

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 24th November 2022

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

2144/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:-

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Councillor J Rayson | Personal/Health |
| Councillor J Carr | Work Commitments |
| Councillor E. Dinsdale | Work Commitments |
| Councillor G Dinsdale | ill |
| Councillor G Stevens | Personal |

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Walmsley 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

2145/22 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Maudling declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 as he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel

Councillor Roberts declared an interest as he was a member of CCC and also declared an interest in Item 7

2146/22 Public Participation

There was no public participation

2147/22 **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th October 2022**

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th October 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th October 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2148/22 **Planning Applications**

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1 It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Walmsley that CBC be informed that following consideration of the Planning Applications at Appendix 1 the Council had no representations to make. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That CBC be informed that following consideration of the Planning Applications on Schedule 1 the Council had no representations to make.

2149/22 **Finance Report**

The Council considered a Finance Report.

- i. Appendix 1 – The Assistant Clerk reported that there were 7 extra invoices to consider namely:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Cumbria Media | £16.00 for website maintenance |
| Whitehaven Brass Band | £210.00 Remembrance Sunday |
| V Gorley | £14.99 3x timer plug sockets |
| Julie Hartley | £250.00 Interim Internal Audit |
| Zurich Municipal | £168.00 Additional PL Insurance for firework display |
| Sharp Business Systems | £18.00 next day delivery – toner |
| UK Firework Company | £4,800.00 for firework display |

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 7 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 7 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid.

- ii. The Assistant Clerk reported that the string lights on Christmas trees in St Nicholas Gardens had failed and could not be repaired and that the Clerk had authorised the purchase of new string lights costing £365.82. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the expenditure for the string lights in the sum of £365.82 be authorised and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously
- iii. RESOLVED – That the expenditure for the string lights in the sum of £365.82 be authorised and paid.
- iv. Appendices 2 and 3 – the Council considered Appendices 2 and 3 and it was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that these be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

2150/22 **Damage to Woodhouse Road Bus Shelter**

The Council considered a report on damage caused by 4 incidents of vandalism to the Woodhouse Road bus shelter since November 2021. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the bus shelter be taken down and removed. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the bus shelter be taken down and removed.

2151/22 **Christmas Closing Hours**

The Council considered a report on Christmas closing hours. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Council Office be closed from Friday 23th December 2022 and reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2023. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Council Offices close on Friday 23rd December 2022 and reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

2152/22 **Update on Council Offices**

The Clerk gave a verbal update on the renovation of the Council Offices and said that the CCTV Drainage Report had recently been received and been sent to the Architects and that they were busy preparing the tender documents and would report back to the Council in due course. There was no decision made on this as it was for information only.

2153/22 **Concerns about the level of service provided to the people of Whitehaven by**

GP Practices and Dentists

The Clerk reported that no further information had been received from CBC on this.

Councillor Roberts said that since the last meeting he had attended an Allerdale District Council Meeting and that for some reason the CCG could not meet the sub Committee on that date so the matter was deferred for 9 days and that he would be going to the meeting on 8th December 2022 to hear the update.

Councillor Roberts said that he had formed the opinion that they were not keen on divulging the facts and that it looked like it was going to be a long struggle. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that the position be noted. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the position be noted

2154/22 WCSS Group

Councillor E Dinsdale had submitted a report on this which was on the Agenda but unfortunately he could not attend to present it due to work commitments. The Clerk read out parts of the report. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the report be received and noted.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

2155/22 Meeting re St Nicholas Gardens

- i. Further to Minute 2137/22 the Council considered a report of a meeting that had taken place between the Church, CBC and WTC to agree a schedule of planting and maintenance of St Nicholas Gardens. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Walmsley and seconded by Councillor Maudling that Councillor O’Kane be invited to attend the meetings. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That Councillor O’Kane be invited to attend the meetings.

- ii Following the meeting in I above the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Reverend Jackson walked around St Nicholas Gardens and it was pointed out that there were 2 seats that were in an extremely bad state and could not be repaired. The Council had previously purchased new seats for St Nicholas Gardens and the cost of 2 new seats to include the replacement of commemorative plaques would be £1,759.58 and that there was money in the budget for this. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Maudling that 2 new seats including replacement commemorative plaques be purchased for St Nicholas Gardens at a cost of

£1,759.58. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That 2 new seats including replacement commemorative plaques be purchased for St Nicholas Gardens at a cost of £1,759.58.

- iii It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the report be noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

2156/22 Councillor Ward Matters

- i. The Clerk reported that Councillor Rayson had asked that the following be read out in respect of her ward: There was currently a problem trying to get lights fixed in Jericho School/School grounds and that she was still waiting to hear what was happening with the swings that were removed from the play park a couple of weeks ago as residents had been asking when they would be replaced. The Clerk reported that a further email had been received from Councillor Rayson to say that she had heard from CBC who said the swings were removed for safety reasons and would not be replaced. She said nobody had taken responsibility for the lights and had been told by CBC that the electrical feed goes back to the school and so it would be necessary to speak with the Headmaster about it.
Councillor Rayson said she was expecting complaints from residents regarding the swings as it would only be a matter of time before the rest of the equipment was removed leaving no equipment for local families to use.
- ii Councillor Gill said that CBCs Policy was not to replace or repair play equipment anywhere in the Borough.
- iii Councillor O’Kane said CBC have an embargo on spending on playground equipment but they had to do it 2 years ago for safety reasons when the matting was replaced at Hensingham so they had broken this embargo.
- iv Councillor Maudling referred to the Christmas lights switch on which had been a great success and thanked Councillors Hayes and E Dinsdale and the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for all their help. He said it was a tremendous day, the shops were busy and the fair did well.
- v. Councillor Gill referred to the development of the former Lowther Arms into a wine bar/bistro. He said there was a bus stop on the brow but not a bus shelter and when he was at the Cenotaph he was approached by someone who complained that people were getting wet when waiting at the bus stop.
- vi. Councillor Gill said that he was disappointed that CBC was not represented at the Hensingham Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. He said 14 people turned up.

- vii. Councillor Hayes said that he was trying to get the memorial for the miners at the Industrial Park at Kells and trying to find out who owns what to try and get it repaired.
- viii. Councillor O’Kane said he was tired of asking Matthew Reeves for a meeting and it was disgraceful when an officer acts in this manner. He said accidents were happening and he had been promised a report in November. He said there were accidents happening outside Jericho School and St Benedict’s School and said no-one can afford to do anything until a child is killed and asked Councillor Roberts as a County Councillor to make sure this guy or Keith Hitchen makes time for the Town Council because we’re in November now, December shortly and all the TROs have got to be in and finished before Cumberland takes over. Councillor Roberts said that arrangements had been made for all Whitehaven Local Committee members and Matthew Reeves had been told he must have a meeting in the next month. Councillor O’Kane said he had no faith in the Local Committee and asked if the meeting included the Town Council and Councillor Roberts said it did. Councillor OKane asked if the Town Council would get an invite and Councillor Roberts said we would.
- ix. Councillor O’Kane said he had attended a meeting of the Rugby League Club and said they had just had a chunk of money taken from them by the RFL. He said if the Club doesn’t qualify in the top 8 they will then become an amateur club.
- x. Councillor Walmsley said there was standing water everywhere and if there was any rain at all they were getting flash flooding at Meadow Road and that with every down pour it was getting worse.
- xi. Councillor O’Kane said he had asked Mike Starkie the same question regarding liability for the flooding the day before and he had said that on the highway it was the responsibility of CCC and the leaves on the pavement were the responsibility of CBC.

2157/22 Date Time and Place of next Meeting

The next Council Meeting would be on 26th January 2023 at 6.00pm at the Beacon Portal, Whitehaven.

2158/22 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 from the meeting. Councillor Roberts proposed this and Councillor Gill seconded it. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – 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 press be instructed to withdraw from the Meeting. All members of the public and press then left the Meeting.

2159/22 Quote for 2 Operatives 2023/24

The Council considered a report and quote received for the partnership agreement with CBC for the provision of the services of two operatives for 2023/24. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the quote be not approved in its current form and that it is open for renegotiation with Mr Flecken at the next Council Meeting. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the quote be not approved in its current form and that it is open for renegotiation with Mr Flecken at the next Council Meeting.

2160/22 Quote for Grass Cutting 2023/24

The Council considered 2 quotes that had been received for grass cutting of various areas in Whitehaven in 2023/24.

Quote A £27,062.04 excl. VAT

Quote B £21,477.84 excl. VAT

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the quote of £21,477.84 be accepted. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor voted against.

RESOLVED – That the quote of £21,477.84 be accepted

2161/22 Quote for Maintenance Contract for Allotments and Pigeon Lofts 2023/24

The Council considered 2 quotes that had been received for the Maintenance Contract for Allotment and Pigeon Loft Sites in 2023/24.

Quote A £3,700 with repairs being quoted for per occurrence

Quote B £7,586.95

Following a discussion on this it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the lowest quote of £3,700.00 be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the lowest quote of £ 3,700.00 be accepted

2162/22 Staff Incremental Pay Increase Report

The Council considered a report on staff incremental pay increase. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes

that the report be noted and that the Annual Increment to the Assistant Clerk and the NJC Agreement on increased rates of pay from 1st April 2023 be approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and that the Annual Increment to the Assistant Clerk and the NJC Agreement on increased rates of pay from 1st April 2023 be approved.

The Meeting closed at 7.30



Chairman