

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th March 2019

Present: Councillors G Roberts (Chairman); J Forster; R Gill; C Hayes; J Kane; T Lowrey; C Maudling; J Rayson; C Walmsley

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V Gorley, Trainee Assistant Town Clerk

Representatives from 1030 Squadron Air Training Cadet Corps

David Haughian from Cumbria County Council

Members of the Public

1243/19 Apologies For Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor O’Kane

1244/19 Declarations of Interest

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

1245/19 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th February 2019

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Minutes for the Council Meeting on 28th February 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting on 28th February 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1246/19 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 14th March 2019

It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Kane that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 14th March 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 14th March 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.



1247/19 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 19th March 2019

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Walmsley that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 19th March 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED _ That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 19th March 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1248/19 Public Participation

- i. Representatives of the 1030 Squadron of the Air Training Cadet Corps attended and presented the new Standard they had purchased with a grant from the Council. They said they were getting the Standard formally presented to them by the Lord Lieutenant of Cumbria on 9th June 2019 and would be sending a formal invitation to the Council to attend and that this would be very much appreciated. There would be a drum ceremony on the car park opposite the Council Offices and again they said they would like to see Whitehaven Town Council there.
- ii. A member of the public said how nice the flower beds were looking in Whitehaven with the petunias and the tulips especially those on the Irish Street/Roper Street corner.

1249/19 Planning Applications

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

The Council had no representations to make on any of the planning applications and it was

RESOLVED – That a letter be sent to CBC Planning Department informing them that there were no representations on these Planning Applications.

1250/19 Financial Report

The Council considered a Financial Report

- i It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 be approved and paid.

RESOLVED – That the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 be approved and paid.

- ii The Council considered Appendices 2 and 3 relating to the Cashbook and Income and Expenditure. It was reported that the Chairman had spent £100 from his Chairman's Allowance to buy prizes for the model making

Competition.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

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

1251/19 Presentation on Bransty Junction Scheme

The Council heard a presentation from David Haughian from CCC on the Bransty Junction Scheme who said his role as Programme Manager was to deliver major infrastructure projects and wanted to talk to the Council about the junction improvements at Bransty Row and in particular street furniture. He made the following points:-

- There was £1.6 million from the Department of Transport to improve the junction at Bransty Row which was a tight area. There were a lot of new developments in the area eg The Buzz Station; a proposed hotel opposite Weatherspoons; a multi storey car park at the back of Tesco. Also there were lots of buses, taxis and supermarkets so he had worked hard with the highways team to make the best junction and a junction that would meet everyone's needs.
- The work for the junction was currently out to competitive tender and it was hoped to commence work in June/July 2019
- CCC as Highway Authority had responsibility for maintaining the highway
- CBC own land within the s boundary – the grassed area to the side of Weatherspoons and were working with them to make it an attractive area as a gateway to the town
- Also included were finger posts, benches, interpretation boards but CCC did not maintain those type of assets and on similar schemes had worked with town councils for them to take over the long term maintenance. He wanted to show the Council options so that when the infrastructure was installed that the Town Council would be happy to take on the maintenance of those by entering into a Memorandum of Agreement to say what the maintenance should be. He said a similar Agreement had been entered into with Penrith Town Council and would send the Council a copy of that.
- He said that the street furniture would be
 - 5 planters in St Bees Sandstone
 - Sign posts
 - Litter bins
 - 1 bus shelter in contemporary or traditional style
 - Screens round refuse bins at Weatherspoons
 - Possibly the same at Dominoes



- Planters to be planted with high quality perennials

There was no decision made on the proposals for maintenance of street Furniture and the CCC agreed to supply a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement and a detailed schedule of all the street furniture that it would be asking the Council to maintain for consideration at a future Council Meeting.

1252/19 Presentation by Inspector Richard Smilie

The Clerk reported that unfortunately Inspector Smilie was unable to attend the meeting and referred to the Police Update for March 2019 which had been attached to the Agenda.

The Council discussed this and because it was not possible to ask any questions on the police update the Clerk asked that any Councillors who had questions forward them to her for onward transmission to Inspector Smilie to be answered. No decisions were taken on this item and there is accordingly no resolution.

1253/19 Cast Iron Planters

Further to Minute 1190/90 the Council considered a report on cast iron planters. It was reported that the renovation of the cast iron planters had been completed and sited at various places in the town.

CBC had filled the cast iron planters with top soil so all that was needed was multi purpose compost. Quotes had been received per 80 litre bag of compost which was £4.20 plus VAT and as the Council required 1 ton this would cost £168.00 plus VAT.

Flowers were also needed to fill the cast iron planters and the quote from the Council's preferred supplier was £420.00 plus VAT.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Kane that the multi purpose compost at a cost of £168.00 plus VAT and the flowers for the cast iron planters at a cost of £420.00 plus VAT be purchased.

RESOLVED – That the purchase of multi purpose compost at a cost of £168.00 plus VAT and flowers for the cast iron planters at a cost of £420.00 plus VAT be approved.

1254/19 Christmas Lights Infrastructure

The Clerk gave an update on the Christmas Lights infrastructure.

Brian Holmes and his team from CCC had fitted all the replacement feeder boxes and had repaired the 2 Welcome to Whitehaven signs and would be repairing the remainder of the broken lights very shortly.

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

1255/19 Update from Events Advisory Group

The Council considered a list of expenditure for each of the events planned for this year. Sellafield had sponsored the Gastronomers show at the Photographic Exhibition in the sum of £2,500 leaving the total costs of the 5 events at £5,975.00. It was stated that this sum may increase a little (which would be reported to Council for approval) but that the budget for Council events for 2019/2020 was £15,000.00.

It was proposed by Councillor Lowrey and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the expenditure be approved with the proviso that the cups for the winners of the window dressing and best dressed boat competitions be the £65.00 ones.

RESOLVED – That the expenditure be approved and that the 2 cups for the Winners of the window dressing and best dressed boat competitions be purchased at £65 per cup.

1256/19 Stronger Town Fund

Councillor Gill gave a report on the Stronger Town Funds following attending a meeting in Bolsover the previous week. He made the following points:-

- It was a new fund coming out
- The money secured would be in Favour of the north of England
- Towns have to have a minimum population of 30,000 so Whitehaven would qualify
- The Government doesn't want borough or county councils to run this scheme- it wanted parish and town councils to do it.
- The Town Council would need the expertise of CBC to drive this forward and CBC have already agreed to do this.
- The prospectus is not available until July 2019 and when the bidding opens we can with CBC help put a bid in

No decisions were made as this was an information item only.

1257/19 Update report on Office Accommodation

The Clerk informed the Council that the purchase of the former Whitehaven News building was progressing but that there was nothing further to report at that time.

1258/19 Councillor Matters

- i. Councillor Kane said that he was concerned about the number of meetings the Council was having which was quite demanding. Councillor Rayson said she didn't think it was a bad thing having interim meetings because it meant that people who could not attend a full Council meeting



- had a chance to participate in an interim meeting. Councillor Gill said it was because the Council had so much on and was doing a lot of things.
- ii. Councillor Kane said that the Code of Conduct procedure should be addressed.
 - iii. Councillor Forster asked about the estate litter bins and was the Council any closer to getting them installed. The Clerk said that this was being arranged via CBC and the Town Council Ranger and would possibly be in the next few weeks.
 - iv. Councillor Gill asked if he could have the date for the bus shelter meeting and was informed it was on 24/4/19.
 - v. Councillor Maudling said it was disappointing that the meeting to be held with the Police the following day had been cancelled. He said the situation was not getting any better at Wilkos with fighting now and a high level of shoplifting happening inside the store. The Trainee Assistant Town Clerk said the window baskets for Wilkos window ledges were being ordered the next day.
 - vi. Julie Rayson said that she had been contacted that day by 2 residents from Hensingham about problems on Ullswater Avenue. They had young children and cars were speeding down that road and that the kids couldn't cross the road in safety.
 - vii. Councillor Rayson referred to grass cutting on Thornton Road. An area had been maintained by a resident who was now elderly and could not cut the grass anymore.
 - viii. Councillor Rayson asked what the final date for return of the survey questionnaires was. The Trainee Assistant Town Clerk said that the online survey closed the next day and that 126 replies had been received online ACTION for Communities would be attending the next full Council meeting on 25th April 2019 so the closing date would be extended until then.
 - ix. Councillor Rayson referred to Whitehaven Academy and said the good news was that there was funding for a new build. She said there were still a few issues:- Staff restructures/staff unsettled/no new head appointed When the new head was in place Councillor Rayson suggested that herself and Councillor Roberts go to meet him/her and possibly meet with the school council and maybe ask a representative from the 6th form from St Benedict's to come to Council meetings. The Chairman congratulated Councillor Rayson for all she had done for Whitehaven Academy.
 - x. Councillor Hayes referred to the chicane outside the shop on Kells. He said the road was being used as a race track at 4.00pm in the afternoon and the residents had asked if they could use a speed gun there and have a crossing. He said he has spoken to the CCC for Kells about this.
 - xi. Councillor Hayes referred to the fact that there were no road markings on the road down to the old mine works and that he had contacted CCC about this.
 - xii. Councillor Lowrey referred to speeding.



1259/19

Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Council be on 25th April 2019 at 6.30pm in the Ennerdale Room, Whitehaven Civic Hall.

The Meeting closed at 8.00pm

Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Robert Lee', written over a horizontal line.