

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th April 2019

Present: Councillors G Roberts (Chairman); J Forster; R Gill; C Hayes; J Kane; C Maudling; B O’Kane; J Rayson; C Walmsley

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Elena Davis. Whitehaven Town Council Ranger

Cliff Walker, Copeland Borough Council’s Deputy Community Services Manager

Representatives from Buzy Bees Software Systems

Representatives from Blue Sky Trust

Members of the Public

1271/19 Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lowrey and Councillor Poland

1272/19 Declarations of Interest

There were no declaration of interest.

1273/19 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th March 2019

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the Minutes for the Council Meeting on 28th March 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting on 28th March 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1274/19 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 17th April 2019

It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 17th April 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 17th April 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1275/19 **Public Participation**

- i. Elena Davis, Whitehaven Town Council's Ranger introduced herself to the Council and did a short presentation on the type of work she was carrying out for the Council including the work starting very shortly on Whitehaven in Bloom and said she hoped to do a good job and make Whitehaven a town to be proud of.
Councillor O'Kane said that working with the Open Spaces Team has been an excellent way forward and the Chairman thanked Elena for her work and said that people had been telling him how much better the town had been looking.

1276/19 **Planning Applications**

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications received and shown at Appendix 1.

Councillor Roberts stated that in respect of Planning Application CH/4/19/2116/0F1 that the access for cars was only 96 inches and that this was not wide enough. The Council had no representations to make on any of the other planning applications on Appendix 1 and it was

RESOLVED – That a letter be sent to CBC Planning Department informing them of Councillor Roberts' statement on planning application CH/4/19/2116/0F1 and that there were no representations on any of the other planning applications on Appendix 1.

1277/19 **Financial Report**

The Council considered a Financial Report

- i. The Assistant Clerk reported that there were 3 additional invoices to be added to Appendix 1
 - Viking for £35.02
 - Cumbria Media for £42.00
 - CBC for £656.93

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 and the additional 3 invoices above be approved and paid.

RESOLVED – That the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 and the additional 3 invoices above be approved and paid.

- ii The Council considered Appendices 2 and 3 relating to the Cashbook and Income and Expenditure. It was reported that the Chairman had spent £100 from his Chairman's Allowance to buy prizes for the model making Competition.

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

RESOLVED – That the Cash Book and Income and Expenditure at Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted

1278/19 **Council's Website**

The Council considered a report about the increase in the hourly rate of the Council's website provider from £12 to £24 for uploading documents and considered the way forward particularly as to commissioning a new website with the Council doing its own uploading.

It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Rayson that in accordance with Financial Regulations the Council seeks quotes from website designers for the provision of a new website and that in the meantime the Council continue to use the current web provider at a cost of £24 per hour.

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Financial Regulations the Council seeks quotes from website designers for the provision of a new website and that in the meantime the Council continue to use the current website provider at a cost of £24 per hour.

1279/19 **Whitehaven Appsolutely**

The Council heard a presentation from Buzy Bees Software Services on the Whitehaven Appsolutely Town App. and considered a report on this.

They said they were looking for investment/sponsorship/grants as they were a small business with limited finances.

It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Gill that the presentation be noted and that the new Council be asked to liaise with Buzy Bees to work out a way to progress this.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted and that the new Council be asked to liaise with Buzy Bees to work out a way to progress this

1280/19 Market Officers Report

Cliff Walker , CBC's Deputy Community Services Manager attend the meeting to give a report on Whitehaven Market. He said things had not been going well but that he was giving a commitment to the Council to move things forward starting off by reinvigorating the Stakeholders Group. He said there had only been a negligible improvement in the Market and the right people needed to be involved to move the market forward.

He asked for a little leeway for CBC to improve things.

It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Gill that a letter be sent to CBC expressing the Council's severe concern over the lack of progress with respect to Whitehaven market and its development during the last 12 months' period.

RESOLVED – That a letter be sent to CBC expressing the Council's severe concern about the lack of progress with respect to Whitehaven market during the last 12 months' period

1281/19 Presentation by Inspector Richard Smillie

Inspector Smillie presented a Police Update Report which was included in the Agenda and made the following points:-

- There had been an increase in thefts from vehicles in the Bransty and Hillcrest areas and extra patrols had been allocated to these areas.
- There is still an issue with drugs in the town centre
- Policing is a priority in Whitehaven town centre
- Drinking in St Nicholas Gardens – the Police were supporting CBC with their PSPO
- The ASB figures compared with this quarter last year show a reduction figure of 25% to 30%

The Council thanked Inspector Smillie for attending.

No decisions were taken as it was an information item only.

1282/19 Merchant Navy Day – 3rd September 2019

The Council considered a letter received from The Seafarers UK requesting the Council to take part in this event and :-

- Fly a red ensign – the British Navy's official flag on 3rd September 2019
- Organise a flag hoisting ceremony for local dignitaries etc
- Promote this on social media etc

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Rayson that 4 red ensigns be purchased and that the organisation of this event be dealt with by the Events Advisory Group.

1283/19 Events Advisory Group

The Council considered a report on the budget for the organised events in 2019. Expenditure shown in black had previously been agreed by Council and expenditure shown in red had been recommended for approval by the Events Advisory Group.

The Assistant Clerk said that 4 quotes had been received for the provision of the marquee and that the quote from a firm in the sum of £21116.20 although not the lowest quote received was favoured as they had been helpful

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that :-

- i. The quote of £2116.20 for the marquee be accepted
- ii. That expenditure of £120.00 for the face painter be approved
- iii. That expenditure of £100.00 for the balloon modeller be approved
- iv. That additional giant foamex hardboards be purchased

- RESOLVED -**
- i. That the quote of £2116.20 for the marquee be accepted
 - ii. That expenditure of £120.00 for the face painter be approved
 - iii. That expenditure of £100.00 for the balloon modeller be approved
 - iv. That additional giant foamex boards be purchased

Councillor O’Kane said that on behalf of the Council he would like to thank Gerard Richardson for all his help in organising the events.

1284/19 Whitehaven in Bloom Advisory Group

The Council considered a report on discussions held with CBC and the Council’s preferred supplier of flowers regarding flowers/bedding plants for autumn/winter 2019/2020.

The cost of flowers/bedding plants for autumn/winter 2019/2020 was £2,478.00 plus VAT.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the expenditure of £2,478.00 plus VAT for the autumn/winter flowers/bedding plants be approved .

RESOLVED – That the expenditure of £2,478.00 plus VAT for the autumn/winter flowers/bedding plants be approved.

1285/19 Allotments Advisory Group

The Council considered a report containing recommendations following a meeting of the Allotment Advisory Group on 12th April.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that report recommendations 2.5; 2.6; 2.7; 3.1 and 3.5 (request for shillies) be approved.

RESOLVED – That report recommendations 2.5; 2.6; 2.7; 3.1 and 3.5(request for shillies) be approved.

1286/19 **Contract for Seasonal Operative and Ranger**

The Council considered the contracts with CBC for the provision of a Town Council Ranger and a Seasonal Operative both on 3 days a week for the Town Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Kane and seconded by Councillor Walmsley that the Contracts for the Whitehaven Town Council Ranger and Seasonal Operative be approved and signed on behalf of the Council by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

RESOLVED – That the Contracts for the Whitehaven Town Council Ranger and Seasonal Operative be approved and signed by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

1287/19 **Councillor Matters**

- i. Councillor Kane said that the buses on Lowther street were blocking visibility from Church Street and asked why a mirror couldn't be put on to help motorists.
- ii. Councillor Walmsley said there was a lot of bullying in the area and asked if there could be some workshops on this in the schools.
- iii. Councillor Forster said there had been a problem with the play park at Hensingham and that the surface of it had been pulled. CBC were getting quotes to repair it.
- iv. Councillor Gill asked if he could have the monies raised for his charities during his year as Mayor which had been banked.
- v. Councillor Maudling said people in town were giving a lot of compliments about what the Town Council was doing.
- vi. Councillor Rayson said that she wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone and to wish everyone well for the future.
- vii. Councillor Hayes said that opposite the shop on Kells there used to be a camera and asked if there was any chance that it could go back up.

1288/19 **Date and Time of Annual Town Council Meeting following the Election**

RESOLVED – That the Annual Town Council Meeting be on Thursday

16th May 2019 at 6.30pm in the Ennerdale Room at the Whitehaven Civic Hall.

1289/19 **Date of Annual Parish Meeting**

RESOLVED – That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on Tuesday 21st May 2019 at 6.00pm in the Ennerdale Room at the Whitehaven Civic Hall

1290/19 **IN PRIVATE**

Prior to the following items of business the Chairman moved the following Resolution

That in view of the special or confidential nature of business about to be It is advisable in the public interest that the public and/or press be instructed to withdraw.

This was seconded by Councillor O’Kane

RESOLVED – That the public and/or press withdraw from the room.

1291/19 **ACTION For Communities**

Representatives from ACTION For Communities attended the Council meeting to discuss the present situation with regards to the Community Plan. There had been a poor response to the community questionnaire.

This was a discussion and no decisions were taken but it was agreed that this would be a good opportunity to restart the process in May 2019 when the new Council is in place.

1292/19 **Grant Application – Blue Sky Trust**

The Council considered an application from Blue Sky Trust for a grant of £6,900 to fund the set up of a support group for people with HIV in Cumbria and listened to a presentation on this. An undertaking was given that any money awarded would be spent in Whitehaven.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to Blue Sky Trust on the proviso that the money will be spent in Whitehaven.

RESOLVED – That a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to Blue Sky Trust on the proviso that the money will be spent in Whitehaven.

1293/19 **Grant Application – Always Another Way**

The Council considered an application from Always Another Way for a grant of £1,000 to help towards the cost of a 5 day First Responder Course for 12 people in the community.

It was proposed by Councillor Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a grant of £1,000 be awarded to Always Another Way.

RESOLVED – That a grant of £1,000 be awarded to Always Another Way.

1294/19 Defamation, Bullying and Harrassment

Further to Minute 1270/19 it was reported that the legalities of taking a certain course of action had been investigated with CBC and the Clerk gave the Council the details.

It was proposed by Councillor Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that an Individual(s) be blocked from the Council's systems to secure the safety and wellbeing of staff and Councillors and to block vexacious, repetitious and persistant emails.

RESOLVED – That an individual(s) be blocked from the Council's systems to secure the safety and wellbeing of staff and Councillors and to block vexacious, repetitious and persistant emails.

The Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chairman

