



# WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 6:00pm in the Solway Hall at Whitehaven Civic Hall, Lowther Street, Whitehaven**

### AGENDA

1. Introduction and welcome from Councillor Chris Hayes of Whitehaven Town Council.
2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
3. Annual Report presented by Councillor Chris Hayes.
4. Report from Councillor Emma Williamson Deputy Leader of Cumberland Council.
5. Report from Cumbria Constabulary.
6. Report from representative from Cumbria Association of Local Councils.
7. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest and ask any questions of the representatives of the two local authorities responsible for Whitehaven. The Police may also be available to answer any questions on community policing.
8. Close of meeting and vote of thanks.

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners on the Electoral Roll for the Parish of Whitehaven to raise any matters of concern to them that relates to their local community. It would be helpful to have written notice of any matters to be raised but it is not essential. Matters can be raised at the meeting without prior notice. For any queries, please contact the Clerk, Marlene Jewell on 01946 67366.

Councillor Chris Hayes  
Chairman, Whitehaven Town Council

## WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Present:** Councillors C Maudling (Chairman); G Dinsdale; R Gill; C Hayes;  
B O’Kane, G Roberts;  
Councillor Mike Hawkins, Cumbria County Council  
Sergeant L Stuart, Cumbria Constabulary  
Mary Bradley, CALC Chairperson  
M Jewell, Clerk  
V Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Councillor Maudling opened the meeting and thanked everybody for attending.

#### **APM/46** Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be signed and approved by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be signed and approved by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **APM/47** Chairman’s Annual Report

The Chairman, Councillor Charles Maudling read his Annual Report which had been previously circulated.

He made the following key points relating to the Council’s activities during the past year: -

- The Proclamation to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee was read by The Town Crier and was attended by Deputy Mayor, Councillor Edwin Dinsdale. During this celebration Donald Messenger from Whitehaven was acknowledged for the 44 years he had been a volunteer with the Whitehaven Male Voice Choir;

- Following the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the Country observed a period of national mourning. A proclamation to King Charles III was read in St Nicholas Gardens;
- Events – The popular children’s science show Edible Insects by the CBBC Presenter Stefan Gates was staged and was free to all schools in Whitehaven with over 280 children attending. Spot the Dog was also in attendance on the day.

The Town Council’s Traders Markets in St Nicholas proved very popular again with the Christmas Market ending with a fabulous firework display which was enjoyed by thousands.

Hundreds of people came to have a look around the tall ship La Malouine during the weekend that she was berthed in the harbour.

The Christmas Lights switch on event was a great success with the young and old being entertained by CFM, Taylors Fair, and an ABBA Tribute band.

- Whitehaven In Bloom – The Town Council continued to fund the floral displays in Whitehaven including St Nicholas Gardens which displayed Union Jack flower beds, Pelican Bed, Trinity Bed, Corkickle Badge Bed which had a tribute for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, all the hanging baskets, barrier baskets, barrels, planters, and tiered planters. This enabled Whitehaven to win Gold award in Cumbria In Bloom’s Pride in Your Community category and that going forward the town would be entered into Britain In Bloom’s competition later that year.
- Street Furniture – A new bus shelter was installed outside the Sheltered Housing Accommodation at Red Lonning; new benches were installed in St Nicholas Gardens to replace ones that were in disrepair and a new bench to commemorate the forthcoming coronation of the new monarch had been purchased;

Councillor Maudling said it had been a privilege and honour to serve as Mayor of Whitehaven Town Council. Councillor Maudling expressed his thanks;

- To his wife Sylvia for supporting and accompanying him in her role as Mayoress of Whitehaven to the many civic functions they had been invited to;



- To the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for all their work they do behind the scenes in organising all the events in addition to providing excellent guidance and support to the Council;
- Gerard Richardson for his invaluable support to the Town Council. His advice and active support had been essential to the Council in being able to deliver successful events;
- Brian Holmes, Cumbria County Council's Street Lighting Supervisor for his expert knowledge and advice with the installation of the town's Christmas Lights;
- Bob and Jim Bennett who supply and helped to plant the flowers for the beautiful displays throughout the year;
- Alan Clements, Contracts Manager at Copeland Borough Council for the continuance of an excellent partnership;
- Whitehaven Town Council Ranger, Elena Dowthwaite, John Wright, and Assistant Ranger Mark Sisson for all their hard work throughout the year, and finally;
- Fellow Councillors of Whitehaven Town Council for their support during his tenure as Chairman and Mayor of Whitehaven Town Council.

**APM/48     Report from Mike Hawkins - Cumberland Council Councillor and former Copeland Borough, and Cumbria County Councillor**

Councillor Hawkins started his report by stating that the past 12 months for County Councillors and staff had been very different to any other due to the preparations for Local Government Reform and that it was important to thank staff who had worked tirelessly preparing for the change whilst still doing their own roles ensuring that the services we all rely on continued as seamlessly as possible.

Despite all the changes that were happening, Cumbria County Council continued to support and invest in our communities. Grants totalling nearly £200,000 had been awarded to Copeland by the local committee, some examples of grants awarded included:

- £8,000 to support Mid Copeland Dementia Friendly Community who ran Education Workshops and activities during Dementia Action Week;

- £3,000 to Active Cumbria to run physical activity sessions for community groups, and
- £5,000 to West Cumbria Domestic Violence Support

The Council had also provided support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis supporting groups from sectors such as Age UK to providing essential items for babies with the Baby Basics Program.

One scheme that Councillors had been closely involved with was the Environment fund which was a £200,000 fund to improve the environment across Copeland and help deliver environmental projects including supporting Cumbria Wildlife Trust Pollinator Scheme and Millom Town Council's sensory planting and benches.

On Highways, Councillor Hawkins said that this issue was never far away from Members' thoughts. A good relationship had been built over the many years with Highways England which resulted in regular meetings. These meetings had proved to be worthwhile and the works now taking place at Moresby was a result of such partnership working.

#### **APM/49 Report from Sergeant Lindsay Stuart of Cumbria Constabulary**

Sergeant Stuart opened her presentation by stating that the crime figures she would be giving this year would be slightly different to the previous year as the localities had changed and St Bees was now included in the statistics whereas it had previously been part of Egremont.

There had been a restructure within the Whitehaven Neighbouring Policing Team. Inspector Richard Smillie was still heading up the team supported by Sergeant Stuart and Sergeant Dave MacDonald.

They had recently carried out a recruitment drive for PCSOs and 4 had been recruited, however 3 of them decided to join the Police force so they only ended up with 1 new PCSO. There was going to be another recruitment drive so hopefully more PCSOs would be recruited.

There had been an increase to the number of PCs. The plan for Copeland was to have 9 Community Beat Officers (CBOs) who would each be given a locality. There would be 1 or 2 CBOs for Millom, 1 or 2 for Whitehaven, 1 for South Whitehaven/St Bees, 1 for North and East Whitehaven which is Hensingham through to



Distington, 1 for Egremont and 1 for Cleator Moor. Each CBO would also have a PCSO working alongside them.

The CBO for Whitehaven Town Centre and Bransty was PC2249 Heidi McCulla. The CBO for Whitehaven South and St Bees was PC2241 Sarah Hindle. PC Hindle was also providing temporary cover of Whitehaven North and East until the new recruit Louise Stubbings took up the post at the end of May.

Mark Fishpool was the PCSO for Whitehaven Town Centre and Bransty. Colette Harrison was the PCSO for Whitehaven South and St Bees. Sam Watson was the PCSO for Whitehaven North and East and supplying backup was Kall White.

Other staffing changes were Gail Buchanan who had been the Local Focus Hub co-ordinator was now a CBO and had been replaced in the Hub by Andrea Hobbs and another 2 new CBOs in Copeland were Sarah Pickering Smith and Kai Diesveld.

In relation to crime figures, overall, they were down by 165% with 2,545 crimes recorded. Burglary was up by 33% with 93 crimes recorded since April 2022. Drug offences were down by 1% with 68 crimes recorded. Crimes against a person were down by 216% with only 1,115 crimes being recorded. Environmental ASB was down by 57.5%. Nuisance ASB was down by 24.2% and Personal ASB was down by 26.2%.

The positive work that had been carried out was with the further issuing of Community Protection Warnings (CPW) which are a tool that the Police can use which puts strict conditions on people to abide by. If a person breaches the CPW then a Community Protection Notice (CPN) is issued. If a person then breached the CPN they could end up with either a fine or going to court.

A CPW was issued to a male in August for publicly urinating in the Town Centre and causing offence. He then breached the conditions of the CPW and was issued with a CPN in November.

A CPW was issued to a female in August for shouting. The condition on the CPW was for her not to shout or cause a nuisance to people in the town and just the previous week 2 CPWs had been issued to males that had been identified as riding their motorcycle through Kie Park at Hensingham. The condition attached to the CPW that they were not allowed to ride their motorcycle anywhere other than a road.

Criminal Behaviour Order had been issued to male identified as LW. He did breach the order 3 times and had ended up back in court. A variation had been put on the CBO with the condition that he was not allowed to go into the Spar at Hensingham.

Work continued with Violence Against Women and Girls with Duke Street being the hot spot location. Funding had been sourced from the Local Focus Community Bid for taxi wardens to be placed in that location and foot patrols would continue at peak areas at peak times.

Cumbria Constabulary website showed the 6 localities and gave crime figures for each area, the Police Officers, and staff responsible for each area and any engagement being done. Over the previous year CC had tried to push engagement opportunities within the community and all staff had been directed to carry out at least 1 police community desk per month within their locality/area.

There was still a drop-in centre at the Police Station on every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday between 10:00am and 12:00pm and anybody could attend and speak with a Police Officer. Police desks were also booked to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023 between 10:00am and 12:00pm in St Nicholas Church Café and on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 between 10:00am and 12:00pm in The United Reform Church.

**APM/50**

**Report from Mary Bradley Chairperson, Cumbria Association of Local Councils**

Mary Bradley opened her presentation by informing the meeting that Chris Shaw was retiring that week from his position as CALC's Copeland and Allerdale Liaison Officer. He had been in the position for many years and would be sorely missed. He was to be replaced by a lady called Kate McGibbon who had been working for CALC for the past 6 months.

CALC's focus that year had been preparing for Local Government Reorganisation. They had attended many meetings and tried to work out how they as a Cumbrian organisation be able to service two very different unitary authorities as they began to merge with significant differences between them and they admitted that it was a challenge going forward. Comparisons had been made with other organisations like CALC who had been through this process before and they had learned a lot and were thankful for that. They realised that they would have to change their constitution and a lot



of discussions had taken place, but had stalled a little in recent months. MB had recently been appointed as Chair of this working group and her aim was to get it done asap.

There was a little angst when it came to arranging representation on the new Community Boards being set up by Cumberland Council. There were 8 for Cumberland and 3 for Westmorland and Furness. It was recognised that there is a growing role for the Clerks particularly with Cumberland Council taking the Community Board approach as there would be discussions about devolving budgets and services and CALC would have to think very carefully about whether they would be able to represent. Going forward it would mean that Clerks would need to get the CiLCA diploma, which is something CALC does training for and the amount of training CALC provides is a key function and had been well taken up that year.

One of the interesting projects CALC had been involved with had been about resilience which had been funded by Public Health. Public Health had asked CALC to look at how Parish and Town Councils could be more resilient and what role they had in the resilience agenda. Originally this came during the floods in the county but was now very much everything to do with our communities and about the thriving communities that we all want to live in. This had spurred several working groups such as Allotments Working Groups which covered our growing spaces and putting on a workshop to help people develop the Incredible Edible and other schemes that were around. Colin Cox had warmly welcomed the resilience project and all being well it would be rolled out within Cumberland but not necessarily Westmorland.

CALC had recently been involved with the Parish elections had done a lot of training on various people but also with the emphasis people have now on identity which was a huge trend and they were challenged as to why there are never many people standing as Councillors and one of the reasons was probably because it wasn't seen to be exciting but that this may change when the LGR Community Boards and Community Panels were up and running and CALC would be more active.

With regard to the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) in Mid Copeland and South Copeland they were about to enter the bridging phase and although it was not in Whitehaven's area it was



important that the Town Council connect into it as it would still affect the area and there was some consultation out at the moment. It is a major project and one to keep an eye on.

On reflection it had been a busy past year with a busy year ahead with much change.

The presentation ended with thanks to the Clerks for their continued support to CALC and Councillors.

**APM/51**     **Questions/Comments from Councillors and Members of the Public to Invited Speakers**

Councillor Gill asked for it to be recorded within the minutes our thanks to Chris Shaw for all his advice which had been invaluable and to wish him well on his retirement.

Councillor Maudling asked Sergeant Stuart if there was any liaison with Home Group. He said siting all known offenders in one area was not good. He also said you could waste up to half a day by ringing 101.

In response Sergeant Stuart informed the meeting that the Local Focus Hub do contact Home Group if there is a problem with shoplifters, however shoplifters travel into the town from other estates. She said the Police liaise with every partner agency they could. With regards to ringing 101, she said that they were trying to make the system better but that you can report via the website or by doing a live chat on the website, but if a crime was in progress to ring 999.

Councillor Hawkins also reported that Home Group have a live chat option on their website too.

Councillor O’Kane asked whether Cumberland Council would be engaging better with social housing providers than previously as he had recently been involved with trying to contact Home Group and found it almost impossible to contact them via telephone.

Councillor Hawkins informed the meeting that there would be 3 outside bodies sitting on each of the new local community panels one of which could be a representative from Home Group. Each

panel would be a decision-making body deciding on the priorities. Although a layer of local government had been lost this would be a more localised function. The panel for Whitehaven focussed on Whitehaven.

**APM/53**     **Close of Meeting and Vote of Thanks**

Councillor Maudling thanked all those present for attending and wished everybody well.



## Chairman's Annual Report



It has been a great honour to serve as Chairman of Whitehaven Town Council this past year and it has been a pleasure to welcome and work alongside new Councillors, Cllr Robert White, Ryan Taylor, Alan Pearson, and Alan Spedding.

Some of the highlights have been attending many Mayors' Inauguration ceremonies throughout the County and meeting all the Mayors and Mayoresses.



A special moment was attending the Carol Service in Carlisle Cathedral and using the time to visit one of our regular Market Stall holders, Castle Chocolates.



On a local level it was an honour and a privilege to open the Bee Unique SEND Games and to open the new Budgens store on Woodhouse owned by the lovely Sharma family.

A very sobering moment was leading the Remembrance Sunday Parade to Castle Park and laying a wreath on behalf of The Town Council, and attending the service at Hensingham which were both well attended by many wishing to pay their respects.



This year, the Council had a full calendar of events including some new ones. The year started off with the Coronation of King Charles III and a photographic exhibition showing Royal Visits to Whitehaven and Cumbria was enjoyed by hundreds of people and included a painting competition for budding artists from infants to teenagers to submit their portrait of King Charles III with a chance of winning a voucher for themselves and the school they attended.

Once again, The Town Council supported the Leyland National 50 event and the Continental Market on Whitehaven Harbour.





The Science Fair was a fantastic educational event and the amazing CBeebies Presenter Stefan Gates returned to entertain local schoolchildren with his latest science show along with an appearance from Spot the Robotic Dog. The Science Fair was supported by exhibits from Sellafield Ltd and their supply chain and people

were able to marvel at the Planetarium which was brought to us by Industrial Solutions Hub.

The Traders Markets were back in St Nicholas Gardens and the public were treated to a fabulous firework display in December which attracted thousands onto the harbour and surrounding area.

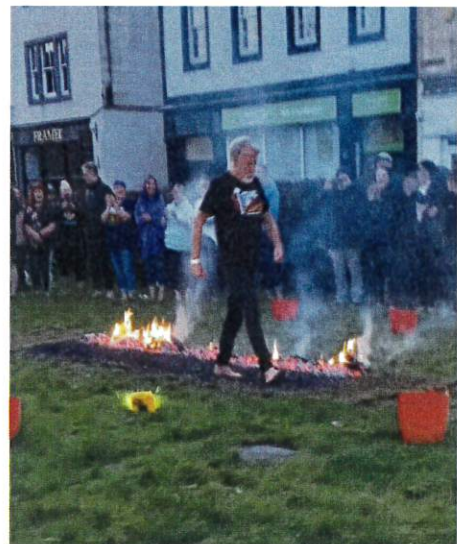






**Whitehaven Town Council's Inaugural Flower and Vegetable Show took place in September and was an instant hit. Our thanks go to Alan Clements and David Haigh for their help in organising the event and keeping us right with the different categories.**

**And of course, The Charity Fire Walk, an amazing event with some 31 people braving the hot coals, led by our very own Clerk Marlene, with myself and Cllr Redmond also taking part. Some £9,000 was raised for several charities.**



### **Whitehaven In Bloom**

**Whitehaven achieved Gold in the annual Cumbria in Bloom awards. This would not have been possible had it not been for the Town Council's ongoing investment in providing all the flower displays throughout the town and the hard work this summer of John Wright and Mark Sisson who were out and**



about watering thrice per week at 6:00am. Again, the quality of the plants was superb and thanks go to Jim and Bob Bennett for supplying the plants and their continual advice and guidance in all things flowery.



I was delighted to use some of the mayors' allowance for the refurbishment of our famous Chair which was even sat on by the Late Queen Mother.

Also, I used some of Mayors Allowance to purchase Easter Eggs to give out to children in St Nicholas Gardens on Easter Saturday.



The Town Council has awarded grants of £4,000 to help local groups and charities and the Councillors have given nearly £15,000 to local groups within their wards.

It was disheartening that Cumberland Council discontinued the contract for the Ranger service so it was with great sadness that we have had to bid Elena Douthwaite and

**John Wright goodbye. We would like to thank them both for all their hard work they have done for us over the past 5 years and wish them both well for the future.**

**Special Thanks;**



**To my wife, Angela for supporting me and accompanying in her role as Mayoress of Whitehaven to many of the functions we were invited to;**

**To Marlene and Vanessa our Clerk and Assistant Clerk who provide invaluable guidance and support to the Council and without whom I would have struggled this year;**

**Gerrard Richardson for his invaluable support to The Town Council. His advice and active support has been essential in us being able to hold successful events within in the town.**

**And finally, my fellow Councillors for their support during my tenure as Chairman and The Whitehaven Town Council Mayor.**