks.

There was no decision made on this as the item was for information only.

2240/23 **Painting Competition**

The Clerk reported on the recent painting competition for schools based on the Theme "Charles III our new Monarch".

It was reported that all the entries had been judged and the Chairman said he had been on the Judging Panel and that there had been a lot of high quality entries.

The Clerk said that there had been no entries from infant schools or the 16-18 age group in secondary schools.

The Clerk read out the winners and those highly commended from the Primary, Secondary and Mayfield Schools and said that they would appear in the Photographic Exhibition and the Whitehaven News would be informed. There was no decision made on this as it was for information only.

2241/23 Office Accommodation Update

The Clerk reported that the Council's Architects had been trying to post a supply chain notice on the Government Contract Finder website which by law the Council is required to do for public works contracts over a certain value so that everyone can see what contracts are out for tender. The Architects had the tender documents ready to go but had experienced problems posting them on the Government Contract Finder. However the Crown Commercial Services Department had been in touch with our Architects to resolve the problem and our Architect expects that the matter will be sorted out shortly. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the report be noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the report be noted

2242/23 Gas/Electricity Supply Contract

The Council considered a report on an approach received from 3 companies who specialise in negotiating contracts for the supply of gas and electric. The Council has a contract for the supply of gas which expires on 28th February 2024. Under this contract the Council pays £3.066 unit rate p/k Wh; £0.568 climate change levy and £1.990 daily standing charge. The Council considered the information supplied by these companies and it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the position regarding current gas contract be noted and that the Council authorises the companies to negotiate a new contract for the supply of gas on the Council's behalf provided that it is on the same conditions as stated in paragraph 1.4 of the report. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the position regarding the current gas contract be noted and that the Council authorises the companies to negotiate a new contract for the supply of gas on the Council's behalf provided that it is on the same conditions as stated in paragraph 1.4 of the report

2443/23 Azure Cloud Backup

The Chairman agreed that this item could be discussed on the Agenda. The Clerk reported that an email had been received from the Council's IT supplier suggesting that the Council enter into an Agreement for the provision of an Azure backup system which would ensure security and safety of the Council's office data in an off-site premise and that in the event of the data being

lost through fire, burglary or any natural disaster the IT supplier would have access to all the Council's data off-site to be able to re-install it with minimum downtime. The cost of entering into an Agreement for the provision of an Azure Cloud Backup System was £80.00 per month. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council enter into an Agreement for the Azure Cloud Backup System at a cost of £80 per month. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Council enter into an Agreement for the Azure Cloud Backup System at a cost of £80 per month.

2244/23 Councillor Ward Matters

- i. Councillor E Dinsdale referred to an area just outside his ward on the cycle path from St Gregory's towards the Cattle Arch and said just before Good Friday someone had stolen a motorbike and burnt it out. He said he had immediately reported it to Cumberland Council and it was eventually removed but that the cogs did not move as fast as he would have liked especially over that weekend and on this occasion it had taken about a week to remove it
- ii. Councillor O'Kane said this would be the fifth request for the hedges to be cut at Victoria Road and Bleach Green and it was so bad that it was growing out into the traffic. He said certain individuals seemed resistant to doing this.
- iii. Councillor Maudling said the Town was fine but the concern he had especially for the coming weekend was that the grass in St Nicholas Gardens was way overgrown and the flower beds had got a lot of quite tall weeds in them. He said he had reported it and had been told it was in hand but he was very disappointed. The Clerk said she would write to Mr Flecken about it.
- iv. Councillor O'Kane said he was worried that this was going to be the state of play in the future especially with the Open Spaces Department.
- v. Councillor O'Kane referred to potholes and said down Aikbank Road there is a section of 5 or 6 potholes and people have complained and complained and what angered him was that this was a health and safety issue. He said it wasn't just a pothole where you go over and your tyre is damaged – this is a situation where before long there is going to be a crash there because people were trying to avoid the potholes going down Aikbank to the Pelican Garage. He said during the week they had done all the little potholes from the top right down into Town on the road leading to the juniors etc but the really serious one nobody had touched it yet. He said if you report a health and safety issue to the Council you would expect action. He asked that a letter be sent to highways on the health and safety aspect of Aikbank Road as it was really bad.
- vi. Councillor Rayson referred to the top of Thornton Road right down to Carleton Drive and said there were potholes right down the middle which

- had been reported a number of times. Councillor Gill said that this should be reported to the new Cumberland Councillors
- vii. Councillor Gill said there was a big pothole on Mirehouse Road and that pressure should be put on as a Council and also as individual Councillors.
 - viii. Councillor E Dinsdale said there should be an Agenda item/slot created for the County Councillors to come along to the Council to give the Council a report which should contain all the outstanding matters that have been reported in the Whitehaven area.
 - ix. Councillor Gill said that if he was a Cumberland Councillor for Whitehaven he would be attending the meetings of the Town Council to see what they were doing and he thought that the Whitehaven Councillors on Cumberland Council should be attending the Town Council Meetings. Everyone with an interest in their community should be at the Town Council meeting to see what they were doing.

2245/23 Date and Time of next Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting will be the Annual Meeting on 18th May 2023 at 6.00pm.

IN PRIVATE

2246/23 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. Councillor Roberts proposed this and Councillor Hayes seconded it.

A vote was held and it was unanimously


RESOLVED - That the public and or press be instructed to withdraw from the Meeting

2247/23 Application for Grant – TTCWC

The Council considered an application for a grant of £1,000.00 from TTCWC. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the grant be not awarded. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained

RESOLVED - That the grant be not awarded

The Meeting closed at 7.00pm


Chairman