

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on the Zoom Platform on 24th September 2020

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Jenny Brumby CBC Buy Local Scheme Co-ordinator

Members of the Public

1607/20 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence

1608/20 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Maudling declared that he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel
Councillor O’Kane declared that he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel
Councillor Roberts declared that he was a member of Cumbria County Council

1609/20 Public Participation

There was no public participation

Councillor O’Kane asked if Councillor Arrighi was still present in the meeting and she said she was struggling with the network.

1610/20 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th August 2020

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th August 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 6 Councillors

- V Gorley £3.99 for toilet rolls
- Ace Shelters £4,434.00 for bus shelter Sneckyeat
- Cumbria Media £98.25 for software for next 12 months

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Invoices at Appendix 1 including the 5 additional payments be approved. and paid. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for and 4 Councillors abstained.

RESOLVED – That the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 including the 5 additional payments be approved and paid

(ii) The Council considered Appendices 2 and 3 and it was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Hayes that these be approved and noted. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for and 4 Councillors abstained.

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

The Chairman wished 2 points to be noted

1. That after discussions with Mayor Starkie following CBC's small business rate relief review and after a re-evaluation the Town Council will be receiving an amount of £10,000.00
2. That the organisation that the Council donated £1600 to to produce the scrubs at the very start have found that they received significant additional donations after ours and they are therefore refunding our donation.

1613/20 Concerns of Bay Vista Residents Group

The Chairman informed the Council that this item had been withdrawn.

1614/20 Shop Local Campaign – Presentation by Jenny Brumby

The Council heard a presentation from Jenny Brumby CBC's Buy Local Scheme Co-ordinator CBC's front face business support officer under the Shop Locally Scheme. Jenny made the following main points;

- She would be travelling throughout Copeland and giving all businesses support and that the most important thing was partnership with Town Councils, Parish Councils and most importantly the public
- People close businesses because there is not enough footfall coming through the doors and so we need to work together to support them
- She was working with Newsquest to do a media campaign funded by CBC and that all authorities were given the choice of nominating and promoting 3 businesses

- She would like to meet with Councillors and walk round Whitehaven town centre as businesses had been feeding back to her about problems with weeds, cigarette ends and that she wanted to deal with this quickly and have a big clean up with the support of CBC – working in partnership.
- A list would be created of how properties market themselves and what CBC could do as a service provider and that she would collate all the information and take it to CBC. She said she wanted to work in partnership with CCC as they had responsibilities themselves
- Jenny referred to the Market and said people wanted to go back to how it was 100 years ago but that that was never going to happen and that we have to offer something different. She said the idea was to set up a young entrepreneurs' market in the Market Place and up the centre of King Street to encourage people into the town and into the shops. Free stalls could be offered and also small business grants to people wanting to start up a business as we need to grow this economy. Also different options eg indoor market were being discussed
- Covering empty shop windows with artwork
- Jenny said that she would be happy to walk around the town once a month with Councillors so that ideas could be discussed
- Perhaps sending out letters to businesses about the importance of them keeping the fronts of their premises clean and free from litter
- Jenny said that covid has changed things but the project was about bringing people back to the town centres and so we have to offer different things

A discussion and question and answer session followed during which Councillor O'Kane asked if Councillor Maudling would be prepared to be the key contact for this project because we needed someone with a depth of knowledge of town centre retailing business. Councillor Gill said he thought Councillor Maudling was the ideal person for this task. Councillor Maudling said he would be happy to work alongside Jenny Brumby.

Following a discussion it was agreed that together with Councillor Maudling talking the lead all Councillors should have an input and be part of the project. Jenny Brumby then asked the Council to let her have the 3 nominated businesses. The Chairman thanked Jenny Brumby for attending the Council Meeting.

No formal decisions were made as it was a presentation.

1615/20 **Catenary Wires and Christmas Lights**

Members will recall that at the Council Meeting in August 2020 it was resolved that Financial Regulations be suspended to—

- a) Allow CCC to remove the damaged catenary wires, purchase new catenary wires and install the new catenary wires at a cost of £2,600 plus VAT and
- b) Erect, maintain repair and dismantle the Christmas lights in the sum of £24,400 plus VAT

subject to the reasons for the suspensions being discussed and recorded and the assessments of the risks considered. Members considered the reasons for the suspensions and the assessments of the risks at paragraphs 1.3 and 1.4 of the report and it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that having considered and recorded the reasons for the suspensions and the assessments of the risks that the Council suspends Financial Regulations so that CCC can undertake the works in a) above in the sum of £2,600.00 plus VAT and in b) above in the sum of £24,400.00 plus VAT

RESOLVED – That having considered and recorded the reasons for the suspensions and considered the assessments of the risks that the Financial Regulations be suspended so that CCC can undertake the works in a) above in the sum of £2,600.00 plus VAT and in b) above in the sum of £2,600.00 plus VAT.

1616/20 **Councillor Wards Grants**

The Council considered a report on Councillor Ward Grants and the criteria for awarding them. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the item be moved to a meeting of the Policy and Resources and Finance Committee to discuss the whole gamut of Ward Grants and then make recommendations to the next Annual Meeting. A vote was taken and Councillor G Dinsdale wished it to be noted that she would not be taking part in an unlawful vote. 7 Councillors voted for the proposal, 1 Councillor voted against, 1 Councillor abstained and 3 Councillors did not vote.

RESOLVED – That the item be moved to a meeting of the Policy and Resources and Finance Committee for discussion and then make recommendations to the next Annual Meeting.

1617/20 **Quotes for the Removal of the Council's Safe from Room 3 Whitehaven Civic Hall to 148 Queen Street**

The Council considered a report containing quotes for the removal of the Council's safe from Room 3 at Whitehaven Civic Hall to the Council's offices

at 148 Queen Street.

Four Companies were invited to quote as follows –

Company A	£1,000.00 plus VAT
Company B	£1,595.00 plus VAT
Company C	£1,800.00 plus VAT
Company D	Would not quote as not cost effective

All Companies had provided details of their public and product liability insurances for £5,000,000.00 and Employee liability for £10,000,000.00 and would produce a risk assessment if their quote was successful.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the quote from Company A be accepted. A vote was held and 11 Councillors voted for and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED – That the quote from Company A in the sum of £1,000.00 be accepted.

1618/20 **Proposal for unitary Council for Cumbria**

The Council considered a report containing an email received from CALC about CCC's proposal for the creation of a single new unitary authority for the whole of Cumbria. Following a discussion on this it was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the information in the email from CALC be noted and that CALC be requested to keep the Council up to date on this.

RESOLVED - That the information contained in the email from CALC be noted and that CALC be requested to keep the Council up to date on this

1619/20 **Whitehaven in Bloom**

The Council considered a report about summer planting in 2021 and a quote that had been received for this from the Council's preferred supplier in the sum of £6,368.10 excluding VAT. for the works detailed in paragraph 1.1 of the report. The quote had been put in at this time because the supplier had to put in his main bulk order for flowers for 2021 as soon as possible.

The Council were asked if they wished to consider suspending Financial Regulations to allow the preferred to supply the flowers to the Council for summer 2021. To do this the Council would have to make a resolution and also consider and record the reasons for suspension and also consider a risk assessment. The reasons for the suspension and the risk assessment were included in the report. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a) the Council makes a resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11 to allow the flowers to be purchased from the preferred supplier in the sum of £6,368.10 and then b) to agree and record the

reasons for suspension and the assessment of the risks be accepted and approved. It was unanimously

RESOLVED – a) that the Council suspends Financial Regulation 11 to allow the flowers to be purchased from the preferred supplier in the sum of £6,368.10 and then

b) that the reasons for suspension be agreed and recorded and the assessment of the risks be accepted and approved

1620/20 **Website Accessibility**

The Council considered a report on compliance with The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations which required Councils to have an Accessibility Statement in place from 23rd September 2020 and a draft Statement had been prepared and uploaded onto the Council's website subject to any changes that Councillors might wish to make. The Council's Website Provider had purchased and installed software to make the Council's website accessible in line with the requirements of the Regulations.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor E Dinsdale That the report be noted, the draft Accessibility Statement approved and the expenditure of £104.06 for the software be approved.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted, the draft Accessibility Statement be approved and the expenditure of £104.06 for the software be approved.

1621/20 **Councillor Matters**

- i. Councillor Gill thanked the Council for providing the bus shelter at Sneckyeat
- ii. Councillor Maudling referred to the saga of CCC and the Bus Station and Tangier Street and wondered will it be finished this millennium. He said that it was driving people out of town
- iii. Councillor Rayson said that the Talking newspaper had moved in and that that was brilliant. She said she had the following issues –
 - There was an issue with dog poo on a path between Winchester Drive and Sandhurst Drive and in the long term a campaign would be needed to stop it.
 - Recycling – some recycling had not been collected but the issue was with the communications from CBC as the collection dates on their website were not being updated. Councillor Rayson had spoken to Marissa Joyce from CBC and following this Shirley Proctor CBC's Community Services Manager for Waste said she would like to come to the next Council Meeting to explain about recycling, give some points of contact and the plans going forward.

- Standings Rise – there was standing water at the bottom and she had contacted Councillors Studholme, Forster and Wonnacott about this.
 - St Benedicts. Councillor O’Kane said that the County have committed to undertaking a watercourse survey.
- iv. Councillor Rayson referred to the development at St Benedicts and said the traffic at St Benedicts and Red Lonning was not acceptable. A child would be killed and there was no access for emergency services between 2.45 and 3-00, She said it was not a Town Council responsibility but residents kept coming to her about it and it just couldn’t be ignored. She said there were more cars because the buses have been knocked off
 - v. Councillor Hayes said there were problems on Kells and that there was going to be an ASBO meeting with the Police and the FS
 - vi. Councillor Hayes asked Councillors not to pass on any Council emails that they received to third parties.
 - vii. Councillor Gemma Dinsdale referred to the bus shelter on Tower Hill and said that the Clerks had not progressed this but that she had received a reply within 2 hours and asked why she had to do that. She said the residents were wanting it sorted before the kids went back to school.
 - viii. Councillor Gemma Dinsdale referred to school uniforms and said she was in discussions for this but that she would only be doing it for Corkickle but that others could join in the campaign and do it in their own Wards.
 - ix. Councillor Gemma Dinsdale said she had had a report about ongoing bullying at St Benedicts school and asked if there was anything she could do with the school or anything to support the Ward Councillor. There had been a similar incident at St Joseph’s school.
 - x. Councillor Edwin Dinsdale referred to adoption of roads drains at Garlieston Court and said it was still ongoing. He said there were issues around the steps on the coast to coast path and that he was waiting for CBC to adopt and repair them.
 - xi. Councillor E Dinsdale referred to Item 7 on the Agenda and the impact Item 7 had on Corkickle and asked why the item was taken off the Agenda. The Chairman replied that it was taken off at the request of the applicant.
 - xii. Councillor Redmond said kids were standing at the bus stop that had been moved and were putting their bikes on it.
 - xiii. Councillor O’Kane said that the situation of the roads at St Benedicts had deteriorated over the last 15 years and said it was a shame that the Town Council could not do anything about this except to express an opinion.
 - xiv. Councillor O’Kane said he had had complaints about overgrown areas at Bransty and these had been passed to the Ranger
 - xv. Councillor O’Kane said there was disquiet on aspects of flooding
 - xvi. Councillor O’Kane referred to recycling and said there had been 2 incidents where recycling had been left for 4 days
 - xvii. Councillor Hayes said that certain of our Councillors are running media sites which they are entitled to do but that when Councillors have control

- over websites asked them to exercise a degree of care when allowing posts to go on them.
- xviii. Councillor Arrighi said it looked like Christmas was going to be cancelled and said that she would like to provide hampers for Christmas and would bring this to the next Council meeting. She then went on to say that she wanted to know how LB had found out her address in Glasgow as the only person who has that address is the Clerk. She said two people had stayed at her flat in Glasgow, Graham Roberts and Mike Starkie but didn't think either of them would remember her address.
- xix. Councillor Rayson said that if any school says there's no bullying then they're burying their heads in the sand. She said she would like to meet all the Heads of the schools in her Ward and would like to support them and hoped to email them next week.
- xx. Councillor O'Kane said that if anyone posts anything that is applicable to ourselves that it is positive and that every Councillor makes sure that the Town Council gets recognition.
- xxi. Councillor O'Kane said that he had asked for a visit to St Benedicts and was still waiting.

1622/20 Date of next Meeting

The date of the next Council Meeting be on Thursday 29th October 2020 at 6.00pm

The Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Chairman

