

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29th March 2018

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
V. Gorley Trainee Assistant Town Clerk
Councillor Mike Hawkins, Cumbria County Council
Matthew Labourne, Colourful North
Andrea Winders, Disruptive
Members of the Public

941/18 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Guest, Councillor Laine and Councillor Lowrey

942/18 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Maudling declared that he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel.

The Chairman said there were three presentations and that the order of items on the Agenda might have to be altered

943/18 **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22nd February 2018**

Councillor Maudling proposed that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Roberts.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

944/18 **Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 13th March 2018**

The Chairman read out an email from Councillor Laine regarding these Minutes which said that there was no show of hands to appoint Burnetts to give legal advice and therefore the decision was not lawful.

The Chairman wished it to be noted that if Councillors had issues with regard to

Council they are either said in Council or somebody asks and puts them into the next meeting and voices their concerns there. The Chairman said they needed to decide as a group. Councillors said that in their opinion they had voted and the Clerk had asked for the wording of the resolution at the time.

Councillor Gill proposed that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Roberts.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

945/18 **Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 21st March 2018**

Councillor Gill proposed that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor O’Kane

RESOLVED - That the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

946/18 **Public Participation**

There was no public participation

947/18 **Planning Applications**

The Council considered a report on planning applications received and shown at Appendix 1.

Councillor O’Kane said the only objection he had received was from a resident who was concerned about a snooker hall being located at the former B&M premises (application no. CH/4/18/2112/0F1) and this was about whether this would receive planning permission before the office development. The concern was that two different aspects were being put forward to this particular area of the town.

Councillor Maudling said this would be temporary planning permission for two years. There was also the issue of parking provision for any development in that area.

Councillor Roberts referred to planning application CH/4/18/2118/0F1 and said he had concerns about access and drainage.

RESOLVED - That the Clerk inform CBC Planning Department about planning applications nos CH/4/18/2112/0F1 and CH/4/18/2118/0F1 giving the Councils representations as stated above.

948/18

Financial Report

The Council considered a Financial Report and it was :-

RESOLVED – (i) That the invoices shown at Appendix 1 be approved and paid

(ii) That the Cash Book and Income and Expenditure shown at appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted

(iii) that in response to Minute 909/18(iii) this had been checked with CALC and their response printed below be noted and approved:-

“My view is that the system you operate is correct. The Council needs to be satisfied that the payment is proper and the minute in whatever way you word it has to say that but what you record in the cash book by way of cross reference is not a matter for Councillors and provided you satisfy your internal auditor you need not take any action.”

949/18

Presentation by Councillor Mike Hawkins on his Role as Member Champion for Autism in Cumbria

The Council considered a report by and a presentation from Councillor Mike Hawkins who is the Cumbria County Councillor Member Champion for Autism.

He said he had a lot of good ideas to bring to the table:-

- Making places autism friendly
- Stickers in shops to say they are autism aware/friendly
- Help in accessing benefits

Councillor Maudling said he would bring it to the attention of the Chamber of Trade.

The Council thanked Councillor Hawkins for his informative presentation and said that they fully supported all that he had said.

RESOLVED - That this be noted and Councillor Hawkins be thanked for his Presentation.

950/18

Presentation by Matthew Labourne from The Colourful North on Street Art

The Council heard a presentation on street art from Matthew Labourne. Matthew said that street art was a way of turning round dull uninteresting areas,

transforming industrial areas and that that promoted tourism and businesses flourished.

He circulated pictures and talked about street art in various places in the world. He said in Brazil street art had been legalised which had attracted tourism and business. In St Petersburg which is well known for contemporary art the world's first street art museum used street art to complement the contemporary art scene. He said on 9th April 2018 they would be trying to remodel the cattle arch in Mirehouse.

Matthew said the focus was with youth groups and said Whitehaven Rugby League Football were helping to facilitate workshops. He said he had ideas for statement pieces in various places in Whitehaven.

The Council asked how it could help and Matthew said he would be pleased to receive any financial backing that the Council could give.

The Chairman thanked Mathew for his presentation and said the Council hoped to hear from him in the future.

RESOLVED – That Matthew be thanked for attending and giving the presentation and that it be noted.

951/18

Presentation by Andrea Winders and Alison McDonagh from Disruptive

The Council heard a very enthusiastic presentation from Andrea Winders of Disruptive.

She said she had chosen Whitehaven as the first project and said that the first thing she did was to look at the demographics of the town and how it could become known for something other than Sellafield.

She said to start with she created an engine and made the following points:-

- All ideas go into the pot and then we spin them out into viable projects or viable businesses
- She said she was not asking for money as there was kick-start funding already in place
- The town will own a percentage of the businesses
- The first project was the Pelican tall ship which had arrived in the harbour. The Pelican was going to be a training ship and they would be taking kids on it.
- They will also be reuniting dads and lads on the ship
- The college will also be using the ship as part of their apprenticeship scheme
- The ship will only be out of port when sailing and would be gone for a couple of months during summer and winter months
- They were looking at retail and housing and bringing in a lot of investment and capital
- They would be bringing in a digital business

Andrea Winders said she would like to come back to the Council periodically to report on the project and the Council welcomed this. The Council thanked

Andrea Winders for an excellent and inspiring presentation.

RESOLVED - That Andrea Winters be thanked for an excellent presentation and looked forward to meeting with her again.

952/18 **Market Report**

The Council considered an update report on the market. Following a discussion it was

- RESOLVED** – (i) That CBC be asked to break the report down and provide more information on how many stalls were occupied on each market day and the type of stalls on the market.
(ii) That a forward plan for the market be produced
(iii) That the Chairman raise this with Mayor Starkie and report back to the Council.

953/18 **Allotments Report**

The Council considered a report on allotments containing recommendations made by the Allotment Advisory Group on 16th March 2018. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the recommendations made by the Allotments Advisory Group and the amendments to the existing Allotment Agreement be approved.

RESOLVED - That the following be approved

- That vacant plot 33a at Cartgate be used as a designated storage/delivery area as it is in front of the main access gate
- That disclaimer notices be displayed on the gates to each site
- That Copeland Disability Forum and Kym Allen Safety Consultants be asked about the type of surface suitable for pathways on plot for people with disabilities at Midgey for both electric and manual wheelchair users
- That the new maintenance contractor be responsible for filling in the potholes on the communal paths on the Allotment sites
- That the new maintenance contractor carry out a site survey to help tackle the problem of pest control in particular rabbits at Midgey and Crow Park
- That the new maintenance contractor carry out a site survey and assess if and where new taps could be installed together with an estimated cost

- That the skip provider be asked if larger skips could be installed together with the estimated cost
- That the Allotment sites be given 2 skips per site per year one at the end of March and one at the end of September
- That no sub letting/assignment or parting with possession of the allotment garden or any part of it be allowed
- That an extra clause be added onto 2.4.5 of the tenancy agreement to say that “The Tenant of an allotment garden shall disconnect any hose pipe from the tap and coil it up and remove it after each use and in any event when they leave the allotment site and must leave the water tap in a closed position. If the tenant fails to do this it will be a breach of the tenancy agreement which may result in further action being taken.”
- That bonfires be not allowed on allotment sites
- That the remaining amendments to the tenancy agreement and risk assessment be agreed as shown on Appendix 1 and 2.

954/18 **Update on St Nicholas Gardens**

The Chairman apologised for not providing a report but said that things had been changing quickly. He said CBC had agreed to cut the grass each month and the hedges twice a year. The Chairman asked if the Council could contribute to putting flower beds in and provide flowers and said that the provision of flowers would need to be put out to quotation.

The Chairman said that CBC had submitted labour costs for removing a number of conifers, making space for flowers, weeding and irrigating all four areas, supplying topsoil and applying grass in the sum of £1841.42.

Following a discussion where all Councillors were very keen to help St Nicholas as it was a centre point in town for tourists and residents, Councillor Gill proposed that up to £10,000.00 be allocated (to include the £1841.42 mentioned above) for St Nicholas Gardens. This was seconded by Councillor Maudling.

- RESOLVED** – (i) That up to £10,000 (including the £1841.42) be allocated for The improvement of St Nicholas Gardens
(ii) That quotations be sought for flowers for the flower beds

955/18 **Update on MV700 Gladiator Chewing Gum Removal Machine**

Councillor Maudling said that all businesses in King Street and the Market Place

were very pleased with the results of the Gladiator machine. The Chairman said that extra areas had been done – the area behind the stobs and the side street leading to the former B&M.

The Chairman read out emails from an individual complaining about the Council paying for the Gladiator machine as the Council had no powers to do this and that they were going to report the expenditure to the Council's external auditor.

Councillor Forster said that she had received a lot of positive comments about the town centre.

The Chairman said that the Council had paid the accommodation bills originally agreed with the contractor but the last time they were here was for eight days and the contractor ended up with extra accommodation costs of £700.00 and they had asked if the Council could help out with these.

Councillor Gill proposed that half of the extra accommodation fee be paid to the contractor and this was seconded by Councillor Roberts.

RESOLVED- (i) That the position be noted
(ii) That £350.00 be paid to the Contractor in respect of half of the extra accommodation fee

956/18 Playparks and Open Spaces

RESOLVED – That consideration of this be deferred to the next meeting.

957/18 Partnership with Copeland Borough Council for a Ranger for Whitehaven

The Council considered a report on a partnership with Copeland Borough Council to pay £26,800 per annum towards the annual operation costs of employing a Ranger based on that person working 3 days per week exclusively for the Town Council. This had been agreed in principle at an earlier meeting (Minute 766/17 refers) subject to agreeing the job description.

The Council considered the job profile, the contract conditions and the services specification and it was proposed by Councillor Kane and seconded by Councillor Maudling that these be approved and signed by the Mayor and another Councillor by way of acceptance.

RESOLVED – That the job profile, the contract conditions and the service specification be approved and that they be signed by the Chairman and another Councillor by way of acceptance.

958/18 Corruption in Copeland

RESOLVED – That consideration of this be adjourned until Councillor Guest attends.

- (i) Councillor Gill said that he had received an email about a vacant premises in Duke Street, the former Cumberland Electrical Wholesalers which could be adapted for the Council's needs and opened up for community facilities and which was on sale at auction for £70,000 and asked that it be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.
- (ii) Councillor Forster said there was anti- social behaviour now that the light nights had come in the skate park and that bins and fences were being knocked down. Because of this a residents meeting had been arranged with the Hub, the police, Home Group and the people from the skate park and hopefully something could be sorted out.
- (iii) Councillor Kane said there had been the same problems in the park. People had been hammering away at the bandstand and paint had been chipped off and there was graffiti all over it. He said Enforcement needed to go in and fine a couple of people.
- (iv) Councillor Rayson said there had been a couple of community clean ups but they had not been well attended and there was a lot of litter on the verges so it had been agreed to do a litter pick on a fine day. There was an area that they had tried to tidy up but when they looked behind the bushes they found that quite a lot of rubble had been dumped but it was too much for them to remove so a resident was going to ask if Community Services could do anything.
- (v) Councillor Rayson said she had been invited into Jericho School by the School Council and took part in a litter pick around the school. They were putting a letter together to be read to the Council about how appalled they were about all the rubbish lying around the school and what they wanted to do about it. Councillor Rayson she had been invited back after Easter and they would be doing a few little projects.
- (vi) Councillor Rayson said residents had reported an ice cream van which had been appearing on Balmoral Road at the end of the school day and parking on the pavement causing problems and contributing to litter. She said the school were going to address this after Easter.
- (vii) Councillor Maudling said he had had a meeting with the manager of McDonalds who had agreed to sponsor a litter clean in the park and there was a youth group coming to do it and that McDonalds would be giving them a free meal for doing this.
- (viii) Councillor Maudling also mentioned the bandstand to McDonalds and asked if there was any chance of getting sponsorship to have the bandstand painted

with anti graffiti paint and had received positive feedback

- (ix) Councillor Maudling mentioned the amount of traffic on King Street and said it should only be before 10.00am and after 5.00pm but that vehicles were going up and down at all times of the day. He said people were driving through when the traffic was at a stand still on Strand Street and that now the street and the mosaics have been cleaned it was detrimental and the biggest thing was health and safety for kids running out of shops and it was a one way street.
- (x) Councillor O’Kane said the Post Office van was driving down King Street and scattering people. He said he had contacted headquarters of the Post Office and told them that he would do something if they didn’t. The manager said he didn’t know why the vans were driving down the pedestrianised area when there was a back entrance. Councillor O’Kane said the Council needed to put more pressure on the police as this was an inherent danger in a pedestrian precinct.
- (xi) Councillor Kane said the bandstand was ideal for street art
- (xii) Councillor Forster said there was litter picking in Hensingham on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th and all volunteers were welcome

960/18 Date Time and Venue of next Meeting

RESOLVED – That the date of the next meeting be Thursday 26th April 2018 at 6.30 at a venue to be arranged.



The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman