

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 31st August 2023

Present: Councillor C Hayes (Chairman); Councillor R Gill; Councillor E Dinsdale; Councillor B O’Kane; Councillor A Pearson; Councillor R Redmond; Councillor G Roberts; Councillor A Spedding; Councillor R Taylor; Councillor R White

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public

2329/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor J Carr

Work Commitments

Councillor G Dinsdale

Previous Engagement

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the apologies for absence be accepted and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the apologies for absence be accepted and noted.

2330/23 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hayes declared that he was a member of the Whitehaven Tidy Town Committee and the Harbour Users Group.

2331/23 Public Participation

There was no public participation

2332/23 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th July 2023

Councillor Gill said that Minute 2323/23(i) should be amended to read Councillor Pearson and Minute 2323/23(ii) should be amended to read Councillor Spedding.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that

subject to the above amendments being made the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th July 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That subject to aforesaid amendments being made the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th July 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2333/23 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1.

- (i) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that following representations from local residents that objections be forwarded to Cumberland Council in respect of Planning Application 4/23/2212/0F1 for the siting of a storage container (retrospective) and erection of a fence at 34A Lakeland Avenue on the grounds of loss of amenity and representations from local residents. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That objections be forwarded to Cumberland Council in respect of Planning Application 4/23/2212/0F1 for the siting of a storage container (retrospective) and erection of a fence at 34A Lakeland Avenue on the grounds of loss of amenity and representations from local residents.

- (ii) It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Roberts that Planning Permission 4/23/2221/0F1 for the conversion of the vacant bus depot into charity headquarters for sound wave where young people can learn experiment and make music be approved and supported as it was good for the regeneration of the town. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That Planning Permission 4/23/2221/0F1 for the conversion of the vacant bus depot into charity headquarters for sound wave where young people can learn experiment and make music be approved and supported as it was good for the regeneration of the town and that CC be informed accordingly.

There were no representations made on any other Planning Application on Appendix 1

2334/23 Planning Matters Generally

Further to Minute 2320/23 the Clerk reported that the following information had been received from Cumberland's Head of Planning and Place/Development

- The list of Councillors on the Planning Committee
- The organisational Structure showing the Planning Department as a whole but there had been no agreement for the structure below Assistant Director level
- That the Planning Teams for each of the formers Councils were still in place and operating on a regional basis
- Meetings of the Planning Panel were rotated between Carlisle and Workington with every 3rd meeting being in Workington
- Planning Applications were dealt with on an area basis and submitted in the same way as before

Councillor Mike Hawkins had also replied on this matter and said he thought that some issues around planning would take some time to get right. He said the CC were hoping to have at least one Councillor attending Town Council Meetings each month and that the Community Panel to be known as the Whitehaven Coastal Communities Panel would be the decision making Panel and that CC were looking forward to working closely with the Town Council.

Following a discussion Councillors made various points

- That there needed to be better linkages between the Town council and Cumberland Council
 - That someone from Cumberland Council should attend Town Council Meetings
 - That Cumberland Council had come into place with no links with the Town Council and that the whole structure should be more formalised
 - A letter should be sent to Mark Fryer asking that Cumberland Councillors attend WTC monthly meetings
 - That it was welcomed what CC plan to do with the Whitehaven Coastal Communities Panel
- (i) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the Council send a letter to the Leader of CC saying that the Town Council welcomes the steps they intend to take to liaise with WTC. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Council sends a letter to the Leader of CC saying that the Town Council welcomes the steps they intend to take to liaise with WTC.

- (ii) It was proposed by Councillor E Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor Taylor that a standing Agenda item be put on each Town Council Agenda for a Cumberland Councillor(s) to attend and that they produce in advance of the Meeting a report of what was happening for discussion in the Town Council Meeting. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That a standing Agenda item be put on each Town Council Agenda for a Cumberland Councillor(s) to attend and that they

produce in advance of the Meeting a report of what was happening for discussion in the Town Council Meeting.

- (iii) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that paragraph 2.0 of the Report relating to the position of Town and Parish Councils with regards to Planning Applications be noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That paragraph 2.0 of the Report relating to the position of Town and Parish Councils with regards to Planning Applications be noted

2335/23 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance Report.

- i. Appendix 1 – The Assistant Clerk reported that there were 3 extra invoices to consider on Appendix 1 namely:-

- Lockhart Leisure £345.60 flooring for marquee Science week
- Cllr C Hayes £34.20 mileage Carlisle Proclamation
- Eden Springs £9.24 dispenser rental& environmental levy

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 3 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the invoices shown at Appendix 1 plus the 3 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 Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that these be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

2336/23 Quote for Advertising in the Cumbria Guide 2024/25

The Council considered a report on a quote received for the cost of advertising in The Cumbria Guide in 2024/25.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that the package for 6 full page adverts be approved for 2024/25 at a cost of £3,900.00 plus VAT plus artwork design at a cost of £300.00. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the package for 6 full page adverts be approved for

2024/25 at a cost of £3,900.00 plus VAT plus artwork design at a cost of £300.00.

2337/23 Quote for Provision of Marquees

The Council considered a report containing quotes received from companies for the provision of marquees for the Council's events in 2024. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that quote B be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That quote B be accepted.

2338/23 Quotes for Provision of Security for Council Events 2024

The Council considered a report containing quotes for the provision of security personnel at Council events in 2024. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Gill that quote B at £19.50 per hour per operative be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That quote B at £19.50 per hour per operative be accepted

2339/23 Zoom Meeting regarding Aldi

The Clerk reported on a recent Zoom meeting between representatives from Aldi and the Council where Aldi's proposals for the erection of a new Aldi store a short distance away from the existing store were presented and discussed. Aldi said that in these circumstances where a new store was built it was their practice to either sell or lease their vacant building. Aldi said that they were undergoing a public consultation process on this and that they expected to submit a planning application towards the end of the year.

There was no decision made on this as it was for information and noting only.

2340/23 Proposed Closure of Whitehaven Railway Station Ticket Office

Further to Minute 2322/23 the Clerk reported that the extended consultation period on the proposed closure of railway station ticket offices closed the following day and that if anyone wanted to submit any comments they should do so by the following day.

There was no decision made on this as it was for information and noting only.

2341/23 Contract for Grass Cutting for 2024

The Council has a Contract for grass cutting of areas in the Parish (shown at Appendix 1 to the report) which runs from April to September. The Council will shortly be seeking quotations from local contractors to carry out this work in

2024. Councillor Gill said that he would like the land behind Mid Street, Kells and to the west and east to be included on the areas of land to be cut.

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that Councillors consider if there are any extra grassed areas that should be included in the tender documents and submit those to the Clerk by Monday 11th September 2023. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That Councillors consider if there are any extra grassed areas that should be included in the tender documents and submit those to the Clerk by Monday 11th September 2023.

2342/23 **Quotes for Replacement Defibrillator Batteries**

The Council agreed to purchase and install 7 defibrillators and to be responsible for ongoing costs including replacement batteries (Minute 1130/18 (ii) refers). The batteries are now running low and quotes were sought for replacement batteries. Following consideration of the quotes it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that quote C be accepted at £200.00 plus VAT per battery. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That quote C be accepted at £200.00 plus VAT per battery.

2343/23 **Quotes for Skip Hire on Allotments**

The Council considered a report on quotes for the supply of skips to allotment sites. 4 quotes had been sought but only 1 quote had been received in the sum of £300.00 plus VAT per skip. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that the quote in the sum of £300.00 plus VAT per skip be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the quote in the sum of £300.00 plus VAT per skip be accepted.

2344/23 **Quotes for Removal of Pigeon Loft**

The Council considered a report on the need to remove an abandoned pigeon loft on Calder Avenue. It was possible that this would be contaminated waste in the form of pigeon guano underneath the structure which was very dangerous as various pathogens could be passed on through pigeon droppings. Quotes had been sought from 4 companies for the removal of the pigeon loft and the proper disposal of it and 3 quotes had been received. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Taylor that quote C be accepted in the sum of £2,754.20 plus VAT. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That quote C be accepted in the sum of £2,754.20 plus VAT.

2345/23 Street Name and Numbering

The Council as consultees considered a report from Cumberland Council regarding the street name and numbering of the new residential development at Edgehill Park, Whitehaven. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the names for the roads in the development – Hayton Way, Fortune Way, Swan Way, Redferne Drive, Rose Drive, and Banks Drive - be approved and CC informed. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the names for the roads in the development – Hayton Way, Fortune Way, Swan Way, Redferne Drive, Rose Drive, and Banks Drive - be approved and CC informed.

2346/23 WCSSG

Councillor Gill referred to a report that he had circulated to all Councillors prior to the Meeting. He said he had attended on behalf of the Council. He made the following points on matters affecting Whitehaven:-

- There were 40 members comprising the Police CC, Town and Parish Councils, Trade Unions, Environment Agency and officers from various companies involved in the Nuclear Industry
- In relation to GDF this has a development fund called “Working with our Communities and there are 3 Community Partnerships established in Cumberland covering Allerdale, Mid Copeland and South Copeland and they engage with potential GDF host communities throughout the country
- There was £5 million invested in Cumbrian Communities during 2022/23
- Low Level Waste Repository community investment. The LLWR Community Fund has £85,000 per annum and Copeland Community Fund £1.6million per annum
- Community Investment Funding. Up to £1 million per year is available to community groups and businesses within the community partnerships. Community investment funding increases to £2.5 million per year when detailed site investigations begin
- Councillor Gill said he asked why Workington had been included and Whitehaven had not bearing in mind the number of their employees who live live in the Town. He said the Chairman had asked him to meet with the appropriate officer, a Mr Simon Hughes after the meeting. Councillor Gill did so and impressed on Mr Hughes the need for Whitehaven to have a community partnership and said that one of the criteria laid down by Government Government for the siting of GDF was that it had to be placed within a willing community. Mr Hughes said he needed to check the criteria for community partnership and then he would respond to Councillor Gill but so far Councillor Gill had heard nothing
- The NDA is holding a socio-economic refresh and they have already been contacting site stakeholders, groups and key stakeholders across the

country to advise that consultation on the refresh will begin towards the end of the year and that the Council needed to be vigilant in putting pressure on for the inclusion of Whitehaven

- Along with the Trade Unions Councillor Gill stressed the need for retrievability of any waste being placed in a GDF and they were told firmly that it was not Government policy to have this and they were working to Government policy

Following a discussion when Councillors stated that there was a lot of available money up for grabs but the Council wasn't getting any; the Council needs to get organised and decide what they want for the Town and submit a plan; we have to submit our ideas and we have to start making demands it was:-

- (i) Proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a letter be sent to Cumberland Council asking for a copy of the Whitehaven Plan. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That a letter be sent to Cumberland Council asking for a copy of the Whitehaven Plan that had been inherited from CBC.

- (ii) Proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that no action be taken until Councillor Gill has heard from Simon Hughes and reported back to the September Council Meeting. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That no action be taken until Councillor Gill has heard from Simon Hughes and reported back to the September Council Meeting

2347/23

Councillor Ward Matters

- i. Councillor O'Kane said the hedge on Victoria Road had been cut.
- ii. Councillor O'Kane said that the Fibrus people had been working near where he lived and people had been very positive about them.
- iii. Councillor Taylor had 3 issues
 - Network Gas at Hillcrest had left a disgrace behind them and said it takes them a long time to clear up. He said they had done the bare minimum and soil and rubble had been left
 - There was a bungalow on Springfield Avenue being extended and there was a wall of harras fencing still there
 - There were 2 notice boards in Whitehaven Town Centre – Castle Park and the top of the Harbour. He said there was nothing in them
- iv. Councillor Hayes said the cameras in Castle Park were not connected and he had had a lot of trouble recently and had put up his own cameras
- v. Councillor Roberts said going up Aikbank Road to the post box and a car rounded the bend and it was going so fast that it rocked. He said there would have to be discussions with the Highway Authority to put 2 lots of

- speed bumps on the road as it is a rat run now and a pedestrian could get hurt
- vi. Councillor Hayes said that in Kells they were disappointed that CC would not give a change of use from a library to a day centre for kids
 - vii. Councillor Gill referred to the bottom of Rutland Avenue and said there was a pedestrian crossing away from the junction and if that pedestrian crossing goes and they put a light at the junction that would ease the pressure there
 - viii. Councillor Pearson referred to the Greenbank Playing Field and said he had been in touch with somebody from CC and the first part of the conversation was that they wanted someone else to maintain the field. Councillor Pearson had asked him if someone else maintained the field and other people used it would it be free of charge and he said no CC would expect a rent for it. After that the officer said he could confirm the CC Parks and Open Spaces Team were able to add the field to the cutting machine and hopefully it would be cut once per month. So they had wanted someone else to look after their land for them.
 - ix. Councillor Pearson said that in the cemetery a massive bush had been cut down and shredded and it had been piled up 4ft high behind the gravestones and said that Councillor Emma Williamson had got it levelled down a bit
 - x. Councillor Pearson said that LC wanted to know what was happening and the Clerk said that she had sent a reminder to Home Group
 - xi. Councillor Spedding said there were no issues in Corkickle and said Castle park had got a facelift
 - xii. Councillor Spedding said that he had met with TP on the Harbour who was excited about the plans that the new Chief Executive of the Harbour Commissioners had which were fantastic but which couldn't be divulged. He said he thought it would be a good idea to write to Deanna Shallcross to invite her to a Council Meeting
 - xiii. Councillor White said he saw Home Group 5 weeks ago but they hadn't come back since. He said that the man in the house was contemplating suicide over it
 - xiv. Councillor White said that on his election leaflet he had referred to cleaning litter off some areas and asked where he could get some equipment for litter picking and maybe even transport to carry it off where trolleys had been dumped
 - xv. Councillor White said someone had been in touch with him over toilet access in the Town and disabled access for people and families

2348/23 Date and Time of next Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting be held on 28th September 2023 at 6.00pm at the Beacon Portal

IN PRIVATE

2349/23 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. Councillor Hayes proposed this and Councillor Roberts seconded it. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the public and or press be instructed to withdraw from the Meeting

2350/23 **Grant Application – WADAOS**

The Council considered an application for a grant from WADAOS. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to WADAOS. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to WADAOS.

2351/23 **Grant Application – PDC**

The Council considered a grant application from PDC. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to PDC. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted for the proposal and 5 Councillors voted against. The Chairman exercised his casting vote and voted for the proposal.

RESOLVED – That a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to PDC

2352/23 **St Nicholas Gardens**

Further to Minute 2326/23 the Clerk reported verbally on the position with St Nicholas Gardens. The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to Mark Fryer but a reply had not been received.

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor White that the position be noted and a decision made at the next Council Meeting. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the position be noted and a decision made at the next Council Meeting.

2353/23 **Office Accommodation**

Further to Minute 2327/23 the Clerk gave an update on office accommodation. It was reported that nothing further had been heard from SC but that Councillor Roberts had a contact with a person LB who was a senior Projects Manager and

he had had inspected our offices and said that he would look at the tender documentation and prepare a vision of how he thought the project could be split into the 4 packages that the Council had previously identified. He said there would be no charge for this initial work and that if the Council was happy with his vision that he would submit a quote for preparing detailed documents as to how the project could proceed and then it would be up to the Council to decide whether or not to accept the quote.

There was no decision made on this as it was for information and noting only.

2354/23 Storage Facility

Further to Minute 2305/23 where it was agreed that the Council should lease a secure storage unit the Clerk reported that there was only one industrial site that had a vacant storage unit. The Clerk and the Chairman had visited the vacant storage unit on Sneckyeat the previous day to inspect it. The unit was 1012 square feet and the rent was £8,300 plus £911 maintenance charges. The Contract term was for 3 years with a break clause at the end of each year out that and as an incentive the Council would have the first 6 months at half rent. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council enter into a 3 year Contract for the hire of the secure storage unit at Sneckyeat. A vote was held and nine Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED - That that the Council enter into a 3 year Contract for the hire of the secure storage unit at Sneckyeat.

2355/23 Britain in Bloom

The Clerk reported that Mr Flecken had informed the Town Council that he had a spare ticket available for the Britain in Bloom Ceremony in London on 23rd October 2023 and asked if the Council wanted to make use of it and if so who would be attending. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the Mayor attend the Britain in Bloom Award Ceremony in London to represent the Town Council. A vote was held and 9 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED – That the Mayor be authorised to attend the Britain in Bloom awards ceremony in London to represent the Town Council

The Meeting closed at 8.00pm

Chairman

