

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th February 2022

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V Gorley. Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public

1951/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received as follows:-

Councillor Carr	Work Commitments
Councillor G Dinsdale	ill

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

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

1952/22 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Maudling entered the Meeting and declared an interest in Item 5 as he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel

Councillor Roberts declared that he was a member of Cumbria County Council

1953/22 Public Participation

A member of the public (MB) attended to speak about the West Cumberland Hospital and the lack of coronary care facilities. She said she had had a heart attack last summer with a 99% blockage of her artery. She made the following points :-

- She was in the West Cumberland Hospital for 3 days before she could get a bed in Carlisle

- When she was given a bed she had to wait for an ambulance which took a further 36 hours
- She was sent to Carlisle at 2.00am in the morning
- All the time she was in West Cumberland Hospital she was in pain and the staff there did the best they could but that healthcare round here was a postcode lottery because if she had had a heart attack in Carlisle there would have been no problem as she would have been taken to the relevant place not stuck for 3 days in West Cumberland Hospital
- She said this was not a rare thing as everybody knows someone who has had a stroke or heart attack and thought it was totally unacceptable that that was what we're presented with in Whitehaven especially as they are spending £40 million on a new hospital and they can't deliver services like that
- There was a sense of isolation as well as although she wasn't allowed visitors because of the pandemic that was an exception rather than a rule. Even though her family were not allowed to visit her she knew people on the ward at West Cumbria Hospital. So there was a friendly face at a time when she was there not knowing whether she was going to live or die and in pain from the heart attack and nobody knew what treatment she needed until she went to Carlisle
- She said she thought there should be a lot of voices raised in protest at this because it was totally unacceptable

At this point Councillor Roberts declared an interest as he was Chairman of CMTW Partnership and (MB) had written to him and he had forwarded the issue to the Health Scrutiny Committee of CCC.

Councillor Gill said the Council should support (MB) on behalf of the people of W

Councillor O'Kane said this was bigger than Whitehaven and it should go to Copeland Borough Council as well and it was one of those things that everyone had protested about and at the end of the day it was ignored by the Commission that looked into everything. It was so difficult at the moment to try and change what's there but that we still had to try and that when we write to the letter it should go to the Elected Mayor with a request that they endorse the feeling of the Town Council.

In response to a question from Councillor Maudling (MB) said she was now very well

(MB) thanked the Council for listening to her and for giving her their support.

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th January 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

1955/22 **Planning Applications**

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications received and shown at Appendix 1. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that following full consideration of the planning applications that CBC be informed that the Council had no representations to make on the Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED - That following full consideration of the planning applications that CBC be informed that the Council had no representations to make on the Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1.

1956/22 **Finance Report**

The Council considered a Finance report.

- i. Appendix 1 – The Assistant Clerk reported that there was 2 extra invoices to be considered namely:

Cumbria Media	£32.00 for uploading and maintenance of website
Westcom	£216.00 Annual Licence for Microsoft Azure

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 together with the 2 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 2 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.

1957/22 **Westcom Upgrades of PCS**

Following a visit from the Councils IT Contractor the Council considered a report on upgrades/replacement of its 3 PCs. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the 3 PCs be upgraded by the IT Contractor at a cost of £90.00 per PC plus the £50 collection and return fee. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the 3 PCs be upgraded by the IT Contractor at a cost of £90.00 per pc plus the £50 collection and return fee.

1958/22 **Hewlett Packard Enterprise Support Scheme**

The Council considered a report on the renewal of the Contract for support services hardware with Support Warehouse who act on behalf of Hewlett Packard Enterprise at a cost of £109.00 plus VAT for 1 year. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Contract with Support Warehouse on behalf of Hewlett Packard Enterprise be renewed for 1 year at a cost of £109.00 plus VAT. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Contract with Support Warehouse on behalf of Hewlett Packard Enterprises be renewed for 1 year at a cost of £109.00 plus VAT.

1959/22 **Consultation on the Draft of the Copeland Local Plan 2021-2028**

The Council discussed the document on the Consultation on the draft of the Copeland Local Plan which had previously been circulated and made the following comments.

- Councillor O’Kane referred to a lack of linkage with CCC in terms of road provision etc. In the Hensingham area at the top near the school there are several places itemised as present developments. But other potential developments are being put forward but not in the plan. Services underpinning all these several thousand houses are not in the plan. There are lots of applications pending and some may be hurried in before the plan takes effect because the plan doesn’t appear to allow development in certain areas.
He questioned how binding the local plan was going to be in the future. When the new plan comes in to what degree will it carry weight. To what degree will applications be entertained from areas outside the zones in the Local Plan.

He said it had taken an age to put together and he wished there was more reference to other bodies especially CCC

- Councillor Gill said all town and parish councils should have been part of the process in formulating the plan
- Councillor Dinsdale queried the long term date on the Local Plan and said he would be amazed if the new authority wouldn't want to revisit it. He said the contentious one for him was the acceleration of the bypass.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that it be left to individual Councillors to send their comments to Copeland Borough Council. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED – That it be left to individual Councillors to send their comments to Copeland Borough Council

1960/22 Recommendations from Events Advisory Group

The Council considered a report on recommendations to full Council made by the Events Advisory Group as follows:-

- 1. LIGHTING ROUND ST NICHOLAS TOWER** – 8 banks of red white and blue for 3 days (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) over the Jubilee weekend. Quotes were sought for the hire of this from the following:-

Supplier A referred to internet suppliers but said he could give a quote if required. However a quote has not been received

Supplier B quoted £1,434.12 inc VAT

Supplier C did not submit a quote as all his equipment had already been booked

RECOMMENDED – That banks of red blue and white lights be erected round St Nicholas Tower and that the quote from Supplier B of £1,434.12 for the hire of, the erection of and removal of 8 banks of red white and blue lights be accepted.

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the recommendation of the Events Advisory Group above be approved and actioned. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the recommendation of the Events Advisory Group in 1 above be approved and actioned.

- 2. STREET THEATRE** - Many professional street theatre companies have no availability but a quote of £1500 was received from a professional street theatre company for 2 days- Friday and Saturday. This will

comprise of a portable kitchen and wheeling it around the Town in various locations and pretending to be celebrity chefs etc

RECOMMENDED – That the professional street theatre company be Booked at a cost of £1500.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the recommendation of the Events advisory Group in 2 above be approved and actioned. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the recommendation of the Events Advisory Group in 2 above be approved and actioned

3. FAIR ON HARBOUR - We have arranged for there to be a fair on the Harbourside with the consent of the Harbour Commissioners at no cost to the Council. The fairground provider will supply all necessary documents (risk assessments etc) and certificates for the fairground rides

RECOMMENDED – That this be agreed and confirmed.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the recommendation of the Events Advisory Group in 3 above be approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the recommendation of the Events Advisory Group in 3 above be approved and actioned

4. A BRASS BAND is available to play on Friday 3rd June 2022 at a cost of approx. £200.00. Will be playing on the harbour.

RECOMMENDED – That this be agreed and the Band booked

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the recommendation of the Events advisory Group in 4 above be approved and actioned. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the recommendation of the Events advisory Group in 4 above be approved and actioned.

5. OTHER POTENTIAL STREET MUSIC ACTS FOR THE WEEKEND - Roving jazz bands etc - £1,000.00

RECOMMENDED – That £1,000 be allocated for the provision of street musical acts

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the recommendation of the Events Advisory Group in 5 above be approved and actioned. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the recommendation of the Events Advisory Group in 5 above be approved and actioned

6. THE READING OF THE PROCLAMATION - The reading of the Proclamation on 2nd June 2022 is being co-ordinated nationally for 1.00pm on 2nd June 2022. It is proposed that this takes place in St Nicholas Gardens led by the Town Crier, (Members will recall that the Council agreed to take responsibility for the Town Crier in September 2021), The Mayor of Whitehaven Town Council and the Mayor of Copeland and that a couple of dozen people be invited (invitations to be sent out early April 2022) to have canapes and cold drink in the Marquee following the Proclamation. If there is no funding available Gerard Richardson has said he will be happy to fund this by using local suppliers.

RECOMMENDATION – That the proposals regarding the organisation of the reading of the proclamation be approved and that the Council decides whether or not to fund the reception in the marquee following the Proclamation. If the Council decides to fund the reception then there will need to be a resolution that the expenditure complies with section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the expenditure for the canapes and drinks be funded from the Civic Hospitality Budget. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal, and 2 Councillors abstained

i **RESOLVED** – That The expenditure for the canapes and drinks be funded from the Civic Hospitality budget.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that it be agreed that the expenditure complies with the provisions of s137 of the Local Government Act 1972. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal, and 2 Councillors abstained.

ii **RESOLVED** – That it be agreed that the expenditure complies with the provisions of s137 of the Local Government Act 1972

7. THE VIKING VILLAGE The Viking Village has said they will be coming over The Platinum Jubilee Weekend. They have not given the actual dates.

RECOMMENDED – That this be noted and that the Clerk inform all Members of the actual dates when confirmed.

This was noted

8. POSSIBLE TALL SHIP in April 2022)

) Approx cost of £1,500.00

9. POSSIBLE TALL SHIP in August 2022)

As Members will know one of the main attractions and success stories of the Maritime Festivals was the visits of Tall Ships and it was recognised in a number of reports including one written by Wayne Hemmingway in 2004, Broadway Malyan. All the reports recommended increasing the number of Tall Ships visits not only for the economic benefits to the Town but also for the feelgood factor. Sailing ships are part of the historical story of our Town.

RECOMMENDED – That £1500 be allocated for visits from 2 Tall Ships.

It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the recommendation of the Events Advisory Group in 8 and 9 above be approved and actioned. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the recommendation of the Events Advisory Group in 8 and 9 above be approved and actioned.

10. **WINDOW DRESSING COMPETITION** - The Clerk reported that the Rotary Club and Lara Schwab had said they would be organising a window dressing competition for the Queens's Platinum Jubilee. Lara Schwab was at the Meeting and said she was not actually organising it, it was the Rotary Club.

RECOMMENDED – That this be noted.

This was noted

11. **QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE SOUVENIRS FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN** – The Clerk reported that some Town Councils were purchasing souvenirs to give to school children as a memento of the Platinum Jubilee. We have 2,151 primary school pupils and 1,568 secondary school pupils. A search of the internet has revealed that commemorative rulers can be purchased it is suggested for primary school pupils (see Annex 1) at a cost of £1.87 per 1000 which would total £4,022.37 plus VAT and shipping. Commemorative button badges can be purchased at a cost of £24.99 for 50 badges (see Annex 2) which would total £800.00 plus VAT and shipping and this is suggested for secondary school children (not for primary school children as the button badges have a sharp pin).

RECOMMENDED – That the Council purchases commemorative rulers for primary school pupils and button badges for secondary school pupils and that a resolution be made that this expenditure complies with s137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that it be agreed to go ahead and purchase the rulers and button badges.

An amended proposal was put forward by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that we leave it in abeyance and that we contact the schools to see what would benefit the children and ask for a reply back by 10th March 2022. A vote was held on the amended proposal and 6 Councillors voted for the amended proposal and 2 Councillors voted against

RESOLVED – That the amended proposal to the original proposal being carried now becomes the substantive proposal.

A vote was then held on the substantive proposal and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That it be left in abeyance and that the schools be contacted to see what would benefit the children and ask for a reply back by 10th March 2022.

12. **JUBILEE LAMP POST SIGNS** – Information was received from the Royal British Legion on Lamp Post Signs for the Jubilee (See Annex 3). These cost £4.99 each but there were discounts depending on the number ordered. The Council currently puts a total of 65 poppies on lamp posts for Remembrance Sunday on Lowther Street, King Street, and the Market Place. It was suggested that in addition to these streets that the Millenium part of the Harbour be included and it was proposed that 100 lamp post signs be purchased. These will cost £399.00 excluding shipping costs.

RECOMMENDED – That 100 lamp post signs be purchased and that a resolution be made that this expenditure complies with the provisions of s137 of the Local Government Act 1972. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that 100 lamp post signs be purchased and that this expenditure complied with the provisions of s137 of the Local Government Act 1972. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That 100 lamp post signs be purchased and that this expenditure complied with the provisions of s137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

1961/22 **Campaign for Fully Resourced and Consultant Led Coronary and Stroke Care Wards at West Cumberland Hospital**

Councillor E Dinsdale thanked the Chairman for including this item on the Agenda. He said there had been two recent reports related to West Cumberland Hospital about their confidence/capability within West Cumbria and the need to travel to Carlisle and that this had touched a nerve with him and a lot of West Cumbrian residents and a lot of people had left messages on the West Cumberland Hospital facebook page about their own personal experiences and it

had become very apparent that travelling to Carlisle for treatment is costing lives.

As a result (MB) had decided to set up a campaign for consultant led coronary/stroke wards at West Cumberland Hospital The initial campaign will involve setting up a zoom meeting for key stakeholders to get the campaign going and also getting support from other town and parish councils within West Cumbria for the campaign. The people of Whitehaven and West Cumbria are a first class community that are being treated like second class citizens. We are asking to be treated within the golden hour which is the most important time to receive treatment when suffering from a heart attack or stroke. It was proposed by Councillor E Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor Maudling that Whitehaven Town Council support this campaign and that the Town Council Zoom platform be used for campaign related meetings. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That Whitehaven Town Council support this campaign and that the Town Council Zoom platform be used for campaign related meetings.

1962/22

Councillor Ward Matters

- i. Councillor Rayson referred to the new charity shop in the old Spar shop at Richmond. She said they were looking for volunteers to do a few hours volunteering and the Charity was keen to work with volunteer Groups here and there
- ii. Councillor Maudling said it had been trouble free in town and that the Police were doing a good job
- iii. Councillor Gill referred to the very bad deteriorating road system at Hensingham and said it was now one big pothole from 1 end of the estate to the other. He said it was an absolute disgrace and that he was going to ask Mike Hawkins to meet him on the estate because something must be done. Councillor Maudling said that the government had allocated 1.2 million of which Copeland would get £200,000.00
- iv. Councillor E Dinsdale said he had been contacted by a resident from Back Corkickle enquiring about getting residents only parking signs and asked if this was possible. Councillor O’Kane said the CCC were reviewing all TROs and what you had to do was to register with them what you want at that stage and then they would review it. He said the person that Councillor Dinsdale needed to contact was Matthew Reeve
- v. Councillor O’Kane asked Councillor Redmond if he was happy about the Richmond Pub being knocked down and Councillor Redmond said no
- vi. Councillor O’Kane asked if it was possible to ask for another meeting with CCC highways as we are continually being ignored with everything. He said he had asked for several things last time and other people were the same and he had asked for a simple review of primary school parking and that still hasn’t been done and was promised for October last year Councillor O’Kane asked if someone from the CCC Local Committee

- could be requested to attend the next Council Meeting to hear the concerns of Councillors regarding County Council matters
- vii. Councillor O’Kane thanked everyone for the bus shelter which would shortly be erected at Bransty
 - viii. Councillor O’Kane said he had bumped into Jamie Reed the other day and said he would be having a discussion with people about the building
 - ix. Councillor Hayes said that on Kells the Jubilee celebrations are going full swing. There was going to be a big event on the Welfare Ground and they were going to involve Greenbank, Woodhouse and Sandwith.
 - x. Councillor Hayes said the Community Awards had gone down very well and he had issued the fourth that week to our two main fundraisers.

1963/22 Date and Time and Venue of Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting would be on 31st March 2022 at 6.00pm at the Beacon Portal.

IN PRIVATE

1964/22 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 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 or press be instructed to withdraw from the meeting.

1965/22 Application for Council Grant - WCT

Further to Minute 1950/22 the Council considered a report on the charitable status of WCT who had applied for a Council Grant.

The power to award the grant was under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 which requires a resolution to say that

- (i) There is a direct benefit to the area or part of the area or to some or all of the inhabitants of the area and
- (ii) That the direct benefit accruing to its area or residents is commensurate with the expenditure incurred

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Council pass a resolution that the Grant application complies with the provisions of s 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 given in (i) and (ii)

above and that the Council Grant be awarded. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Council Grant application complies with the provisions of s 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 given in (i) and (ii) above and that a Council Grant of £995.00 be awarded to WCT

1966/22 **Application for Council Grant - TCC**

The Council considered a report on a Grant application by TCC. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Gill that a Council Grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to TCC. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That a Council Grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to TCC.

The Meeting closed at 7.20

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

Chairman