

# WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

### **1773/21 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Arrighi, Councillor C Walmsley, Councillor L Walmsley

### **1774/21 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Roberts declared an interest in Item 6 on Fire Safety as he was a Member of CCC

### **1775/21 Public Participation**

There was no public participation

### **1776/21 Annual Return 2021/21**

The Council considered a report on the Annual Return for 2020/2021 and the recommendations in paragraph 4.1 (i) to (v) of the report

- 4.1(i) It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that Section 1 – The Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021 be approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk and the Minute number inserted. A vote was taken and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors voted against

**RESOLVED** - That Section 1 - The Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk and the Minute number inserted.

4.1(ii) It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that Section 2 – the Accounting Statements 2020/2021 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 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors voted against

**RESOLVED** – That the Accounting Statements 2020/2021 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 Roberts that the Annual Internal Auditor's Report be approved. A vote was taken and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors voted against.

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

4.1(iv) It was proposed by Councillor Rayson 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. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors voted against.

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

4.1(v) It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the completed and approved Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/2021 be submitted to PKF Littlejohn as soon as soon as possible following the Council meeting. A vote was taken and 7 Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and 2 Councillors voted against.

**RESOLVED** – That the completed and approved Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/2021 be submitted to PKF Littlejohn as soon as possible following the Council Meeting.

1777/21 **Events Expenditure**

- i. The Council considered a report on expenditure required for its events on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The Assistant Clerk said that paragraph 2.0 iii of the report should read £1200 and that an interim quote had been received of £1046.40 plus an adjustment for the final rider. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Robert that members approve the expenditure shown in paragraph 2.0 points i to iv of the report (including the amendment) be approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** That the expenditure shown in paragraph 2.0 points i to iv of the report (including the amendment) be approved.

- ii. The quotes received at Appendix 1 for the marquees were considered and it was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the quote from supplier number 2 be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that that quote from supplier number 2 be accepted.

- iii. The quotes received at Appendix 2 for the tables were considered and it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote from supplier number 2 be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the quote from supplier number 2 be accepted.

- iv. The quotes shown at Appendix 3 for the feathered flagpoles were considered. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote received from supplier no 2 be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the quote received from supplier no 2 be accepted.

- v. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that if due to circumstances Egremont is not able to loan the Council marquees for the two events that approval be given to hire marquees from the supplier whose quote has been accepted. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That if due to circumstances Egremont is not able to loan the Council marquees for the two events that approval be given to hire marquees from the supplier whose quote has been accepted.

1778/21 **Council Building Inspections**

The Council considered a report on the inspections necessary to its building in

Queen Street so as to comply with its responsibility as owner and its responsibility towards staff occupying the building. It was proposed by Councillor Rayson and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Clerk be authorised to have all the checks in paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 of the report carried out in the Council's building with 3 quotes being obtained where possible; all identified repairs carried out; and all necessary certificates renewed. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the Clerk be authorised to have all the checks in paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 of the report carried out in the Council's building with 3 quotes being obtained where possible; all identified repairs carried out; and all necessary certificates renewed.

**1779/21 Appointment of Representative to Harbour Users Group**

The Council considered a report on the request from the Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners for a representative from the Council to sit on the Harbour Users Group. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the incumbent Chair of the Council be appointed. Councillor Gill proposed an amendment to this that the position should always be filled by the Chair of the Council on a continuous basis which was seconded by Councillor Hayes.

A vote was held on the amendment and 6 Councillors voted for the amendment and 3 Councillors voted against

**RESOLVED** - That the position should always be filled by the Chair of the Council on a continuous basis.

**1780/21 Purchase of seats for St Nicholas Gardens**

- i. Council considered a report on the purchase of 4 seats for St Nicholas gardens to commemorate all those in Whitehaven who have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Council purchase 4 Lowther Seats for St Nicholas Gardens from Glasdons at a cost of £520.90 plus VAT per seat, plus an amount for fixing, £83.60 for a commemorative plaque and approximately £40.00 for the Council's crest. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the Council purchase 4 Lowther Seats for St Nicholas Gardens at a cost of £520.90 plus VAT per seat, plus an amount for fixing, £83.60 for a commemorative plaque and approximately £40.00 for the Council's crest.

- ii. In order to purchase the seats from Glasdons Financial Regulation 11 requires the Council to make a resolution to do so and having made a

resolution that the Council then makes a resolution to record the reasons for suspension and consider the assessment of risks drawn up and presented and approve the same. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Council makes a resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11 to allow the Council to purchase 4 Lowther seats from Glasdons at a cost of £520.90 plus VAT per seat, plus and amount for fixing, £83.60 for a commemorative plaque and approximately £40.00 for the Council's crest. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the Financial Regulation 11 be suspended to allow the Council to purchase 4 Lowther seats from Glasdons at a cost of £520.90 plus VAT per seat, plus and amount for fixing, £83.60 for a commemorative plaque and approximately £40.00 for the Council's crest.

- iii. Having made the resolution in above it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Council resolve to record the reasons for suspension and consider the assessment of the risks drawn up and presented and approve the same. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That the Council record the reasons for suspension and consider the assessment of the risks drawn up and presented and approve the same.

#### **1781/21 Renewal of Zoom Licence for Zoom Meetings**

The Clerk reported that the current licence for zoom would expire on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and that although Zoom could not be used for Council meetings it could be used for Advisory Groups and informal meetings not open to the public and where decisions were not being made. The cost of a 12 month licence for Zoom was likely to be approximately £120.00. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the licence for Zoom be renewed. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That the Zoom licence be renewed for a year

#### **IN PRIVATE**

- 1782/21** That prior to the following item 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

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

The Chairman asked that the Grant application from RYT be dealt with first and this was agreed

**1783/21 Grant Application – RYT**

The Council considered a grant application for £1,000.000 from RYT. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to RYT. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to RYT.

**1784/21 Ward Grant Awarded to The Copeland Veterans Group**

Further to Minute 1772/21 Councillor Arrighi had submitted apologies for absence and it was reported that AF had been in hospital. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and Seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council writes to the CVG and Councillor Arrighi to ask them to come to the Council Meeting in June and explain exactly what happened to the grant in the ward. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for and 2 Councillors abstained.

**RESOLVED** – That the Council writes to the CVG and Councillor Arrighi to ask for an explanation and/or report and ask them to attend the June Council meeting.

The Meeting closed at 7.30pm



Chairman