

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on the Zoom Platform on 10th

July 2020

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public

Press

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first Zoom Council Meeting and read out the Guidance notes that appeared on the Agenda.

1554/20 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence

1555/20 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

1556/20 Confirmation of adherence to the Council’s Code of Conduct and Standing Orders

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Maudling That the Council’s Code of Conduct and Standing Orders be adhered to at all Virtual Council meetings.

A vote was held and it was unanimously agreed that the Council’s Code of Conduct and Standing Orders be adhered to at all virtual Council meetings.

RESOLVED – That the Council’s Code of Conduct and Standing Orders be adhered to at all virtual Council meetings.

1557/20 **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th February 2020**

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th February 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. Councillor Rayson did not vote as she had not attended that meeting. A vote was held and it was

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th February 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Councillor E Dinsdale asked if the Council was still operating under the Delegated Authority Procedure. The Chairman said the Council was working on the situation that all Councillors in the meeting have the ability to vote on any item to be discussed.

1558/20 **Ratification of Delegated Decisions taken by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman for essential Council business**

The Council considered the Delegated Decisions that had been taken by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman for essential Council decisions during the lockdown.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the delegated authority decisions taken by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman for essential Council business be ratified and approved. A vote was taken and 8 Councillors voted for this and 4 Councillors voted against.

RESOLVED – that the delegated authority decisions taken by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman be ratified and approved.

1559/20 **Appointment of Deputy Chairman**

The Chairman asked for nominations for the position of Deputy Chairman following the resignation of Councillor Arrighi.

Councillor E Dinsdale said that before this was considered he wanted to propose that the Council move to a position where we adopt Standing Order 5 and point 2 of the Delegated Authority decision taken on 29th April 2020. He proposed that the Council hold its Annual General Meeting at the next meeting on 30th July 2020. The Chairman asked that this be left to later when he would allow it on the Agenda even although it wasn't an Agenda item.

Councillor Gill nominated Councillor Rayson and Councillor Maudling
Seconded the nomination

Councillor E Dinsdale nominated Councillor G Dinsdale but this was not seconded so the nomination fell

A vote was held and 7 councillors voted for Councillor Rayson, 3 abstained and 2 did not vote

RESOLVED – That Councillor J Rayson be appointed Deputy Chairman until the next Annual Meeting.

1560/20 **Public Participation**

A member of the public RT said that he wished to speak. He said that a group of people were promoting a Copeland area music festival as a non- profit event to cheer people up.

The festival venue was to be Copeland Stadium and that he was looking for backing as the costs were estimated to be £20,000 and was looking to local businesses, ticket sales and sponsorship to cover the costs.

He said he was trying to promote the festival and was looking for the Council's help.

The Chairman informed RT that the Council had an Events Advisory Group and that he could go to the Events Advisory Group meeting to make a presentation and discuss the event. The Events Advisory Group would then report back to the Council with recommendations.

RT said that he wanted to make the Councillors for Hillcrest and Hensingham aware of this.

The Chairman asked RT to give the Clerk his email address and then the Council could get back to him.

1561/20 **Annual Return for 2019/2020**

The Council considered a report on the Annual Return for 2019/2020

Councillor Gill proposed that recommendations 4.1 (i) to 4.1 (v) be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Hayes. Councillors voted on each recommendation in numerical order as follows:-

- 4.1(i) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that
- Section 1 – The Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020 be approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk and the Minute number inserted. A vote was taken and 11 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor did not vote.

RESOLVED - That Section 1 - The Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk and the Minute number inserted.

4.1(ii) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that Section 2 – the Accounting Statements 2019/2020 be approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman and the Responsible Financial Officer and the Minute number inserted. A vote was taken and 11 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor did not vote

RESOLVED – That the Accounting Statements 2019/2020 be approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman and the Responsible Financial Officer and the Minute number inserted.

4.1(iii) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes Roberts that the Annual Internal Auditor's Report be approved. A vote was taken and 11 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor did not vote.

RESOLVED – That the Annual Internal Auditor's Report be approved

4.1(iv) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Annual Return be advertised for public inspection to comply with the timescales and requirements in paragraph 2.2(iv) of the report and that Councillors be sent a copy of this notice. A vote was taken and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED – That the Annual Return be advertised for public inspection to comply with the timescales and requirements of paragraph 2.2 (iii) of the report and Councillors sent a copy of this notice.

4.1(v) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the completed and approved Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/2020 Return be submitted to PKF Littlejohn as soon as soon as possible following the Council meeting. A vote was taken and 11 Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained

RESOLVED – That the completed and approved Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/2020 be submitted to PKF Littlejohn as soon as possible following the Council Meeting.

4.1(vi) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the position with the Accounts for 2018/2019 be noted. A vote was taken and 11 Councillors voted for and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED – That the position with the Accounts for 2018/2019 be noted.

1562/20 Planning Applications

Councillor Maudling declared that he was a member of Copeland Borough Council's Planning Panel.

Councillor O'Kane declared that he was a member of Copeland Borough Council's Planning Panel.

Councillor Gill said that 70 extra parking spaces were being provided at Sneckyeat Road plus extra businesses and that there needed to be a thorough investigation of that junction by CCC as to the safety of it and said that the junction was a bad accident blackspot. The Chairman asked Councillor Gill to send his comments on this matter to the Clerk.

Councillor G Dinsdale said there had been an application to demolish part of the former Union Hall which was a listed building and asked that as much of the building as possible be kept.

The Assistant Clerk said the planning application would appear on the next Council Agenda for consultation and discussion.

The Council considered a list of planning applications received and shown at Appendix 1. There were no representations made in respect of the planning applications on Appendix 1 and it was

RESOLVED – That Copeland Borough Council be informed that the Town Council had considered the applications shown at Appendix 1 and had no representations to make on the planning applications.

1563/20 Finance Report

The Council considered a Financial Report.

A general discussion took place on certain aspects. In connection with hand sanitizer Councillor Arrighi said Xtreme Fitness was a Workington firm and they had been given £1000 of ward grant money and asked the Chairman if Xtreme Fitness was a business owned by his son in law and the Chairman said it was and apologised unreservedly for not disclosing an interest until now.

i When considering Appendix 1 it was reported that two additional invoices had been received as follows:-

- Viking £63.50 for stationery
- V Gorley £13.00 for postage for Agendas

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

the invoices shown on Schedule 1 and the two additional invoices listed above be approved and paid. A vote on this was held and 9 Councillors voted for the proposal, 2 Councillors voted against and 1 Councillor did not vote

RESOLVED – That the invoices shown at Appendix 1 and the two additional invoices listed above 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 Hayes that the Cashbook and Income and Expenditure at Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted. A vote was taken and 9 Councillors were for the proposal. 2 Councillors were against and 1 Councillor did not vote

RESOLVED - That the Cashbook and Income and Expenditure at Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

iii The Council considered the use of s137 as the expenditure power for all PPE purchased by the Council (para 1.3 of the Report refers). It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that s137 be the expenditure power for the purchase of PPE equipment. A vote was taken on this and 9 Councillors voted for the proposal, 2 Councillors abstained and 1 Councillor did not vote.

RESOLVED - That s137 be used as the expenditure power for all PPE equipment purchased by the Council

iv It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the information contained within paragraph 1.4 of the report be noted. A vote was taken on this and 9 Councillors voted for the proposal, 2 Councillors abstained and 1 Councillor appeared to have left the meeting.

At the end of this report the Chairman informed the Council that West Cumbria Scrubs had contacted him and said that Sellafeld Ltd had recently given them money so they had asked if the Council would like a £1100 refund on the money the Council had given them to make scrubs and this had been accepted.

1564/20

Event in Whitehaven

The Council considered a report containing a proposal by a member of the Council's Events Advisory Group to organise a town wide exhibition and to distribute leaflets in town to try and encourage people to come into the town.

The Council considered that this was a good idea but that the cost of the leaflets was too high and there were issues with actual leaflets spreading coronavirus.

Councillor Gill proposed that the recommendations in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of the report be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Hayes

Councillor E Dinsdale proposed that the money requested for the leaflets should be not be used on leaflets but should be donated to food bank associations in Whitehaven. This was seconded by Councillor G Dinsdale

A vote was taken on Councillor E Dinsdale's amendment and 6 Councillors voted for the amendment and 5 Councillors voted against it.

This now became the substantive motion and the proposal had to be voted on again.

Councillors E Dinsdale's proposal was that the recommendation for a town wide exhibition be supported other than the cost of the leaflets whatever that might be and that the Council donates that amount of money to local food bank(s). A vote on this was held and 7 Councillors voted for this proposal.

RESOLVED – That a town wide exhibition be supported other than the cost of Leaflets whatever that might be and that the Council donates that amount of money to local food bank(s).

1565/20 **Interpretation Boards**

The Council considered a report on the artwork to be put on Interpretation Boards in Whitehaven Town Centre and which the Council had previously agreed to maintain by entering into an agreement with CCC.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the artwork shown at appendix 1 for the Interpretation Boards be approved. It was unanimously agreed that the artwork shown on the Interpretation Boards be approved

RESOLVED – That the artwork shown at Appendix 1 for the Interpretation Boards be approved.

The Chairman then returned to an earlier discussion with Councillor Dinsdale and said that he had already agreed as Chairman to accept the comments of Councillor E Dinsdale.

Councillor E Dinsdale said he was proposing that the AGM be held in line with Standing Order 5 and point 2 of the Delegated Authority Decisions on 29th April 2020. He said that he was proposing that at the next meeting on 30th July 2020 that we hold the AGM then. This was seconded by Councillor G Dinsdale. The Clerk said that the Council should not be voting on this as it was not on the Agenda.

Councillor Gill said he was moving an amendment to the proposal to say that the Council should have an Annual Meeting at a time when we can have normal meetings rather than virtual meetings.

The Chairman said he thought it was a bit too early to have an Annual Meeting

on 30th July 2020 and that he would prefer to have a meeting face to face. Councillor Rayson said she was not happy to vote on something not on the Agenda. She proposed that a vote should not be held but that the matter go to the next Council Meeting when the date of the Annual Meeting could be determined. This was seconded by Councillor Hayes. Councillor Gill said that as nobody had seconded his proposal that he would withdraw it and support Councillor Rayson's proposal. A vote was taken on the second proposal and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 3 Councillors voted against the proposal. The Chairman said that this was now the substantive motion and asked the Clerk to read it out which was "That the council does not vote on this matter but that it go to the next Council Meeting when the date of the Annual Meeting can be determined". A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal, 1 Councillor voted against and 2 Councillors abstained. The Chairman confirmed that this would be on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting on 30th July 2020.

1566/20

Councillor Ward Matters

- i. Councillor Hayes said he had nothing to report
- ii. Councillor Redmond said that a privet hedge was hanging over into a his next door neighbour's garden. Councillor Redmond was asked to email the property address to the Clerk.
- iii. Councillor C Walmsley said he had nothing to report
- iv. Councillor Maudling referred to the weekend when pubs opened for the first time and that two in town had been packed but the Police instructions were only to take note and put it on file for when the licence came up.
- v. Councillor Maudling said that he was aware that a meeting was going on in town to hold a 2/3 day festival
- vi. Councillor Hayes said that Wilkos shop was no longer supplying hand sanitiser for customers entering/leaving the shop. Councillor Maudling said he would have a word with the manager
- vii. Councillor E Dinsdale said there were weeds all around Corkickle and asked if the Council could get something together with its partners to try to sort this out. He did not think it was enough to just spray the weeds. The Clerk said if he could identify the worst areas in Corkickle the Council's Ranger could be asked to do something. Councillor Dinsdale confirmed that he would do this.
- viii. Councillor G Dinsdale said there was a safety issue with a Home Group owned property on Irt Avenue relating to trees in the garden. The Chairman said he had spoken to a lady in Home Group in Whitehaven and had found her really helpful and that he would pass her contact details to Councillor G Dinsdale.
- ix. Councillor Gill thanked the Council's partners for the flower tubs at the cenotaph at Hensingham and asked that his thanks be passed on.

- x. Councillor Gill said that the weeds had got worse on Rutland Avenue and right over the estate.
- xi. Councillor Gill moved a vote of thanks to Councillor Hayes, Robin Gorley and the Chairman for bringing the Council's building up to scratch.
- xii. Councillor Rayson referred to parking on the estate and the state of the roads and litter which was mainly due to late collections which was understandable.
- xiii. Councillor Rayson said that there was a litter pick in the Hillcrest area organised by Council Alan Forster on 18th July 2020
- xiv. Councillor Rayson said that Thornton Road had been reported because of the potholes and the road was still bad. She said there was a lack of engagement with the County Councillor for the area and asked Councillor O'Kane as CBC Councillor for Hillcrest if a meeting could be arranged to discuss the state of the estate. The Chairman said that there was CCC money earmarked for the Hillcrest estate.
- xv. Councillor Rayson said the roads were in a bad state of repair due to contractors going up and down while carrying out alterations to Jericho school. Also work had been starting at 7.00am in the morning for the last 18 months..
- xvi. Councillor Rayson said she had concerns about the Whitehaven Academy building and requested that a meeting be set up between herself, the Chairman the Estates Manager from the Cumbria Education Trust and the Project Manager so that if any issue arises they can be addressed quickly.
- xvii. Councillor Rayson said she was making a personal request to all Councillors to stop arguing and having slanging matches on social media and asked that nobody tag her to anything on facebook. She said everyone need to have a bit more respect for each other. She said it doesn't look good that we're all arguing in public and that there were ways of talking to people rather than arguing on social media. She said that if anyone has a problem then get in touch with people professionally and in a civil manner She said it wasn't nice to see and it was upsetting for people's families as it gets quite aggressive at times. She said please please can people stop the media arguments.
- xviii. Councillor O'Kane referred to the state of the harbour and said some parts were beautiful and some parts were a disgusting mess
- xix. Councillor O'Kane referred to the problem of staff parking at West Cumbria Hospital and thought that the Council should have a view on this.

1567/20 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Council Meeting will be 30th July 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bos' or similar, written in a cursive style.

The Meeting closed at 7.50

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Boswell', written in a cursive style.

Chairman