

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th April 2022

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V Gorley. Assistant Clerk

Cumbria County Councillor, Emma Williamson

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Gaile Stevens who had recently been appointed as a Councillor for Whitehaven South Ward.

1991/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received as follows:-

Councillor Carr	Work commitments
Councillor E Dinsdale	Work commitments
Councillor G Dinsdale	Work Commitments

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the apologies for absence given be accepted and noted. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

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

1992/22 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Roberts declared that he was a member of Cumbria County Council
Councillor Maudling declared an interest in Item 6 as he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel
Councillor Rayson declared an interest in Item 11 on Allotments
Councillor Gill declared an interest in Item 14 as he was a member of WHAG

1993/22 Public Participation

There was no public participation

1994/22 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 31st March 2022**

Councillor Walmsley said he had been at the Meeting but he was not shown as being present.

It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Walmsley that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 31st March 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to an amendment being made to show Councillor Walmsley being present. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal, 2 Councillors abstained and 1 Councillor voted against.

RESOLVED -That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31st March 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to an amendment being made to show Councillor Walmsley being present.

1995/22 **Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 21st April 2022**

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 21st April 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 3 Councillors abstained.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 21st April 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1996/22 **Planning Applications**

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

- i. Councillor Roberts said he had put a written objection in both as a County Councillor and a Town Councillor relating to land at Harras Park. He referred to the CC Regulatory Notice and said that under the guidance he had received that the building (Brackenthwaite) needed to be demolished because it was not up to HSE standards and would cost a mint to bring it up. He said the CCC did not have a particular use for it and the number of people who want residential care had fallen in this area and the need was now catered for at The Gables. He said the land (not the buildings) was classified as a valuable asset.

Councillor O’Kane made the following points:-

- CCC don’t seem to consult with anyone on residential care
- CCC have a history on this and are prone to coming along where there is a particular building that they own and it either sits there for a long time and the answer then is to knock it down.
- He questioned if CCC have ever look for additional uses for this building when there is the room and the facilities in it for people

who may want to stop there. It was surprising because of the medical schools at Westlakes where the schools are in dire need of residential accommodation for students and nurses and questioned why CCC were not working with Westlakes to look for student accommodation.

It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Town Council formally object to the CCC to the knocking down of Brackenthwaite without full investigation of all alternative uses to serve the community and to justify their decision.

Before a vote was taken Councillor Roberts declared a further interest as he said he was a substitute member of the CC Development Control and Regulation Committee and therefore would be abstaining from voting. A vote was then taken and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED - That a letter be sent to CCC to inform them that the Town Council formally objects to the CCC to the knocking down of Brackenthwaite without full investigation of all alternative uses to serve the community and to justify their decision.

- ii. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that having fully considered all the other applications on Schedule 1 that CBC be informed that the Council had no further representations to make. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED - That having fully considered all the other applications on Schedule 1 that CBC be informed that the Council had no further representations to make.

1997/22 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance report.

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

Cumbria Media	£68.00 for website maintenance
CBC	£504.00 for Beacon Portal Hire
CBC	£2045.51 for Grass Cutting Contract
CBC	£720.80 for Allotment Contract
CBC	£3500.59 for Ranger Contract
CBC	£2227.00 for Assistant Ranger Contract
Thomas Graham	£179.00 for U bolts

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 together with the 7 extra invoices above be approved and paid. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Invoices shown on Appendix 1 together with the 7 extra invoices above be approved and paid.

- ii. Appendices 2 and 3 – It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

1998/22 **Quotes for Insurance Cover**

The Council considered a report on quotes that had been requested and received for the provision of insurance cover for the Council which was due to expire in May 2022. It was reported that 3 quotes had been requested on the basis of a 1, 3 or 5 year contract but only 1 quote had been received. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a 5 year policy be entered into with the company who had submitted the quote at a cost of £3,157.29 per annum for a 5 year contract. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED - That a 5 year policy be entered into with the company who had submitted the quote at a cost of £3,157.29p per annum for a five year contract.

1999/22 **Summer Plants for 2022**

The Council considered a report on the provision of an additional 12 hanging baskets for the Harbour at a total cost of £120.00. (12 had already been authorised by Minute 1880/21). It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that an additional 12 hanging baskets be purchased for the Harbour at a total cost of £120.00. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That an additional 12 hanging baskets be purchased for the Harbour at a total cost of £120.00.

2000/22 **CALC membership Renewal**

The Council considered a report on the renewal subscription of £1914.98 for CALC for 2022/23. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the subscription to CALC be renewed for 2022/23 in the sum of £1914.98. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the subscription to CALC be renewed for 2022/23 in the sum of £1914.98.

2001/22 Allotments

The Council considered a report on a request from an allotment tenant who was seeking permission to plant some fruit trees on their allotment plot. The Allotments Advisory Group had been contacted about this and their recommendation was that the permission be granted. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that permission be given to the tenant of the allotment plot to plant the fruit trees. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED - That permission be given to the tenant of the allotment plot to plant the fruit trees.

2002/22 Councillor Ward Matters

- i. Councillor Walmsley requested that an item be put on the Agenda on putting a couple of litter bins on the stretch between the cattle arch on the 07 side of Mirehouse, behind Valley School and right up to the blue bridge area where the pigeon lofts were. Councillor Stevens said that she had been with CBC's Team Leader for Street- Scene that day and the next day they were going to do a blitz on Mirehouse and that CBC had taken on a new operative who would be dealing with this.
- ii. Councillor Rayson said she disagreed with some of the previous Minutes as she had definitely voted against the dignitaries in St Nics and the canapes. She referred to Minute 1964/22 no 6 which said there were 6 votes for and 2 abstentions but that she had voted against and that she wished this to be noted.
- iii. Councillor Rayson said someone had been asking about office hours and when the office was going to be open full time again. The Clerk said that that had not been decided yet and that CBC staff had not returned to work full time. The Clerk said that at the moment staff were in the office between 8.00am and 12 noon Monday to Friday but that if anyone wanted an appointment outside those hours on working days then this would be accommodated.
- iv. Councillor Maudling referred to residents parking permits and said these were being abused and that one or two people were reputed to be selling their visitor parking permits. He said he had had a walk round town last week and one car was parked down by Wilkos and had been there for 4 weeks. He said he didn't know how CCC checked on these. He said we were very short of car parking in Whitehaven and the abuse of this was taking up a lot of space.
- v. Councillor Gill referred to the state of Cumberland Road – the moonscape. He said he had had a meeting with Mike Hawkins and the Highways Officer and that money had become available in April which they were hoping to get to resurface the road but that he had also asked for residents parking permits on Cumberland Road as people were parking on the

- pavement and blocking off the pavement on the other side and said until something serious happens nothing would happen.
- vi. Councillor Hayes said that the Jubilee celebrations were well under way at Kells and thanked everyone involved for their help.
 - vii. Councillor Roberts said he had had a meeting at Harras Moor with CCC and had had all the signs cleaned but they were also looking at the proposed development from access and drainage points of view. He said he wanted a sign put up there which he was working on at the moment because articulated lorries have been going down from the golf club end and getting stuck because of the narrow and low bridge and then trying to reverse back up that road so it needs to be right at the top there “low bridge – no access for large vehicles”.
 - viii. Councillor O’Kane said that a lady had complained to him about several areas where there was overhanging foliage/branches and he had tried to direct her to CBC as that was their responsibility. She had asked that if CBC was struggling could the Town Council help but he had said to try CBC first.
 - ix. Councillor O’Kane referred to the Bleach Green playing field and said it did not look as if it had been cut and requested that Alan be asked how many times it is cut during the year as he was not sure it was cut the full number of times last year. The Clerk said there had been 12 cuts last year.
 - x. Councillor O’Kane said the review for the schools had not yet again happened. He said this was put in in November. He said he had been walking along Red Lonning and talking to people and they were absolutely at their wits end up there. He said it was not just Red Lonning it was also the houses behind Red Lonning. He said there had been ambulances stuck there and also a fire engine and the whole situation was crazy. He said it was also not just Red Lonning as the Whitehaven Academy was now in full flow and both schools were now round the circular road and it was horrendous from 2.30pm onwards as well as in the mornings.
 - xi. Councillor O’Kane said he had had several complaints about seagulls
 - xii. Councillor O’Kane said he was concerned about the review of the schools and asked if Matthew Reeves would be attending the meeting with the CCC. The Clerk said she didn’t know at this point.

2003/22 Date and Time and Venue of Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting was the Annual Meeting on 26th May 2022 at 6.00pm at the Solway Hall, Whitehaven Civic Hall, Lowther Street, Whitehaven.

IN PRIVATE

2004/22 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 Hayes proposed this and Councillor Roberts 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 or press be instructed to withdraw from the meeting.

2005/22 Application for Council Grant - WHAG

The Council considered a report on a Grant application by WHAG. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the grant of £1,000.00 be paid. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED - That the grant of £1,000.00 be paid to WHAG.

The Meeting closed at 6.50pm


Chairman (Deputy).