

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th October 2018

Present: Councillors G Roberts (Chairman); R Gill; C Hayes; J Kane; T Lowrey; C Maudling; B O’Kane; J Rayson; C Walmsley

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V Gorley, Trainee Assistant Town Clerk

Cumbria County Councillor Mike Hawkins

Representatives from Mirehouse AFC

Representatives from Whitehaven Air Training Corps

Before the meeting started the Mayor welcomed Carl Walmsley as the new Councillor for Mirehouse Ward

1122/18 Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Forster and Councillor Poland

1123/18 Declarations of Interest

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

1124/18 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th September 2018

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the Minutes for the Council Meeting on 27th September be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting on 27th September 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

1125/18 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 8th October 2018

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Kane that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 8th October 2018 be approved



and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 8th October 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1126/18 **Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 18th October 2018**

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 18th October 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 18th October 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1127/18 **Public Participation**

There was no public participation

1128/18 **Planning Applications**

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

The Council made no representations about any of the planning applications and it was:-

RESOLVED – That CBC's Planning Department be informed that the Council had no objections/representations to make on the planning applications.

1129/18 **Financial Report**

The Council considered a Financial Report.

(i) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Lowrey that the invoices shown at Appendix 1 be approved and paid.

RESOLVED – That the invoices shown at Appendix 1 including the three extra invoices 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 Gill and seconded by Councillor Lowrey that Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

RESOLVED – That the Cash Book and Income and Expenditure shown at Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.



1130/18 **Defibrillators**

Further to Minute 1066/18 when it was agreed to budget £20,000 for the provision of defibrillators the Council considered a report on defibrillators which identified possible locations and the costings for the provision, installation and maintenance of defibrillators. The places identified by Councillors for defibrillators were:-

- The shop at Brake Top
- The Lion Pub at Woodhouse
- Peking House Sneckyeat Road
- Mirehouse Community Centre
- Pelican Garage
- Johnson House (Councillor Rayson said that she would be prepared to pay for this out of her Ward Grant).
- Somewhere to be identified on the top of Bransty

It was proposed by Councillor Lowrey and seconded by Chris Hayes that the 7 locations for defibrillators itemised above be agreed and that recommendations 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 in the report be approved subject to an addition to 2.5 to say that Dooson Babcock be contacted to see if they can help with this

RESOLVED – (i) That the seven locations itemised above be approved
(ii) That the recommendations in 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5 of the report be approved subject to an addition to 2.5 to say that Dooson Babcock be contacted to see if they can help with this.

1131/18 **Litter Bins**

The Council considered a report on litter bins which at Appendix 1 contained locations for 6 new bins previously agreed with CBC.

CBC had not been able to complete a definitive report of all locations for new bins in the Town Council's area. The Council had previously made a resolution (Minute 1068/18 refers) to suspend Standing Orders to purchase any new bins from Glasdons.

Councillor Gill proposed that the Council having considered the resolution already made, the prior notice and the reasons for and the risks of suspending Financial Regulations that Financial Regulations be suspended in accordance with Regulations 11 and 18 and that 8 new bins be purchased from Glasdons. This was seconded by Councillor O'Kane.

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Financial Regulations 11 and 18 that Financial Regulations be suspended and that 8 new bins be purchased from Glasdons.

1132/18

Allotments

Councillor Lowrey declared a personal interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion or the vote.

The Council considered a report about the plot on Midgely Allotments which had been adapted for use by persons with disabilities. The plot was currently let to a person who was confined to a wheelchair and there were problems with the pathways (they were wood chippings) in the allotment plot because they were not suitable for wheelchair use. Enquiries of the National Disability Authority said that the pathways should be constructed of textured concrete.

Quotes had been sought from 5 local firms – two had declined to submit quotes, two quotes were awaited and one quote had been received in the sum of £3970 plus VAT. Cumbria Exchange had also been contacted but no response had been received

Following a discussion Councillor Gill proposed that this be supported and that the required sum be spent. This was seconded by Councillor Hayes.

Councillor Maudling proposed an amendment to the original proposal that the Council should seek outside help the same as was done for St Nicholas and that if appropriate help is not received in two weeks the Council should go ahead with the original proposal.

A vote was held on the amendment to the proposal and 6 Councillors voted for the amendment to the proposal and 2 Councillors voted against it.

RESOLVED – That the Council seek outside help for this in the same way as was done for St Nicholas and that if appropriate help is not received in two weeks the Council go ahead with the original proposal.

1133/18

Update on Community Plan

The Council considered notes from the meeting with ACTION with Communities on 10th October 2018. The main points were

- There were six key issues – public spaces, traffic, parking, events, neighbourliness and heritage
- Councillors then were asked to undertake an exercise to prioritise these 6 key issues into 3 and to identify what they thought was most important to achieve. Action with Communities then took this information away to analyse it.
- A half day to be arranged with 3rd sector groups to find out what they do and how we could help each other and work together
- Information gathering would continue at any events organised by the Council

RESOLVED – That this be noted.

1134/18 **Update on Airmen's Memorial Seat**

The Clerk reported that the new seat had been installed and that a site licence had been entered into with the Woodland Trust so that the seat could be maintained. There would be a photoshoot arranged in the future between the Council and the Whitehaven Heritage Trust about this.

RESOLVED – That this be noted.

1135/18 **Update on Remembrance Sunday**

The Trainee Assistant Town Clerk said that plans had now been finalised with the Royal British Legion and representatives from the Clergy for Remembrance Sunday and said

- Iona Frost Pennington the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cumbria would be attending on behalf of the Queen
- Serving Soldiers from the Duke of Lancashire would be attending
- After the service at the Cenotaph the parade will go down Lowther Street with an “eyes right” when passing the memorial plaque to Private Acton and then on to the United Reformed Church for the service.
- Following the church service there will be a pie and pea lunch for those taking part in the parade.

The Clerk reported that there had been a meeting with Copeland Borough Council that day which Councillor Gill attended and where Remembrance Sunday had been discussed. The Council asked if the Candlestick chimney could be lit and said Councillor Hayes and his team had offered to paint the inside and round the bottom of the bandstand in Castle park so that it would look better for Remembrance Sunday and asked CBCs permission to do this.

CBC asked if the Council would pay a one third contribution to the cost of a photographer for Remembrance Sunday and said costings would follow

The Clerk reported that CBC had replied later to say

- The Council's contribution to the cost of a photographer was £85
- The cost of lighting up the Candlestick Chimney over the Remembrance weekend would be £150
- That CBC were not able to support the request for painting the bandstand as they had commissioned £10,000 of works to the bandstand which would be commencing in November and any painting work would have to be scoped in following this and that they would encourage any music to take part round the Cenotaph where local participants would be.

(i) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Rayson that the Mayor of Copeland be informed that the Council is disappointed with the response about painting the bandstand, which rejected the Council's offer to provide a free and professional service to tidy up the bandstand for



Remembrance Sunday and the 100 year anniversary of the end of the First World War.

RESOLVED – That the Mayor of Copeland be informed that this Council is disappointed with the CBC response that the Council's offer to provide a free and professional service to paint the bandstand had been rejected by CBC particularly as the Council wanted to tidy it up in time for Remembrance Sunday which this year marked the 100 year anniversary of the end of the First World War.

(ii) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the costings for the photographer and the lighting up of the Candlestick Chimney over Remembrance weekend be approved.

RESOLVED – That the Council pay £85 to Copeland Borough Council as a contribution toward the cost of a photographer for Remembrance Sunday and that the Council pay CBC £150 to light up the Candlestick Chimney over the Remembrance weekend.

1136/18 Update from Christmas Festivities Group

A verbal report was given by Charles Maudling of the Christmas Festivities Group who explained that this was a group separate from the Council. He said

- Things were going well and they were waiting for the Road Closure Order
- Fund raising was going along well
- There would be a George Michael Tribute
- The Land Train would be going round the town
- There were many organisations involved – The Parkinsons Society would be performing their new CD on stage with all collections split between Parkinsons
- The collection on the day would be going to Parkinsons
- A new Salvation Army CD would also be release on stage
- Funfair
- CBC car parks would be free and he was still waiting to hear from the Harbour Commissioners

There was no decision on this as the item was for information only

1137/18 Whitehaven Harbour

Councillor Gill gave a report on this and said that the Harbour looked in a poor state and people were commenting on this on social media.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Council write to ask the Harbour Commissioners for a date to meet with the Council to have a walk round the Harbour to express the Council's views and see if the Council could work with the Harbour Commissioners to see what

could be done.

RESOLVED – That a letter be sent to the Harbour Commissioners asking them for a date to meet with the Council to have a walk round the Harbour to express the Council's views and see if the Council could work with the Harbour Commissioners to see what could be done.

1138/18 **Christmas Closure**

The Clerk reported that Christmas day this year fell on a Tuesday and said that many offices would be closed from Friday 21st December 2018 until 2nd January 2019 and asked when the Council office would be closed. Following a discussion it was

RESOLVED – That the Council Offices be closed from Friday 21st December 2018 until Wednesday 2nd January 2019

1139/18 **Councillor Matters**

- i. Councillor Kane said there were still ongoing issues with Castle Park. There was also graffiti everywhere
There was no support from CBC or the Police
Councillor Gill said the OSC of CBC had done a lot of work on PSPOs for Castle Park and other areas and that would help because CBC enforcement officers could enforce these and give out fines. He said it was going back to the OSC and that things were in hand at Borough level
- ii. Councillor Walmsley said litter bins were a big issue and also bus shelters
- iii. Councillor Maudling said the police were doing a fine good job in St Nicholas and the problems there and that at the moment things were ok.
- iv. Councillor Rayson there were the usual problems on the estate with weeds growing everywhere and cars parking on pavements.
- v. Councillor Rayson referred to the Minutes of 27/9/18 when she had talked about the funding for Whitehaven Academy and about the legal transfer from BrightTribe to CET but that she had since found out that the legal transfer may be changed to 1st November but it was still uncertain if it would go ahead then and that the amount of money for repairs was unlikely to be £600,000 but there was a lot of work going on and the school was going to be a lot safer.
- vi. Councillor Rayson said the Age UK Charity shop on Lowther street had now closed and that she had talked in the past about putting posters in the empty shop fronts or some kind of photographs and asked if something could be done about this
- vii. Councillor Maudling said he had keys for Akitts and Age Concern
- viii. Councillor O'Kane said there was a local firm who did moveable pictures that could be used to fill the shop windows but that the Council needed



one or two shops to volunteer and then come back to the Council with costings

- ix. Councillor Rayson referred to social media posts and said that Councillors shouldn't take any notice of what was on social media. She said there had been posts over the weekend about a few things and would like to ask Councillors to make it clear that their views were their own views and not the Town Council views because she did not agree with some of the posts and it was bad publicity to reply to posts and was not professional.
- x. Councillor Kane said that he had raised Akitts at the Town Centre Initiative.
- xi. Councillor O'Kane said he had had several emails expressing concern about behaviour in the town centre regarding people with drink and drugs and that the Council had been told previously that the Police were employing more staff for the town centre. He said the Council along with CBC and the Police needed to try and find a way to deal with this as the nature of the town was changing considerably with a lot of people just wandering around St Nicholas drunk and drugged. He said it was a small amount of people affecting the town. Enforcement in town was problematic and the Council should be asking CBC what the enforcement officers were doing in Whitehaven and what their outcomes were. He asked that enforcement for on road parking in Whitehaven be stepped up
- xii. Councillor O'Kane said a phenomenal job had been done in St Nicholas and the gardens were starting to look massively better
- xiii. Councillor O'Kane said Councillors needed to be 100% behind the staff in dealing with people posting on social media and hiding behind false names and that no response should be given until proof of identity is supplied
- xiv. Councillor O'Kane said he wished to express his gratitude to the staff for the help given for his meeting with the Mayor of Memphis
- xv. Councillor Hayes said that he had organised two meetings on Kells – one at the Rugby Club and one at St Peters Church Hall
- xvi. Councillor Lowrey said there had been problems with children rattling the doors of people living at John Gaskell Court

1140/18 Date of next Council Meeting

RESOLVED – That the date of the next Council Meeting be 29th November at 6.30pm.

1141/18 IN PRIVATE

That prior to the following items 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.

RESOLVED – That the public and or press withdraw from the room.

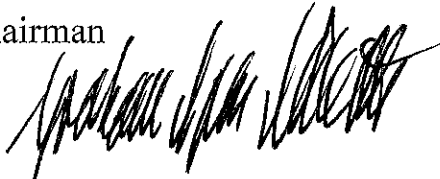
1142/18 **Grant Applications**

The Council considered two applications for grants and heard presentations from Representatives of both organisations.

- RESOLVED** – (i) That a grant of £1,000 be awarded to Mirehouse Amateur Football Club
(ii) That a grant of £895.75 be awarded to The Whitehaven Air Training Corps

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michael James White', written over the printed name 'Chairman'.