

# WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Present:** Councillor R Gill (Vice-Chairman in the Chair);  
Councillor E Dinsdale; Councillor C Maudling; Councillor B O’Kane;  
Councillor J Rayson; Councillor R Redmond; Councillor G Roberts; Councillor  
C Walmsley

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public

### **1821/21 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Hayes, Councillor L Walmsley and Councillor G Dinsdale

### **1822/21 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor G Roberts declared an interest in Item 10, bus shelter as he was a member of CCC.

Councillor Maudling declared an interest in Item 6 as he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel.

### **1823/21 Public Participation**

A member of the public (MG) wished to speak on planning application 4/21/2196/0R1. He said:-

Firstly he wished to thank Whitehaven Town Council for giving him time to appeal for their continuing support against yet another development for a further 9 homes on Harras Moor. He said there was now in progress plans for 480 houses and according to the existing planning application for the latest development it will have an agricultural road which could support a further 50 houses. The whole idea of a road down Harras Moor and then down via Hilton Terrace to George Street is criminal from a safety point of view. Those who oppose these developments have had help from numerous councillors on

Whitehaven Town Council and he sincerely hoped it would continue. He said the last time he addressed the Council he voiced an opinion that all the councillors who had the same issues where developments were being proposed with a total lack of adequate infrastructure should get their voices together in opposition. He said they just couldn't go on with unelected people in CBC making serious decisions that will affect communities for long after they have moved on and other people in senior positions where it appears that financial reward is the main driver. He said build houses by all means but in areas where they can be supported by an adequate infrastructure.

The Chairman thanked (MG) for his comments and said the matter would be dealt with during Item 6, Planning Applications.

**1824/21**     **Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

- i. Councillor C Maudling requested the Minutes be amended to show that after the election of the Mayor, Graham Calvin stood up and said "Justice has been done". This amendment was proposed by Councillor Rayson and seconded by Councillor O'Kane. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - that the Minutes be so amended

- ii Councillor E Dinsdale referred to Minute 1795/21 where discussions took place around the wording on the guidelines for Ward Grants and said during the discussion the Chairman in response to himself or Councillor Gemma Dinsdale said if you don't like it you can leave and as this had been reported in the local press it should be in the Minutes of the Meeting. It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Redmond that it be recorded in Minute 1795/21 that the Chairman said to Councillor Gemma Dinsdale "if you don't like it you can leave". Councillor O'Kane asked if the Council could record the context of what had gone on to examine what the 2 or 3 phrases were that led up to that particular comment. The Clerk said that this information would not be part of the Minute and the Chairman said there was a proposal on the table and vote should be taken on Councillor Dinsdale's proposal. A vote was held and 3 Councillors voted for the proposal and 3 Councillors voted against the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained. The Chairman exercised his casting vote and voted against the proposal.

**RESOLVED** – That the amendment be not made

- iii It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the amendment made in 1824/21(i) above. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted for, 1 Councillor voted against and 2 Councillors abstained.

**RESOLVED** -That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the amendment made in 1824/21(i) above.

**1825/21**     **Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

- i    Councillor O’Kane asked if Minute 1819/21 could be amended to include a line that he had spoken extensively in support of the Young Entrepreneurs Market. It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Rayson that Minute 1819/21 be amended to include a line that Councillor O’Kane had spoken extensively in support of the Young Entrepreneurs Market. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained.

**RESOLVED** – That Minute 1819/21 be amended to record that Councillor O’Kane had spoken extensively in support of the Young Entrepreneurs Market.

- ii   It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Rayson that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the amendment made at 1825/21i above. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted for and 3 Councillors abstained.

**RESOLVED** - That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the amendment made at 1825/21i above.

**1826/21**     **Planning Applications**

The Council considered a report on Planning Applications received and the Chairman referred to what had been said in Public Participation about the Harras Moor application and said the Council should be consistent in supporting the group.

Councillor Roberts said Harras Moor was a serious matter and had to be looked at in its context as the road was a rat run and was serving an extensive area not only for people who live there but people travelling to and from the town often at very high speed and also the aspect of the drainage which had never been sorted out and that these matters must be sorted out before any large scale development takes place. He said he was still in negotiations with CCC on this matter.

Councillor O’Kane said he was concerned about the language used in the application. He said he was confused as it looked as if this matter was going towards the Council as an item that had already been passed by Copeland and it was now being checked in terms of the reserved matters for access, appearance, landscaping etc and asked if the Council was able to ask for clarification if this

application was outside of its date because if it was then does the whole aspect of it have to be reapplied or is it that the reserved matters are being dealt with appropriately.

Councillor O’Kane said about 5 or 6 weeks ago he attended a meeting on the Cumbria Road Users Plan for the next 5 to 10 years and the CCC asked for additional points and that he had mentioned Red Lonning, Caldbeck Road etc and the Planners came back to him and said they were not aware of any issues surrounding Red Lonning, Caldbeck Road or the Hensingham area and promised to investigate this further and this investigation fits in with the above issues. He asked if the Council should be asking the main authority what the plans are for the future so that we know how the development fits in to that road development. The Chairman said the CCC would be asked for this information. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that application 4/21/2196/0R1 be opposed for the reasons given and that CBC be informed. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for and 1 Councillor abstained.

**RESOLVED** – That CBC be informed that following consideration of the Planning Applications on Appendix 1 that the Council objects to planning application 4/21/2196/0R1 for the reasons given above and that CBC be informed

## **1827/21 Finance Report**

The Council considered a Finance report.

- i. Appendix 1 – The Assistant Clerk reported that there was 1 additional invoice to consider for £170.00 from Cumbria Media. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor C Walmsley that the Invoices shown on Appendix 1 together with the additional invoice detailed above be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That the Invoices shown on Appendix 1 together with the additional invoice detailed above be approved and paid.

- ii. Appendices 2 and 3 – It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Walmsley that Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

**1828/21 Advertising/Promotion Package for Council Events**

Further to Minute 1727/21 when it was agreed that Councillor Maudling and Gerard Richardson would liaise together to draw up a costed advertisement/marketing promotion package for the Council's events and report back to the Council, the Council considered their report. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the advertising/promotion package for Council events in the sum of £2,687.75 be approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That that the advertising/promotion package for Council events in the sum of £2,687.75 be approved.

**1829/21 Request for Sponsorship/Support**

The Council considered a report on a request received from the Eyes Open Steering Group which was a group based in the North East who were asking for sponsorship/ donations with regard to the provision of support for HIV/AIDS in Cumbria. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that no support be given. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That no support be given.

**1830/21 Bus Shelter at Bransty**

- i. The Council considered a report on the provision of a bus shelter at Bransty. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that provided permission is given by the landowner to install the bus shelter that approval be given to purchase a bus shelter subject to quotes being received. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That provided permission is given by the landowner to install the bus shelter that approval be given to purchase a bus shelter subject to quotes being received.

- ii. It was reported that quotes had been sought for provision of a bus shelter and were as follows

- Company A                      £3,740.00 plus VAT
- Company B                      £3,638.00 plus VAT
- Company C                      £4,269.00 plus VAT

All bus shelters in the past had been purchased from Company A and although not the lowest quote they had provided a good service and always delivered on time. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote from Company A be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the quote from Company A be accepted.

**1831/21 Request to Lease the former Editor's Office in the Council Offices**

Further to Minute 1659/20 the Council considered a report on negotiations for the Lease to Newsquest of a room in the Council's office. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that the Council approve the Heads of Terms to be included in the Lease and that the draft Lease be sent to Newsquest. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That the Council approve the Heads of Terms to be included in the Lease and that the draft Lease be sent to Newsquest.

**1832/21 Recommendations from Events Advisory Group**

The Council considered the recommendations made by the Events Advisory Group at a meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor C Walmsley that all the recommendations made by the Events Advisory Group be approved and actioned. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That all the recommendations made by the Events Advisory Group be approved and actioned

**1833/21 Venue for Council Meetings**

After the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 which was held in the Harbour Gallery at the Beacon Councillor O'Kane asked if the Council could continue to have Council Meetings in the Harbour Gallery as the acoustics were better than in the Civic Hall. The Clerk reported that the hire rate for the Beacon Gallery was £40.00 an hour. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council move to the Harbour Gallery for its Council Meetings. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for, 1 Councillor voted against and 1 Councillor abstained

**RESOLVED** – That the Council move to the Harbour Gallery for its Council Meetings.

**1834/21 Councillor Ward Matters**

- i. Councillor E Dinsdale reported that weedkiller had been sprayed on the roads and kerbs in Corkickle and hopefully this should prevent a lot of overgrowth in the summer.
- ii. Councillor Dinsdale asked if himself and Councillor G Dinsdale could meet with the Clerk so that we can move forward with the 3 litter bins at

the cycle path and also the bus shelter at Loop Road South. The Clerk said she could give him the information and said

- As had been previously said we could only get 2 litter bins installed She had been waiting for several weeks to hear from CBC with a licence to put the bins on their land. Approval had already been received from CBC to confirm that they would empty the 2 bins but the licence was needed to be able to site the bins on the 2 areas of Copeland's land and as soon as this was obtained the bins would be purchased and installed. The Clerk said another reminder would be sent to CBC about this.
- The bus shelter on Loop Road South – it had not been possible to find out who owned the sloping piece of land and as had been said at an earlier Council Meeting it would need to be surveyed as the land would need to be built up as behind the iron railings it slopes down and we could not put a 4-sided bus shelter on the pavement as people would not be able to get by
- A cantilever bus shelter could go on the pavement but there would only be a covering above. The Clerk said she had not been able to find out the ownership of the sloping piece of land but in any event it was likely that a structural engineer would need to go out and have a look at it and the land would have to be built up which could cost a great deal.
- However there was a form of bus shelter – a cantilever bus shelter with quarter sides which would give more protection from the weather and details of this had been sent to Highways England , the owners of the pavement asking if they would give permission for either a cantilever or a cantilever with quarter sides to go on the pavement. No reply had been received.
- With regards to the sloping piece of land CBC, Highways England, and CCC said the land was not owned by them but in any event it would be very costly to erect a bus shelter on that land as it would have to be built up. The Clerk said she had been looking into an alternative which was either the cantilever or the cantilever with quarter sides which could go on the pavement.
- Councillor Dinsdale asked if the Clerk had any time in the next week so that they could meet to discuss the way forward. The Clerk said the way forward was firstly to get the licence from CBC which would solve the problems of the bins and secondly to get a response from Highways England. The Chairman said if the land was not registered and no local authority owned it it was very difficult to find out the ownership and that we had been looking at an alternative site and that it was all in hand.

iii. Councillor Redmond referred to anti social behaviour at the skate park and also littering and anti social behaviour in the Richmond pub area

- iv. Councillor Maudling referred to an over zealous CCC traffic warden and said a retailer on Lowther Street saw them putting a ticket on a white vehicle and the trader was told it could stay there all day as they could not issue another ticket for the vehicle. So that car space was gone for the rest of the day. Then a car which had been parked for several hours was ignored.
- v. Councillor Maudling referred to the unloading bays and how the specification said they could only be used for a van or lorry and this was a problem because a number of independent shop owners used their own vehicle for loading/unloading. So that is being looked into so that people don't get penalised.
- vi. Councillor Maudling referred to the e scooters which were just abandoned everywhere. They were going up and down King Street quite fast driven by the youths on them and he was concerned about the safety aspect as a child could come out of a shop and get hurt.
- vii. Councillor Rayson said in respect to Councillor Redmond's points she had had an email from the Head Teacher at Whitehaven Academy saying they were aware of the antisocial behaviour in the area and they didn't know if it was their pupils but that they were working with other schools in the area. They know there is anti social behaviour at the skate park and were addressing it in assemblies. She said the Head Teacher was wanting to do a litter pick week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> July in conjunction with Hensingham Primary School and had asked if anyone had any specific areas that were untidy and that they were also going to do the skate park and the Richmond pub and this was something they were going to be doing regularly and Councillor Rayson wondered about putting him in contact with the Whitehaven Womblers. The Clerk said she would pass the contact details to Councillor Rayson. Councillor Rayson said if anyone had any ideas of what the kids could be doing to let her know as it was part of the things to be done through the summer along with the Harbour.
- viii. Councillor Rayson said there was still an issue with seagulls and were on the home at Red Lonning. She said there was 200 on the Smurfit roof and it was getting worse particularly with the noise early in the morning. She knew there was nothing the Town Council could do about this but she wanted to bring it to the Council's attention.



- ix. Councillor Rayson referred to Hillcrest Community Centre Closing because Copeland reckoned that
- It hadn't been used for some time
  - There was no interest in it from the community
  - It hasn't been used in the evenings

Councillor Rayson said she had replied saying this was not true as she had attended meetings in the Hillcrest Community Centre in the evening and paid for it and up until the pandemic the Hillcrest Residents' Group were using it every month. She said the problem was that the community wanted to use it but because it was being used as a nursery to do this all the children's work had to be tidied away. She said the community centre needed to be kept open.

Councillor O'Kane said her had got an email that said several of the trustees had resigned in the past and because Rascals were pulling out they don't appear to have any business. He said he found it strange that CBC had said the building would now be kept empty and said why leave it empty when you don't attempt to see if anyone will use it in the future. He said Copeland has this building, decide to close it and don't tell the Town Council and barely tell their own Councillors. The decision had been made without any consultation. He asked if they could contact Copeland. Councillor Rayson said she had asked Barbara Vernon about the number of times it had been used in the last 3 years.

Councillor O'Kane said the Council should be pressurising CBC to say what they were going to be doing now as the building belongs to the public purse. Councillor Gill said you need a group to come in and run it. Councillor Rayson said a lot of residents don't even know it's closing. Councillor O'Kane said the Council should call a public meeting and ask if anyone wants to get together. The Clerk said that it might be better if the call for a public meeting came from the owner of the building – CBC - to see how the public felt and to ask if anyone would be prepared to come forward to run the building. Councillor O'Kane said he would contact Barbara Vernon to ask her if she would allow the Town Council to run a public meeting to see if there was any future for the building. He said all Councillors from all areas needed to be involved and copied in.

- x. Councillor O'Kane said he did not express his views on parking to the Whitehaven News as a Councillor. It was a personal opinion
- xi. Councillor O'Kane said there was a movement at Bransty yet again for a play park. He said this was understandable but didn't know how any play park in the area could be funded without a voluntary £78-£80k and then there would be ongoing maintenance. He said the Council should be pressurising CBC on playparks in our areas.

Councillor Gill said he had been told by CBC about 4 years ago that when play parks fell into disrepair they would not be repaired they would be closed. Councillor Rayson asked how many new families would be going to Harras Moor and where were their kids going to play.

- xii. Councillor Roberts said he wanted it to be noted that he would be asking for confirmation from officers about providing a seat at Harras Moor out of his Ward Grant.
- xiii. Councillor C Walmsley apologised for their lack of attendance which was due to him working long hours and Councillor L Walmsley being ill.
- xiv. Councillor C Walmsley said there was a litter bin at the Skiddaw Road/ Meadow Road junction which was not getting used and asked if it could be moved to the entrance to Mirehouse Pond where there was a build up of litter. The Assistant Clerk said we would need to check if CBC would empty the bin if it was moved.
- xv. Councillor Rayson said the Hensingham Rugby League Club was really grateful for the funding for the tables and benches which have the WTC crest on them and also thanked Councillor Gill for his contribution towards this.
- xvi. Councillor Gill referred to the state of the roads at Hensingham and said a new CCC manager had been appointed and he had been round with Councillor Hawkins and had been talking about getting some priority to deal with the roads in Hensingham

**1835/21 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next Council Meeting be held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 6.00pm at the Harbour Gallery, The Beacon

**IN PRIVATE**

**1836/21** 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 from the meeting.

Councillor Gill proposed this and Councillor O’Kane seconded it. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for and 1 Councillor abstained.

**RESOLVED** – 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 press be instructed to withdraw from the Meeting. All members of the public and press then left the Meeting.

**IN PRIVATE**

**1837/21 Councillor Ward Grant – CVG**

Further to Minute 1771/21 it was reported that Mr Forster could not attend as he was ill. Councillor Arrighi was not in attendance but had sent an email to all Councillors earlier that day regarding the matter.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the previous decision be reiterated and Mr Forster and Councillor Arrighi be reinvited to attend a future meeting of the Council so that they be given a full opportunity to explain. A vote was held and it 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

**RESOLVED** - That the previous decision be reiterated and Mr Forster and Councillor Arrighi be reinvited to attend a future meeting of the Council so that they be given a full opportunity to explain. A vote was held and it 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

The Meeting closed at 7.20pm



Chairman