

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on the Zoom Platform on 25th February 2021

Present: Councillor R Gill (Chairman in the Chair) Councillor C Arrighi; Councillor E Dinsdale; Councillor C Hayes; Councillor R Redmond; Councillor G Roberts

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public

1684/21 Appointment of Chairman

The Clerk opened the meeting and explained that there had been apologies for absence from The Chairman, Councillor Brian O’Kane and the Deputy Chairman, Councillor Julie Rayson and asked for nominations to appoint a Chairman for that evening’s Meeting. Councillor Roberts nominated Councillor Gill as Chairman for the meeting and this was seconded by Councillor Hayes. Councillor Arrighi proposed Councillor Dinsdale as Chairman for the meeting and there was no seconder.

Councillor Gill was appointed Chairman for the Meeting and took the Chair

1685/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B O’Kane, Councillor J Rayson, Councillor C Maudling, Councillor C Walmsley, Councillor L Walmsley and Councillor G Dinsdale

1686/21 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Roberts declared that he was a member of CCC in relation to Item 9 as he was a Trustee of the Piper Educational Trust and for Item 12 as he was a Member of CCC

Councillor E Dinsdale declared that he was an ex-player of Whitehaven Rugby League and that he would be raising something in Ward Matters relating to Whitehaven Rugby League

Councillor Hayes declared that he was the Councillor for Kells and one of the grant applications was from Kells

1687/21 Agenda Alteration

The Clerk asked the Chairman to exercise his discretion under Standing Order 1 and move that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th January 2021 be dealt with before Public Participation. The Chairman agreed to this and asked if anyone had any objection and nobody had.

1688/21 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th January 2021

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th January 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

A vote was taken and 4 Councillors voted for, 1 Councillor voted against and 1 Councillor abstained

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th January 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

1689/21 Public Participation

A member of the public (MH) from Greenbank Community Hub said that he wished to speak and made the following points:

- He said he had a few things for Councillor Arrighi and our estate and ward. He said they had been promised a community sign for their estate and Councillor Arrighi had been up and judged a competition with Mike Starkie and Councillor Arrighi said she would put a fund bid into the Town Council for them to be able to get the sign and he still hadn't got it. The Chairman said the best way forward was that the Council would listen to what he had to say but that the Council would usually answer in writing later on and that the best way would be to put his complaints together and send them to Councillor Arrighi. MH said they did that but nothing gets done and that was why he had brought it to the meeting.
- MH referred to the donation of the hampers at Christmas time when they were told that they were getting hampers and he had received 2 bags and he believed that there were 50 hampers meant for the estate but that they had only got 2 hamper bags which only made 1 hamper for 1 family with himself and other people putting into the hamper. The Chairman asked Councillor Arrighi to make notes on what was being said and respond to MH in due course after the Meeting. Councillor Arrighi said she would and that she did speak to MH about this and said he had asked for a certain number of hampers but he couldn't give any names and addresses of

people who he wanted them to go to and that until he gave her that there was no way she could do it and she just couldn't deliver 6 or 8 to his house without knowing where they were going to and that she could ask Alan Forster to back her up on this because they were all on the WhatsApp group together

- MH asked where the hampers went because he had sent Councillor Arrighi a list and there were 14 families on the estate wanting hampers. Councillor Arrighi said she was sorry about this but because of circumstances she was not down here and relied on other people but that it had been made clear that he couldn't give them the addresses of people who wanted them. MH said if Councillor Arrighi was not here why was she passing the buck. He said Greenbank was the only community that got nothing and that Councillor Arrighi had said she could get him some money from the Town Council in summertime to feed the children but that he had had to go to another source and if it wasn't for Xtreme Fitness the kids again on Greenbank would have got missed. The Chairman said he didn't see any point in going back and forward on this and asked MH to put in writing his complaints about Councillor Arrighi and send a copy to the Clerk.
- MH said he had heard on the grapevine that there was £1,000.00 for their ward before the end of the financial year and he believed that Councillor Arrighi had asked for that to go to another organisation. The Clerk said individual cases could not be discussed. The Chairman asked MH to put it in writing and drop it off at the Council Offices.

The Chairman reported that the Presentation by John Baker, the Chief Executive officer of the Harbour Commissioners would take place at the next Council Meeting

1690/21 Code of Conduct Complaint

The Council considered a report on the result of a code of conduct complaint. The Chairman said it was before the Council and the recommendations of CBC on this and asked Councillor Arrighi if she had anything to say. Councillor Arrighi said she wished to make a statement and said

“Personally, I want to make it clear that I will not be apologising for a matter regarding disclosure of my personal address. This issue has been misinterpreted and inappropriately documented in the Town Council Minutes of September 2020 which I declined to vote for and this is the reason why I declined to vote for it. Also, to add to that I also do not want it disclosed any further from certain Councillors as this would be perceived as bullying and harassment”.

The Chairman referred to the official findings of the Panel on Copeland Council and that being the case asked Councillor Arrighi to confirm that she was not prepared to follow out the recommendations of Copeland Borough Council's committee.

Councillor Arrighi said she had read out her statement and had no comments

after that.

Councillor E Dinsdale asked whose decision it had been to put the Code of Conduct report on the Agenda and was told by the Chairman and Clerk that all Code of Conduct reports were automatically put on Town Council Agendas irrespective of the result, that it was a public document and was on CBC's website and that it would be normal practice for the Clerk together with the Chairman to agree the Agenda

No decision was taken on this and the Code of Conduct report was noted.

1691/21 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications received from CBC and shown at Appendix 1 there were no objections/representations raised on any of applications on Appendix 1 and it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that following consideration of the planning applications on Appendix 1 that CBC be informed that the Town Council had raised no objections/representations. It was unanimously

RESOLVED – That CBC be informed that following consideration of the Planning Applications on Appendix 1 that the Town Council had raised no objections/representations.

1692/21 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance Report.

i. Appendix 1 – The Assistant Clerk reported that there were 5 extra invoices to consider namely

1. Amberol	£3,772.10 plus VAT
2. CCC	£2,600.00 plus VAT
3. CCC	£24,400.00 plus VAT
4. V Gorley	£3.99 batteries
5. V Gorley	£15.20 Postage

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 5 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid. A vote was held and 4 Councillors voted for, 1 Councillor abstained and 1 Councillor did not vote

RESOLVED - That the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 5 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid.

ii. Appendices 2 and 3 – the Council considered Appendices 2 and 3 and it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts

that these be approved and noted. A vote was held and 4 Councillors voted for and 2 Councillors abstained

RESOLVED – That Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted

1693/21 **Piper Educational Trust**

The Clerk gave a report which included a brief history of the Piper Educational Trust which was administered by Copeland Borough Council. CBC had asked if the Council would take over the Trust as the area of benefit was the boundary of Whitehaven as existed in 1924 and that the Clerk had previously administered the Trust when employed by CBC. CBC had asked if the Town Council would consider administering the Trust (with the CBC still holding the accounts and sending regular financial reports) particularly as it was for the benefit of young people in Whitehaven. The Clerk had indicated that there was no objection to this proposal. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council take over the administration of the Piper Educational Trust from Copeland Borough Council. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Council take over the administration of the Piper Educational Trust from Copeland Borough Council

1694/21 **Appointment of Internal Auditor**

The Council considered a report on the appointment of an Internal Auditor for the provision of an internal audit service (two internal audits) for 2021/22. Quotes had been sought from competent and experienced people and one auditor declined to submit a quote and the other quote received was considered by the Council. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the quote received of £500.00 be accepted and the Internal Auditor appointed for 2021/22. Following a vote, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the quote of £500.00 be accepted and that the Internal Auditor be appointed for 2021/22.

1695/21 **HPE Support Package**

The Council considered a report on the HPE Support Service Contract for Hardware which was due for renewal at a cost of £70.56 +VAT for a 1-year contract.

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that a 1-year HPE Support Services Contract be entered into at a cost of £70.56 + VAT.

Following a vote, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That a 1-year HPE Support Services Contract be entered into at a cost of £70.56 + VAT.

1696/21 **Christmas Lighting 2021/22**

The Council considered a report on a quote received from CCC for the erection, repair, maintenance and dismantling of the Christmas lights in 2021/22. This had been carried out by CCC for a number of years. In order to have this work carried out by CCC in 2021/22 the Council had to consider suspending Financial Regulation 11 in accordance with Financial Regulation 18 which states “The council may, by resolution of the council duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of council, suspend any part of the Financial Regulations provided that reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been drawn up and presented in advance to all members of council”. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that Members make a resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11 to allow CCC to erect, maintain, dismantle and repair the Christmas lights in 2021/22 at a cost of £24,400.00 and that the reasons for the suspension contained in the report be recorded and the assessment of risks contained in the report be accepted and approved. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Council suspends Financial Regulation 11 to allow CCC to erect, maintain, dismantle and repair the Christmas lights in 2021/22 at a cost of £24,400.00 and that the reasons for the suspension contained in the report be recorded and the assessment of risks contained in the report be accepted and approved.

1697/21 **Purchase of Extra Christmas Lights**

The Council considered a report on additional lighting required to replace/repair the Council’s existing Christmas lighting stock and were informed that 3 quotes had been sought for extra festoon and lamps. Following a discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that quote C be accepted for the festoon and icicle tube lamps and purchased at a cost of £597.99 + delivery and VAT and quote A be accepted for the lamps for the festoons and purchased at a cost of £1100 + delivery and VAT. A vote was taken and 5 Councillors voted for this and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED – That Quote C be accepted for the festoon and icicle tube lamps and purchased at a cost of £597.99 + delivery and VAT and Quote A be accepted for the lamps for the festoons and purchased at a cost of £1100 + delivery and VAT.

1698/21 **Repainting of the Gazebo**

The Council considered a report on a request from CBC to contribute 50%

toward the cost of repainting the gazebo based on a quote from CBC's contractor. The Council had also received two quotes from local firms for repainting the gazebo both of which were lower. Following a discussion Councillor Roberts proposed that no contribution be made to CBC for the repainting of the gazebo and this was seconded by Councillor Hayes. Councillor Dinsdale made an amended proposal that this matter be deferred to the next Council Meeting to look at the possibility of the Town Council taking on the whole project itself. This was seconded by Councillor Arrighi. A vote was held on the amended proposal and 3 Councillors voted for the proposal and 3 Councillors voted against. The Chairman then exercised his casting vote and voted against the proposal. The amended proposal therefore fell.

A vote was then held on the original proposal and 3 Councillors voted for the proposal and 3 Councillors voted against. The Chairman then exercised his casting vote and voted for the proposal.

RESOLVED – That a contribution to CBC towards repainting the gazebo be not made.

The Chairman reported that the presentation by Jenny Brumby would take place at the next Council Meeting

1699/21 Hensingham Closed Churchyard

The Council considered a report giving details on the maintenance responsibilities of a closed churchyard and also the present position with Hensingham Closed Churchyard.

There were no decisions taken on the report as it was for information only

1700/21 Councillor Ward Matters

- i. Councillor Hayes said they had had a bit of anti-social behaviour on Kells and had another meeting arranged with the Police to discuss ideas on how to counteract this. He said they were getting a couple of student police officers going up there more regularly so that was positive.
- ii. Councillor E Dinsdale wished to raise 2 matters
 - a) He said the cycle path on the C2C goes through 4 Wards – Councillor Maudling's, his own, Councillor C Walmsley's and Councillor L Walmsley's. He said he had been approached by residents about the possibility of getting some bins on the cycle path. Councillor Dinsdale said this was a massive tourist attraction for the area and brings in 100s of thousands of pounds to the Corkickle Ward alone from people who stay overnight and use hotel facilities. He proposed that the Councillors for the Wards which the cycle path went through should get together via a Zoom meeting to look at some

possibilities around improvements for the cycle path and feedback any proposals plus costs to full Council with recommendations and look at how we can move this problem forward. Councillor Dinsdale asked if it would be possible for the Clerk to facilitate a Zoom meeting between the Councillors and the Clerk agreed to this.

- b) Councillor Dinsdale said that he had been approached by the Chairman of WRL, Tommy Todd who had told him that the Club was going through some hardship at the moment due to covid and that he had asked if there was anything that the Town Council could do to try to assist WRL in going forward. Councillor Dinsdale said what he was proposing was to set up another group to look at possibilities as to how we can potentially offer some support for WRL and that he also proposed that we throw this open to all Members who would like to play a part in this Zoom meeting and asked if the Clerk would send an email out to all Councillors to ask if they would like to play a part in this and similar to the first item raised where we could look at some possible improvements that we could make towards the Club and then bring them back to full Council with recommendations. Councillor Gill pointed out that we had had this before and that WRL was a limited company and that as such we could not donate any money to them to help them. Councillor Dinsdale said he took this on board but he was just wanting to look at any possibilities and that the outcome of the potential meeting of the Council might be that we just can't assist but that he thought it was fair if it was agreed that we could put out an email to all Councillors who could then get their heads together and look at any opportunities and possibilities that we might have as a local authority to assist out local professional rugby league team. The Clerk confirmed that an email would be sent out to all Councillors asking who would be interested.

- iii Councillor Arrighi said she would deal with MH's complaints within the next couple of days and resolve the issues he raised tonight.
- iv Councillor Gill referred to the state of the roads at Hensingham and said he was going to do a video and put it on the CCC's website.
- v Councillor Roberts referred to speeding at Harras Moor and said he was dealing with this with CCC.

1701/21 Date of next Meeting

The date of the next Council Meeting to be on Thursday 25th March 2021 at 6.00pm.

IN PRIVATE

1702/21 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 zoom platform.

Councillor Hayes seconded the proposal moved by the Chairman and following a vote it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That in view of the special of 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 zoom platform. All members of the public and press then left the Meeting

1703/21 **Application for Ward Grant – KCPC**

The Council considered a Ward Grant Application from KCPC. The community organisation had applied for its own bank account but until this was finalised would need to pay any monies into another organisation's bank account. All other aspect of the Ward Grant Application were in order. It was unanimously agreed that the Ward Grant of £900.00 be awarded to KCPC.

RESOLVED – That the Ward Grant of £900.00 be granted to KCPC


1704/21 **Application for Grant – WOW**

Councillor Hayed declared an interest as this was on his Ward.

The Council considered an application for a grant from WOW which was s137 expenditure. All other aspects of the Ward Grant Application were in order. Members agreed that that the provisions of s137 were satisfied in this case and that being the case unanimously agreed that a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to WOW

RESOLVED – that the provisions of s 137 were satisfied and a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to WOW.

The Meeting closed at 7.10pm


Chairman

