

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Trudy Harrison, MP

Members of the Public

1717/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Arrighi, Councillor J Rayson, Councillor C Walmsley, and Councillor G Dinsdale

1718/21 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Roberts declared an interest in Agenda Item 12 as he was a member of CCC

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

Councillor O’Kane declared an interest as he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel

Councillor E Dinsdale declared an interest in Whitehaven Rugby Union and Kells Rugby League

1719/21 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th February 2021

Councillor E Dinsdale entered the Meeting during the discussion

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th February 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

A vote was taken and 3 Councillors voted for, 1 Councillor abstained and 3 Councillors did not vote as they had not been at the meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th February 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

1720/21 **Minutes of the extraordinary Council Meeting held on 9th March 2021**

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 9th March 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was taken and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 9th March 2021 be approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record

Councillor R Redmond entered the Meeting at this point

1721/21 **Public Participation**

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

1. Following the last Meeting he had spoken with the Clerk who asked him to email the Town Council with his issues and he had also sent his email to Councillor Arrighi on 25/02/2021 right after the Meeting. Councillor Arrighi had responded on 26/02/2021 and then he had heard nothing since but she had said that she would get a response to him.
He said he wanted to see if he could make a formal complaint about Councillor Arrighi because he had told her something in confidence and she had obviously gone back to that 3rd party and told that 3rd party the information he had given her which had caused arguments against the 2 groups. The Chairman referred to the formal complaint issue and said that the Council did not deal with formal complaints from members of the public and any formal complaint MH had would have to go to the Monitoring Officer at Copeland and that the Clerk would give him full details of that and give him the appropriate guidance from Copeland as to submitting a complaint because the Council could not comment on any complaint that a member of the public wished to lodge against a Councillor.
2. MH said that Councillor Arrighi came to judge a competition that they had for the kids on the estate and when she was there she said that she would fund a sign which he had spoken to her about but couldn't get a reply and that he had asked her about this at the last Council Meeting and she said she would get in touch but that she hadn't been in touch. He said he later spoke to the Clerk who said the quote had been exceeded so it wasn't valid and that he had then got the quote again and emailed Councillor Arrighi on

11/03/2021 asking her if he could get some funding for this sign that she had promised and that she hadn't replied to him. He said that he had got the quote for the Council but he didn't know what to do next with it. The Chairman asked the Clerk that if MH emailed the Council about the situation was the Council in a position to email the Councillor and ask for a reply. The Clerk said it was difficult but that she could email Councillor Arrighi and ask for a reply but that it may be open to the Community Hub to put in a normal grant application for this. MH said at the moment the bank was not allowing them to open an account so he wondered if they put a grant form in would the Council then hold the money and then they would send the invoice to the Council and then the Council could pay the supplier direct. The Chairman said that in the first instance the crucial thing was that as a community they were dealing with their Ward Councillor initially and that had to be the first step.

The Chairman asked MH to email his letter and his concerns to the Clerk in terms of requesting (but not the complaint) what they were wishing to do and he would then ask the Clerk to email that to Councillor Arrighi with a request for a response and the Council would then give them that response in writing and then they would have the time to follow that up in addition to whether you wish to submit a formal complaint or not. The Clerk asked for it to be noted that whether it was a Councillor Ward Grant or an ordinary grant a bank account was still required.

A member of the public (ED) wished to speak and made the following points:

ED said she was part of the residents group who volunteered to help with The Greenbank Community Hub and wanted to thank Councillor Hayes and Councillor Hawkins for all of their help on Saturday with the litter Pick and it was great to see them there, great of them to give up their time on a Saturday and she had got to speak to them, got to find out a little bit more about what their intentions were especially for the Ward and the residents.

It was a little bit disappointing that Councillor Arrighi couldn't be there especially as they had a lot to discuss about what was going on in their Ward. She said she felt slightly let down by Councillor Arrighi as because she had been there at the meeting when Councillor Arrighi had said she was going to get the funding for them to have a road sign and ED said she felt this was a necessity with Story Homes being built all around them and they were not recognised as an estate and it was one thing that would have been nice for us to have especially with the kids doing the competition.

ED said that as a volunteer group they had been working through lockdown and covid and they hadn't had much help and they had just been struggling on. She said it was disappointing that Councillor Arrighi wasn't there that evening to have a discussion with her about the emails that were sent which put them in a bad light with other residents on the estate as far as trying to work together. She said they needed to sit down with

Councillor Arrighi and have a talk with her and find out what's going on. The Chairman suggested that they write to Councillor Arrighi and said if they wished to meet her any resident has an ability to request a meeting with the Councillor and discuss their concerns.

ED said Councillor Arrighi was not responding to them and all they wanted to do was sit down with Councillor Arrighi.

The Chairman said they should itemise their concerns and send them to the Councillor. ED said they had done that and the Chairman said they should do it again and email a copy to the Clerk.

The Chairman said the Council was not there to judge another Councillor and all they could do was to deal with the process. ED thanked the Chairman for his advice,

1722/21 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 Gill 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.

1723/21 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance Report.

- i. Appendix 1 – The Assistant Clerk reported that there were 2 extra invoices to consider namely:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Cumbria Media | £176.00 website maintenance and support |
| 2. V Gorley | £16.73 postage for Agendas |

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 2 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for and 1 Councillor abstained

RESOLVED - That the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 2 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 Gill that

these be approved and noted. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for and 1 Councillor abstained

RESOLVED – That Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted

1724/21 **Photocopier Contract**

The Council considered a report following Minute 1711/21 when it was agreed that the Council would purchase a new photocopier and enter into a maintenance and repair contract. The Clerk reported that three quotes had not been obtained in accordance with Financial Regulations and therefore the matter could not go ahead. Also it had been discovered the proposed new photocopier was a basic model and did not have the functions the Council required and had had asked for. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that quotes be taken from other contractors for the provision of a photocopier with the same specification as the present photocopier and reported back to Council. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That quotes be taken from other contractors for the provision of a photocopier with the same specification as the present photocopier and reported back to Council.

1725/21 **Recommendations for Litter Bins on/near the Cycle Way at Whitehaven**

Following an informal meeting of Councillors on 10th March 2021 the Council Considered a report on recommendations made at that meeting. Although 3 sites for the proposed litter bins had been identified, CBC owned the land for 2 of them and the owner of third piece of land had not been identified. The Council was also awaiting information from CBC. Also attached to the report for consideration were quotes received from suppliers of litter bins Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that in principle in the first instance the Council purchases 2 bins on the basis that all necessary agreements contained in paragraphs 1.4 and 1.5 of the Report are received from CBC and that Topsy Royale bins be purchased. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That in principle in the first instance the Council purchases 2 bins on the basis that all necessary agreements contained in paragraphs 1.4 and 1.5 of the Report are received from CBC and that Topsy Royale bins be purchased.

1726/21 **Recommendations re WRLFC**

Following an informal meeting of Councillors on 10th March 2021 to discuss ways to help WRLFC the Council considered a report on recommendations made at that meeting. It had been recommended to look at the possibility of the Council purchasing advertising space from WRLFC to say that Whitehaven

Town Council supports Whitehaven Rugby League and the NHS. A discussion on this then started.

During the discussion Trudy Harrison MP joined the zoom platform and the Chairman asked if the discussion could be suspended to allow Trudy Harrison to give an update on West Cumbria Mining and this was agreed.

Trudy Harrison gave the following information:

- The Planning Inspectorate has set a date for the Inquiry – 7th September 2021 starting at 10.00am for 16 days
- She was awaiting confirmation on the location of the Inquiry following a letter that she had sent to CCC requesting that the Inquiry be held in Whitehaven
- In Parliament she was working up a plan to justify the need for coking coal for the UK and Europe and that it was just as important that we have coking coal for the continent as well as the UK as we have 2 blast furnaces at Port Talbot and Scunthorpe
- There were other steel plants using different technology
- There are many more blast furnaces operating on the continent. We produce approximately 8 million tons of steel compared to 62 million tons on the continent
- There are no coking coal mines in the UK or on the continent and all are currently reliant on coking coal predominantly from America but also from Russia being transported from those countries by train and ship both of which are fuelled by fossil fuel. So it's going to travel far less than across the Atlantic Ocean.
- Trudy said that she was going to put together a crack team who can write policy, who can carry out research, who can communicate and who can demonstrate public support and said that she was not sitting on the fence on this one and was a firm supporter of WCM and thought it was essential for the medium term and that it was right that they had given the date of 2049 to cease operations.
- Trudy said that she did not see a need for any further coking coal mines in the UK as this would produce about 2.1 million tons when it was in operation after year 7 but that she saw the need for coking coal provision in this country and for the rest of Europe
- The Public Inquiry is for gathering information one way or the other and for furnishing our public with information
- After the Public Inquiry it will then fall to Robert Jenrick the Secretary of State to make the final decision and he can choose whether to adhere to the Planning Inspector's recommendation or make his own
- The name of the Inspector was Stephen Normington
- It would be helpful if the Planning Inspectorate had some indication of public opinion from people who live in the Council's area

- It would be beneficial if the Council wrote to CCC to ask that the Public Inquiry be held in Whitehaven

The Chairman thanked Trudy Harrison MP for attending the meeting

The discussion then restarted on WRLFC item above with the Council being in agreement that advertising space could be purchased and it was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that Councillor E Dinsdale liaise directly with Mr Todd and ask Mr Todd what advertising packages would be available to the Council for a full season. A vote was held on this and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That Councillor E Dinsdale liaise directly with Mr Todd and ask Mr Todd what advertising packages would be available to the Council for a full season.

1727/21 **Recommendations from Events Advisory Group**

The Clerk said there had been a meeting of the Events Advisory Group on 24th March 2021 and read out a series of dates and events to which the Group had recommended approval. The list of the recommended events had been circulated to members that day. It was proposed by Councillor Edwin Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the recommendations for dates for the programme of events, the other recommendations for the purchase of promotional flags/banners, the advertising for the Council’s events and the noting of other information given be approved by the Council. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the recommendations for dates for the programme of events, the other recommendations for the purchase of promotional flags/banners, the advertising for the Council’s events and the noting of other information given be approved by the Council.

1728/21 **West Cumbria Mining**

The Chairman spoke about West Cumbria Mining and said a smaller group of Councillors had already met and now it was a case of trying to formalise a Meeting. He said the Council needed to formalise an Agenda but that whatever we do it must be on behalf of the Council. He said the best way to do this would be to have another meeting of those Councillors with an open Agenda for them to formulate ideas.

Councillor Gill said he was concerned about having meeting after meeting and that a proposal had already been put forward to put a petition on the Council’s website

Councillor E Dinsdale said the Council needed a full list and schedule of actions to be taken

The Chairman said he was happy to call another Council Meeting very quickly and he then formally asked the Clerk to arrange an Extraordinary Council for the following Thursday to deal with this

There was no resolution on this as the Chairman had asked for an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be arranged for the following Thursday

1729/21

Councillor Ward Matters

- i. Councillor Gill referred to the state of the roads at Hensingham and that they were getting worse on the estates and were a disgrace. He was supposed to meet with the CCC about this but it hadn't happened yet
- ii. Councillor E Dinsdale said work had been done on the steps of the cycle path as you come out of the cattle arch onto Esk Avenue and the whole things looked 100% better and it had been tidied up
- iii. Councillor Redmond said neighbours had told him that they had seen a rat running across the Richmond pub car park towards Selby Terrace and also said there was a lot of dog fouling in Holly Terrace and that kids were partying at Beck Bottom regularly. Clerk said she would report the dog fouling to CBC Enforcement Unit and the rat problem to CBC Environmental Department.
- iv. Councillor Hayes said that another litter pick was being held on Kells in the next couple of weeks following the one held at Greenbank and asked if the Mayor could give some of his allowance to buy litter pickers and hoops for the refuse bags, youth ones and that he had put together some costings for this. The chairman said that this could be added to the Agenda for the following week's Council Meeting and be presented on the night which was agreed.
- v. Councillor O'Kane referred to Bransty School and said there were issues with traffic. He said many children were being brought to school at staggered times and resulted in an issue with cars parking outside the schools. He asked if any other Councillors had an opinion on this. Councillor Hayes said it was every single school. Councillor O'Kane asked if the Council should involve CCC to try and have a look at the schools situation in Whitehaven because most of our schools seem to be suffering.
- vi. Councillor O'Kane referred to dog fouling in Whitehaven and said we have to hope that the CBC Enforcement Team can help with this.
- vii. Councillor Roberts said there were ongoing speeding problems at Harras Moor which is being dealt with by CCC and himself and hopefully there would be a resolution on this.
- viii. Councillor E Dinsdale said in response to Councillor O'Kane and the school issues that parking was a massive issue in Corkickle with 2 schools in a very built- up area but that he didn't think the solution was a one size fits all and there could be options where schools could create more areas to

drop off and pick up and a mixture of everything could potentially work and thought that there were some areas where this could be sorted.

1730/21 **Date of next Meeting**

The date of the next Council Meeting to be on Thursday 29th April 2021 at 6.00pm.

IN PRIVATE

1731/21 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

1732/21 **Request for a Donation** – HTWL

The Council considered a Report on request for a donation from HTWL. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a donation be not given for the reasons specified in paragraph 2.1 of the Report. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That a donation be not given to HTWL for the reasons given in paragraph 2.1 of the Report.

1733/21 **Application for Grant** – VC

Further to Minute 1716/21 the Council considered an application for a grant from VC which was s137 Expenditure and therefore needed a Council resolution. Members agreed that the provisions of s137 were satisfied in this case it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that the provisions of s137 were satisfied and that a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to VC. Following a vote it was unanimously

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

1734/21 Application for Councillor Ward Grant - WSC

The Council considered an application for a Councillor Ward Grant from WSC as the expenditure was under s137 and therefore needed a Council resolution to approve this. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the provisions of s137 were satisfied and that the Councillor Ward Grant of £500.00 be awarded to WSC.

RESOLVED – That the provisions of s137 were satisfied and that a Councillor Ward Grant of £500.00 be awarded to WSC

1735/21 Application for Councillor Ward Grant – WRUFCY

The Council considered an application for Councillor Ward Grants from WRUFCY. The application for the Councillor Ward Grants was not in accordance with the Council's Guidelines as it was not from an organisation in the Councillors' Wards and was s137 expenditure which needed a Council resolution. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor E Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that the provisions of s 137 were satisfied and Councillor Ward Grants totalling £1,000.00 be granted to WRUFCY. The Chairman said that he was happy to second each of the 4 grant applications and that if Councillor Dinsdale was proposing every single one that he would second every single one

Councillor E Dinsdale requested a recorded vote the result of which was as follows:-

Councillor O'Kane	For
Councillor E Dinsdale	For
Councillor R Gill	Against
Councillor C Hayes	Abstain
Councillor C Maudling	Against
Councillor R Redmond	For
Councillor Roberts	Against
Councillor L Walmsley	For

RESOLVED – That the provisions of s137 were satisfied and that Councillor Ward Grants totalling £1,000.00 be awarded to WRUFCY

1736/21 Application for Councillor Ward Grant – STBRUFCY

The Council considered an application for Councillor Ward Grants from STBRUFCY. The application for the Councillor Ward Grants was not in accordance with the Council's Guidelines as it was not from an organisation in the Councillors' Wards. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor E Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that that Councillor Ward

Grants totalling £1,000.00 be awarded to STBRUFCY
Councillor E Dinsdale requested a recorded vote on this and all 4 items the result of which was as follows:

Councillor O’Kane	For
Councillor E Dinsdale	For
Councillor R Gill	Against
Councillor C Hayes	For
Councillor C Maudling	Against
Councillor R Redmond	For
Councillor G Roberts	Against
Councillor L Walmsley	For

RESOLVED – That Councillor Ward Grants totalling £1,000.00 be awarded To STBRUFCY

1737/21 **Application for Councillor Ward Grant - KARLFC**

The Council considered an application for Councillor Ward Grants. The application for the Councillor Ward Grants was not in accordance with the Council’s Guidelines as it was not from an organisation in the Councillors’ Wards and was s137 expenditure which needed a Council resolution. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor E Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the provisions of s137 were satisfied and that Councillor Ward Grants totalling £1,000.00 be awarded to KARLFC
Councillor E Dinsdale requested a recorded vote the result of which was as follows:

Councillor O’Kane	For
Councillor E Dinsdale	For
Councillor R Gill	Against
Councillor C Hayes	For
Councillor C Maudling	Against
Councillor R Redmond	For
Councillor Roberts	Against
Councillor L Walmsley	For

RESOLVED – that the provisions of s137 were satisfied and that Councillor Ward Grants totalling £1,000.00 be awarded to KARLFC

1738/21 **Application for Councillor Ward Grant – HARLFCY**

The Council considered an application for Councillor Ward Grants from HARLFCY. The application for the Councillor Ward Grants was not in

accordance with the Council's Guidelines as it was not from an organisation in the Councillors' Wards. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor E Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that the Councillor Ward Grants totalling £1,000.00 be awarded to HARLFCY
Councillor E Dinsdale requested a recorded vote the result of which was as follows:

Councillor O'Kane	For
Councillor E Dinsdale	For
Councillor R Gill	Against
Councillor C Hayes	For
Councillor C Maudling	Against
Councillor R Redmond	For
Councillor Roberts	Against
Councillor L Walmsley	For

RESOLVED – that the Councillor Ward Grants totalling £1,000.00 be awarded to HARLFCY

Councillor Gill wished to make a statement to be placed on record that this has now created a precedent and that he had been stopped spending money outside his Ward and next year he would be spending money outside his Ward and he didn't want anyone telling him he couldn't. Councillor Gill said that because of the decisions taken that night that the rule that Councillors can't spend money outside their Wards had fallen and that Councillors could now spend money on organisations outside their Wards

1739/21 **Councillor Ward Grant Application** – MRG

The Council considered an application for a Councillor Ward Grant from MRG. This was s137 expenditure and therefore needed a Council resolution
It was proposed by Councillor L Walmsley and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the provisions of s137 were satisfied and a Councillor Ward Grant of £500.00 be awarded to MRG. Following a vote it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the provisions of s137 were satisfied and a Councillor Ward Grant of £500.00 be awarded to MRG.

1740/21 **Councillor Ward Grant Application** – MCC

The Council considered an application from MCC for a Councillor Ward Grant. This was s137 expenditure and therefore required a Council resolution
It was proposed by Councillor L Walmsley and seconded by Councillor E Dinsdale that the provisions of s137 were satisfied and that a Councillor Ward Grant of £500.00 be awarded to MCC.

Following a vote it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the provisions of s137 were satisfied and that a Councillor Ward Grant of £500.00 be awarded to MCC.

1741/21 **Councillor Ward Grant Application** – LF

The Council considered an application for a Councillor Ward Grant from LF. This was s137 expenditure and therefore required a council resolution. It was proposed by Councillor L Walmsley and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the provisions of s137 were satisfied and that a Councillor Ward grant of £500.00 be awarded to LF. Following a vote it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the provisions of s137 were satisfied and that a Councillor Ward grant of £500.00 be awarded to LF.

1742/21 **Councillor Ward Grant Application** – SWYP

The Council considered an application for a Councillor Ward Grant from SWYP. This was s137 expenditure and therefore required a Council resolution. It was proposed by Councillor L Walmsley and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the provisions of s137 were satisfied and that a Councillor Ward Grant of £500.00 be awarded to SWYP. Following a vote it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the provisions of s137 were satisfied and that a Councillor Ward Grant of £500.00 be awarded to SWYP.

1743/21 **Councillor Ward Grant Application** – CVG

The Clerk reported that a Councillor Ward Grant Application had been received the day before from CVG which was not on the Agenda and asked if the Council would agree to consider the application as it was s137 expenditure. The Chairman said it should be considered and this was agreed and following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the application for the grant be denied. A vote was taken and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED – That the application for a grant from CVG be denied

1744/21 **Local Government Pension Scheme**

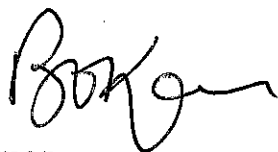
The Chairman read out a report containing instructions from The Pensions Regulator relating to the enrolment of the Clerk in the Local Government Pension Scheme from the date of employment with the Council.

RESOLVED – That the employee (MJ) be enrolled in the Local Government

Pension Scheme from 17th May 2017 and the backdated employer and employee contributions be paid and that it be recorded that if the employee chooses to opt out then all the contributions will be refunded

The Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to an amendment to Minute 1718/21 agreed by Council that Whitehaven Rugby League be included in Councillor E Dinsdale's declarations of interest

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

Chairman