

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th January 2020

Present: Councillor B O’Kane (Chairman); Councillor C Arrighi; Councillor E Dinsdale; Councillor R Gill; 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

Members of WADAOS

1504/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Hayes and Councillor G Dinsdale

1505/20 Declarations of Interest

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

1506/20 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th November 2019

It was proposed by Councillor E Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th November 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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

1507/20 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 19th December 2019

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor C Walmsley that subject to Minute 1495/19 being amended to read that Councillor Rayson did

return to the meeting but did not stay for the decision that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 19th December 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED – That subject to Minute 1495/19 being amended to read that Councillor Rayson did return to the meeting but did not stay for the decision the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 19th December be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1508/20 **Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 16th January 2020**

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor E Dinsdale that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 16th January 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 16th January 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1509/20 **Public Participation**

Three members of the Hillcrest Residents Group (which had been recently set up to look at issues on the estate) appeared to complain about the condition of the roads and made the following points:-

- The roads on the estate were in a bad state and they wanted to ask if the Council would send a letter of support about this and in particular about Ruskin Drive which was in an abominable state with some potholes measuring 4 inches in depth.
- This was causing damage to cars
- One resident driving along Thornton Road had hit a pothole which had caused £1,000 of damage to the car.

The Chairman said everyone had concerns about the state of the roads and that he had asked for a meeting with CCC Highways about this and when this had been arranged all Councillors would be invited. The Chairman also asked the Group to send an email to the Council outlining their concerns and they confirmed they would.

1510/20 **Planning Applications**

The Council considered planning applications received and shown at Appendix 1. There were no representations or objections in respect of the Planning Applications and it was

RESOLVED – That Copeland Borough Council be informed that the Council had no representations/objections to the planning applications shown at Appendix 1

1511/20 Finance Report

The Council considered a Financial Report.

- i. The Council considered Appendix 1 and the Assistant Clerk said that one additional invoice had been received in the sum of £14,755.00 for operational support for Whitehaven Market. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the invoices shown on Appendix 1 and the additional invoice be approved and paid.

RESOLVED – That the invoices shown on Appendix 1 together with the additional invoice 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 Roberts that the Cashbook and the Income and Expenditure at Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

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

1512/20 Approval of Budget and Precept

The Council considered a report on the Council's proposed 2020/21 Revenue Budget and Precept. It was reported that if accepted it would equate to a 2.93% reduction in the Town Council Precept for 2020/21. Following a discussion there were no amendments to this and it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that:-

- a) That the 2020/21 Revenue Budget and Precept be approved and
- b) That the Chairman and Clerk sign the Precept/2020/21 Form received from Copeland Borough Council to advise Copeland Borough Council of the approved Whitehaven Town Council Precept for 2020/21 and to inform the setting of the overall Council Tax requirement for 2020/21.

RESOLVED – (a) That the 2020/21 Revenue Budget and Precept be approved and

- (b) That the Chairman and Clerk sign the Precept/2020/21 Form received from Copeland Borough Council to advise Copeland Borough Council of the approved Whitehaven Town Council Precept for 2020/21 and to inform the setting of the overall Council Tax requirement for 2020/21.

The Chairman and Councillor Gill expressed their thanks to the Clerk and

1513/20 **Appointment of Internal Auditor**

The Council considered a report on the appointment of an Internal Auditor for 2020/21 and considered two quotes that had been received for the provision of this service. The Clerk informed the Council that both quotes were from professional, experienced and highly competent people. The Chairman asked if a quote had been received from the Internal Auditor appointed last year and the Clerk confirmed that it had and that this was the higher quote. Following a discussion and consideration of the quotes it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the higher quote was still value for money and in view of the excellent service received previously and for continuity purposes that the higher quote be accepted and that Julie Hartley be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor for 2020/21. It was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the higher quote was still value for money and in view of the excellent service provided previously and for continuity purposes that the higher quote be accepted and that Julie Hartley be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor for 2020/21.

1514/20 **PHP Appointment Document**

The Council considered a report about the letter of appointment sent by PHP Architects in connection with their work on the new office accommodation. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Walmsley that the Chairman be authorised to sign the letter of appointment on behalf of the Council

RESOLVED – That the Chairman sign the letter of appointment on behalf of the Council.

1515/20 **Request for Grass Cutting**

The Council were informed that a request had been received from Well Whitehaven about cutting the grass on the proposed play area at Mirehouse. A quote of £2,000 to cut the grass 12 times per annum had been received from CBC and as there was no budget for this they asked if the Council's Ranger could support the Mirehouse Community Centre Association with any assistance in cutting the grass. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the Chairman send a letter to Mr T Smith from the Mirehouse Amateurs Football Club to ask if he would be prepared to cut the grass and that this be referred back to the next meeting

RESOLVED – That the Chairman send a letter to Mr T Smith of the Mirehouse Amateurs Football Club to ask if he would be prepared to cut the grass and that this be referred back to the next meeting

1516/20 **Police Report**

The Clerk reported that a Police Report had not been received and this was noted.

1517/20 **Office Accommodation**

The Chairman gave a report on office accommodation and said that the Council was meeting informally with the Architects on Monday 3rd February 2020 and emphasised that the Council would have total control over whatever was happening with the building. There was no decision made as the item was for information only.

1518/20 **Champions**

It was reported that Councillor C Walmsley had raised this issue and it was agreed that discussions be deferred to a future Council meeting where Councillor Walmsley could put forward his ideas. Councillor Walmsley said that CBC had champions and he thought that the Town Council should have its own champions as it was a good opportunity for Town Councillors to get involved in things in the area.

Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the Clerk send all Members an email asking them to State if they would be interested in becoming a Champion for a particular issue/cause and that this be reported back to the next Council Meeting.

RESOLVED - That the Clerk send all Members an email asking them to State if they would be interested in becoming a Champion for a particular issue/cause and that this be reported back to the next Council Meeting.

1519/20 **Councillor Ward Matters**

- i. Councillor O’Kane asked if all Councillor could meet to have a walk around the Harbour to take photographs and to decide as a Town Council what should be said to the Harbour Commissioners.
- ii. Councillor E Dinsdale said the Council need a meeting with the Harbour Commissioners to produce our evidence.
- iii. Councillor O’Kane said we have planned a VE day dinner dance in May 2020 and would be having a big raffle and we needed to get prizes and asked Councillors for their help in this.
- iv. Councillor Gill said he had received a request for the grass behind the bus shelter on Hensingham Square and asked if the Ranger could do this.
- v. Councillor Gill said there were a lot of problems with the state of the roads and had been in touch with CCC Councillor Mike Hawkins about this He said it was particularly bad where he lived near the hospital and he was

going to set up a meeting of all involved to see if they could sort out a solution.

- vi. Councillor Rayson said Ruskin Drive and Thornton Road were in a bad state and CCC were saying that the issues had not been reported but Councillor Rayson said they had.
- vii. Councillor Rayson said Johnson House were happy to take over the responsibility for the weekly checks on the defibrillator that the Council had installed on their property and the Clerk said that training would be arranged.
- viii. Councillor Rayson asked for an update on the Piper Educational Trust and the Chairman said that CBC would be sending out packs this week.
- ix. Councillor Rayson said that people were grateful for the litter bins that the Council had installed.
- x. Councillor Maudling referred to Tangier Street and said it was way behind schedule and businesses were being affected and that last week the ROC Bar had been sealed off.
- xi. Councillor C Walmsley said that grit bins had disappeared off the estate and that a number of people had fallen.
- xii. Councillor Redmond said that there was a lot of smashed glass on the Richmond pub car park. The Chairman suggested getting CBC Enforcement Team to have a look at this.
- xiii. Councillor E Dinsdale asked if there was any money left for defibrillators and the Chairman said it was an ongoing issue.
- xiv. Councillor Arrighi said she had had a big thank you from Greenbank Community Centre for her grant money that she had given to provide activities for children during the school holidays.

1520/20 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Council Meeting will be 27th February 2020 at 6.30pm in the Dunboyne Hall, Whitehaven Civic Hall

IN PRIVATE

1521/20 Prior to the following items of business the Chairman moved the following:-

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.

RESOLVED – That in view of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public and or press be instructed to withdraw.

1522/20

Grant Application

The Council considered a grant application received from WADAOS and listened to a presentation from representatives from WADAOS.

Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded.

A counter proposal was put forward by Councillor Rayson and seconded by Councillor Arrighi.

The counter proposal was voted on and 4 Councillors voted for it and 5 Councillors voted against.

The original proposal was voted on and 5 Councillors voted for it and 4 Councillors voted against.

RESOLVED – That a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to WADAOS

The Meeting closed at 8.05pm

Chairman

