

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 25th July 2019

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Matthew Labourne, The Colourful North

Members of the Public

Grant Applicant

1363/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Arrighi, Councillor G Dinsdale, Councillor Rayson and Councillor L Walmsley .

1364/19 Declarations of Interest

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

1365/19 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th June 2019

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Walmsley that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th June 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th June 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

- i. A member of the public attended on behalf of Bay Vista Residents and gave their objections to planning application CH/ 4/19/2233/001 and asked for the Council's support in this. He handed the Clerk a typed document detailing the objections which were as follows:-
 - The original application was rejected and the amended application was the same except for an amendment to the entrance onto Bay Vista which was to reduce Victoria Road at the junction to Bay Vista by 1 metre.
 - This will increase the danger on an already acknowledged substandard junction
 - Reducing the width will increase the danger of lorries, hgvs and cars coming closer together at speed
 - There is a house and garage directly on the area of road proposed to be reduced by 1 metre but this appears to have been ignored
 - Traffic would be accessing a building site via a road which is not fit for purpose
 - Negotiation of a 16/7% gradient
 - 90 degree bend
 - Increased traffic for 50 houses
 - Restricted access for emergency vehicles

- ii. A member of the public had one further point to make on the same application and asked how their kids would get to school as the secondary kids walked up the road to get to school and cars were going at 60mph and where there were no pavements.

- iii. A member of the public spoke about the serious problem of the lack of sound infrastructure in Whitehaven and made the following points
 - Harras Moor – a recent speed survey showed 1252 cars travelled into Whitehaven via Harras Road
 - 4 potential new housing developments planning to exit onto the unclassified Harras Moor Road. This would give a total of 1176 cars which added to the 1252 would give a total of 1482 potential users of this road - a road which is totally inadequate for this volume of traffic.
 - He couldn't find any statement provided either by CCC or Copeland Highways relating to Harras Road
 - Planning permission for housing developments seems to relate to meeting targets but who sets the targets
 - All around the district in nearly all cases where planning is being sought or given there is a lot of anger from residents

iv. An email from a resident was read out asking for the Council's support for objections to planning application 4/19/2246/PIP and made the following points:-

- Land not been assessed as suitable for development in Local Plan 2013-2018
- To build on this land would represent over development
- It would not be a sustainable development
- Houses in the area are not selling
- There are already 200 empty homes in Copeland
- There are immediate road safety concerns with access onto Victoria Road
- Continued road safety aspects on the wider network
- The proposed development does not meet the economic social or environmental objectives set out in the National Planning Policy Framework 2018 paragraph 8. As a result it cannot be presumed a sustainable development in paragraphs 10 and 11 and the local area's road safety is already unacceptable and the local area's road network safety and access is already severe.

1367/19 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of planning applications received and shown at Appendix 1.

(i) It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Dinsdale that the objections to planning application CH/4/19/2246/PIP (iv above) be supported by the Council and that a letter be sent to Copeland Borough Council's Planning Department to inform them of this.

RESOLVED – That the objections to planning application CH/4/19/2246/PIP (iv above) be supported by the Council and that Copeland Borough Council's Planning Department be informed of this.

(ii) It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Dinsdale that the objections to planning application CH/4/19/2233/001 (i and ii above) be supported by the Council and that Copeland Borough Council's Planning Department be informed of this

RESOLVED - that the objections to planning application CH/4/19/2233/001 (i and ii above) be supported by the Council and that Copeland Borough Council's Planning Department be informed of this.

(iii) It was proposed by Councillor Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the comments made by a member of the public about the lack of infrastructure in Whitehaven (iii above) be supported and that this be forwarded to Copeland Borough Council's Planning Department.

RESOLVED - That the comments made by a member of the public about the lack of infrastructure in Whitehaven (iii above) be supported and that this be forwarded to Copeland Borough Council's Planning Department.

1368/19 **Finance Report**

The Council considered a Financial Report.

- i It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Walmsley that the invoices shown at Appendix 1 be approved and paid.

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

- ii The Council considered Appendices 2 and 3 relating to the cashbook and Income and Expenditure. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor C Walmsley that the Cashbook and Income and Expenditure at Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

RESOLVED – That the Cashbook and Income and Expenditure at Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

1369/19 **Whitehaven in Bloom**

The Council considered a report on Whitehaven in Bloom and that further resources were required to maintain/improve the standard for next year.

- i. It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the contract for the Seasonal Operative be extended to 31st March 2020 at a cost of £10,138.44 and that this be vired from the elections budget which had an underspend.

RESOLVED - That the contract for the seasonal Operative be extended to 31 March 2020 at a cost of £10,138.44 and that this be vired from the Elections budget which had an underspend.

- ii. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor C Walmsley that the Council enter into a partnership with CBC to employ an Assistant Ranger for 3 days a week (with CBC employing for the remaining 2 days) commencing 1st April 2020 at a salary of £20,276.88 per annum and that this be factored into the Budget for 2020/2021.

RESOLVED – That the Council enter into a partnership with CBC to employ an Assistant Ranger for 3 days a week (with CBC employing for the remaining 2 days) commencing 1st April 2020 at a salary of £20,276.88 to be factored into the budget for 2020/2021.

1370/19 **Colourful North**

The Council heard a presentation from Matthew Labourne of The Colourful North who informed the Council that The Colourful North had obtained a licence from Wilkinsons in Whitehaven where the aim was to commission an Art District which would provide both economic and mental prosperity and the proposal was that murals would be painted on the sides of Wilkinsons shop on Church Street and Roper Street. Mr Laybourne said he was asking the Council for a letter of support for this project and also a small grant.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a letter of support from the Council be sent to the Colourful North in support of this project.

RESOLVED – That the Council send a letter of support to The Colourful North in support of this project.

1371/19 **Markets Report**

The Clerk reported that a report had not been received from CBC. However there was to be a meeting of the Market Stakeholder Group week commencing 26th August 2019. The Council expressed concern that a report had not been received. No decisions were made as the report was not available for discussion.

1372/19 **Request for a Defibrillator**

The Council considered a request from the Whitehaven Rugby Union Club for a defibrillator. The club is located on the playground near Morrisons and is also used by Whitehaven Cricket Club and various youth teams from both clubs. The Assistant Clerk said that the Council had bought 7 defibrillators for identified locations but that a defibrillator had been installed by someone else in one of the locations leaving one spare. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor E Dinsdale that the spare defibrillator be offered to Whitehaven Rugby Union Club for them to install on their premises.

RESOLVED – That the spare defibrillator be offered to Whitehaven Rugby Union Club for them to install on their premises.

1373/19 **Cultura Trust**

The Council considered a letter received from the Cultura Trust asking for a letter of support from the Council for the work that they were doing with the Harbour Commissioners to develop, repair and restore the North and West Pier Lighthouses. It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a letter of support for the project to develop, repair and

restore the North and West Pier Lighthouses be sent to Cultura Trust.

RESOLVED - That the Council send a letter of support for the project to develop, repair and restore the North and West Lighthouses to Cultura Trust.

1374/19 **Police Report**

The Council considered a police Update Report from Cumbria Police. A representative from Cumbria Police was unable to attend and therefore the Councillors could not ask any questions.

No decisions were made on this and the contents were noted.

1375/19 **Cumbria in Bloom**

The Chairman reported on the Cumbria in Bloom competition which the Council had entered and which had been judged on 10th July 2019. He said there had been a lot of trepidation about what people were going to say about our town. The Judges seemed very impressed by our town and by the time the judging was finished everyone present felt that all the effort had been worthwhile.

The Chairman said verbal feedback to Whitehaven in Bloom had been positive and now it had to be moved on with the community. He said the results of Cumbria in Bloom would be announced at an awards ceremony in September 2019 and said that a formal letter should be sent to the Bennett brothers to thank them for all their help and guidance.

The report was for information only and therefore no decisions were made.

1376/19 **Office Accommodation**

The Chairman said that matters were progressing towards the purchase of the former Whitehaven News Building and it was expected that it would be completed very shortly.

- (i) It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that the decision made as to who be the signatories for the Contract and the Transfer deed be reaffirmed as Councillor O'Kane and Councillor Roberts and that as Councillor Gill was no longer on the Council that Councillor Hayes be the replacement.

RESOLVED – That the signatories for the Contract and the Transfer deed be reaffirmed as Councillor O'Kane and Councillor Roberts and that as Councillor Gill was no longer on the Council that Councillor Hayes be the replacement.

- (ii) It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Maudling

that authorisation be given for the £150,000 purchase price to be paid on completion of the purchase.

RESOLVED – That authorisation be given for the £150,000 purchase price to be paid on completion of the purchase. Two Councillors abstained in the vote on this.

1377/19

Councillor Ward Matters

- i. Councillor Roberts said that a lady had mentioned that at the top of Rannerdale Drive where the houses run alongside The Mount there is a big open space consisting of a grassed area and overgrown bushes that are going into her garden. He said we need to know who owns this land and who is going to do something about it. The Chairman said Councillor Roberts should submit some photographs showing this land.
- ii. Councillor Walmsley said there were still problems with litter in his Ward. He said there were plenty of bins but that they were not coping with the volume of litter and the number of people using them. He said most of the litter was plastic bottles and cans. The Chairman asked Councillor Walmsley if he could put together a plan of what he wanted and pass it to the Clerk so that this could be discussed with CBC Waste Department.
- iii. Councillor Redmond referred to problems with weeds on a piece of land at the bottom of the road where he lives. The Chairman said he should take some photographs of the precise areas so that these could be passed to CBC's Open Spaces Department.
- iv. Councillor Hayes said he had held a surgery the previous week at Kells and said there had been a small problem with abuse to a new resident who had moved into the area but that this had been resolved.
- v. Councillor Hayes said they now had WOW on Kells which was an organisation where no men were allowed.
- vi. Councillor Maudling said there were no problems at the moment. He said the flowers were making a big difference and he was happy with the police response in St Nicholas Gardens.
- vii. Councillor E Dinsdale referred to Bleng Avenue and Valley Park where there was a grassy area and asked if Alan Clements could have a look at that. He said there were weeds all over Corkickle.
- viii. Councillor E Dinsdale said employees were parking on Coach Road and Inkerman Terrace.
- ix. Councillor E Dinsdale asked about business cards and the Clerk said a report was being prepared and that lanyards for identification badges would arrive during the next week.

IN PRIVATE

1378/19 Prior to the following items of business the Chairman moved the following:-

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.

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

1379/19 **Grant Application – GCA**

The Council considered a grant application from GCA. It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that consideration of the application be adjourned so that Councillor Arrighi could be approached to see if she would give a grant from her Ward Grant

RESOLVED – That consideration of the application be adjourned so that Councillor Arrighi could be approached to see if she would give a grant from her Ward Grant.

1380/19 **Grant Application – POW(SN)**

The Council considered an application from POW(SN) and it was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Maudling that consideration of the application be adjourned to allow the matter to be followed up with the Police Commissioners office regarding possible grant funding from them.

RESOLVED – That consideration of the application be adjourned to allow the matter to be followed up with the Police Commissioners office regarding possible grant funding from them.

1381/19 **Grant Application – WAGFC**

The Council considered an application for a grant from WAGFC and heard a presentation from a representative of the applicant.

It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a grant be awarded as follows:-

- £200 from Councillor O’Kane’s Ward Grant
- £200 from Councillor Hayes’ Ward Grant
- £200 from Councillor Redmond’s Ward Grant
- The remainder of the £889.50 to be paid out of the Council’s Grant Budget

RESOLVED – That a grant be awarded as follows;

- £200 from Councillor O’Kane’s Ward Grant
- £200 from Councillor Hayes’ Ward Grant
- £200 from Councillor Redmond’s Ward Grant
- The remainder of the £889.50 to be paid out of the Council’s Grant Budget

The Meeting closed at 9.00pm

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

Chairman