

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 25th August 2022

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Member of the Public

2071/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor J Rayson	On Holiday
Councillor G Dinsdale	Work Commitments
Councillor J Carr	Work Commitments
Councillor G Stevens	Other Commitment
Councillor R Redmond	On Holiday

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

RESOLVED – That the apologies for absence be accepted and noted

2072/22 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Maudling declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 as he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel

Councillor Roberts declared an interest that he was a member of CCC

2073/22 Public Participation

There was no public participation

2074/22 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th July 2022

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th July 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 Council Meeting held on 28th July 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

2075/22 Annual Governance & Accountability Return For Year Ended 31st March 2022

The Clerk reported that the External Auditors PKF Littlejohn had completed the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for year ending 31st March 2022 and had issued their Report in the last couple of days. This had been previously circulated to Councillors at that time and the Chairman had given permission for it to be included on the Agenda. The Clerk reported that the Auditor's Report had stated that the Return by the Council was in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met and that there were no other matters to be drawn to the attention of the Council. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that a vote of thanks be given to the Officers for the meticulous way that they had dealt with this and that the External Auditor's Report be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That a vote of thanks be given to the Officers for the meticulous way that they had dealt with this and that the External Auditor's Report be approved and noted.

2076/22 Planning Applications

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

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that CBC be informed that following consideration of the Planning Applications on Schedule 1 the Council had no representations to make. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That CBC be informed that following consideration of the Planning Applications on Schedule 1 the Council had no representations to make.

2077/22 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance Report.

- i. Appendix 1 – The Clerk reported that there were 2 extra invoices to consider namely:

Stefan Gates	£335.86 inc VAT – travelling expenses for Science Show – 625 miles @ 45p a mile
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PKF Littlejohn, Auditors	£1,200 External Audit Fee
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It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 2 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 2 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid.

- ii. Appendices 2 and 3 – the Council considered Appendices 2 and 3 and it was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that these be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

2078/22 Code of Conduct

The Council considered a report on a new Code of Conduct which had recently been approved by CBC. CALC had previously advised that both Allerdale and Copeland were looking to adopt a new Code of Conduct which would be passed to Town and Parish Councils for them to adopt so that there would be a consistent approach. CALC have also advised that all local Councils should adopt the new Code of Conduct.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that in order to have a consistent approach the new Code of Conduct shown at Appendix 1 be approved and adopted and replace the Council's current Code of Conduct. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That in order to have a consistent approach the new Code of Conduct shown at Appendix 1 be approved and adopted and replace the Council's current Code of Conduct.

2079/22 Trees and Polytunnel on Allotment Plot

The Council considered a report on a request from an allotment tenant to install a polytunnel measuring 20ft(long)x10ft(wide)x10ft(high) on the allotment and to plant orange, lemon, lime and pineapple trees in the polytunnel and had stated that they would ensure that the mango and pineapple trees did not grow above 12ft. Councillors on the Allotment Advisory Group were contacted and agreed to

this but the site representative expressed concerns regarding the height of the mango and pineapple trees and if the tenant left the plot who would be responsible for the removal of the trees.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the request be approved subject to the trees being monitored as they grew to maturity as it may well be at that time the Tenant be asked to remove them should there be a problem. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the request be approved subject to the trees being monitored as they grew to maturity as it may well be at that time the Tenant be asked to remove them should there be a problem.

2080/22 Representation on the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

The Council considered a report and heard a verbal report from Councillor E Dinsdale who had attended a meeting of the WCSSG meeting on 2nd August 2022 in the absence of Councillor Maudling who could not attend. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor E Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor Gill that a letter be sent to the Chairman and the Secretary of the WCSSG to formally request that the Council nominated person be appointed as the Council representative on the WCSSG. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That a letter be sent to the Chairman and the Secretary of the WCSSG to formally request that the Council nominated person be appointed as the Council representative on the WCSSG.

Councillor O’Kane came into the Meeting

2081/22 Concerns about the level of service provided to the people of Whitehaven by GP Practices and Dentists

The Council considered a report on the level of service provided to the people of Whitehaven by GP Practices and Dentists and heard a verbal report by Councillor Gill. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a letter be sent to CBC urging them to set up an Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group as a matter of urgency to look into the provision of GP and Dentistry practice within the Borough. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That a letter be sent to CBC urging them to set up an Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group as a matter of urgency to look into the provision of GP and Dentistry practice within the Borough.

2082/22 Zoom Renewal

The Clerk reported that the Zoom Licence expired on 30th September 2022 and the cost of renewal for a further year would be £119.00. Councillors felt that Zoom was a useful tool and it was proposed by Councillor E Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Zoom licence be renewed for a further year. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Zoom Licence be renewed for a further year.

2083/22 Option to opt out of the SAAA Central External Auditor Appointment Arrangements

The Council considered an email from SAAA (Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments) informing the Council that the next 5-year appointing period runs from 2022-23 to 2026-27 and the email was to advise the Council that there was an option to opt out of the central procurement scheme for the next round of 5 year appointments and for a Council to appoint its own External Auditor and that notice to opt out had to be given before 28th October 2022. However the process and the requirements of opting out were quite onerous.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the status quo be maintained and that the Council does not opt out and continues to be part of the SAAA sector scheme led auditor appointment regime. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the status quo be maintained and that the Council does not opt out and continues to be part of the SAAA sector scheme led auditor appointment regime.

2084/22 Street Name and Numbering

The Council considered a report on requests from CBC for comments on proposed street name and numbering for 2 developments namely:-

- Former Romar Factory Ivy Mill Main Street Hensingham proposed to be called 1-278 Ivy Mills, Whitehaven and
- Land south of Waters Edge Close, Kells proposed to be called 1-33 Ladysmith Close, Whitehaven

Councillor Gill said both names were consistent with the areas where they were and it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the Council had no objections to the proposed street name and numbering for the 2 developments and that CBC be informed. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Council had no objections to the proposed street name and numbering for the 2 developments and that CBC be informed.

2085/22 **Consultation on Cumberland Local Plan**

The Council considered a consultation document on the Cumberland Local Plan. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that it be left to individual Councillors to reply with their comments by Monday 5th September 2022. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That it be left to individual Councillors to reply with their comments by Monday 5th September 2022.

2086/22 **Councillor Ward Matters**

- i. Councillor O’Kane said that he had asked about a month ago for the hedge at Victoria Road to be cut. He said it was grossly overhanging and was quite dangerous but yet again CBC had not done it.
- ii. Councillor O’Kane said there were several instances of things not being collected again on the day but that they had made sure that the bins were collected the next day which was good.
- iii. Councillor O’Kane commented about the hospital and said he had just come back from Carlisle and the road developments were now underway in the Bothel area and the traffic coming into our area to Carlisle and said that he counted over 300 cars and there was an emergency vehicle with blue lights flashing behind him and the vehicle somehow managed to weave in and out and get through the traffic lights. But at this time of night now an ambulance would have no chance whatsoever because both sides of the road would be gridlocked and there are going to be some really serious repercussions over the next 6 months with the state of that road.
- iv. Councillor Gill referred to the price of petrol now to get to Carlisle hospital. He said he had been told that because they were going to put drops in his eyes he wouldn’t be able to drive which meant that someone would have to drive him or he would have to get public transport which wasn’t good enough. He said it had been stated that it took over 45 minutes to get from WCH to Carlisle but that was door to door not bed to bed.
- v. Councillor E Dinsdale said he had had a telephone call from a resident who lives at Maple Grove about street lighting and that he had taken a photograph of the street light. He said he thought it was CCC who had done that and said they had chopped it off the street light to base height level. The resident thought there had been a number of them done around the Corkickle area. The Clerk said that this had been discussed a couple of months ago and that CCC had informed the Council that every lamp post in Copeland had been surveyed and those that were dangerous had been chopped off and that there would be a 12 week lead in time for new street lights and when they were received they would be installed. Councillor E Dinsdale said he would inform the resident of this.

- vi. Councillor E Dinsdale asked if it was mentioning about what was happening in the Waverly and Councillor Maudling said probably not as this was Councillor Ward Matters and that it wasn't Councillor Dinsdale's Ward. Councillor Maudling said he thought it was his Ward and at the moment he had no comment because we didn't know anything about it because it had only come to light that week and we didn't know the result of anything or whatever meetings had taken place. Councillor E Dinsdale said there were 2 key points around this
- The consultation point and that he understood the process and that from what we could understand the Home Office had imposed this but ultimately for him he didn't personally agree with this but understood that he couldn't do anything about it
 - He said he would encourage all WTC Councillor to look at some of the crime figures that are related to Tangier Street where in 2019 there were 540 crimes reported near Tangier Street and there are only 8% of the streets in the UK that are regarded as more dangerous than this. Councillor E Dinsdale then read out the various types of crime in the area comprising the 540 and said his main point was that we will be receiving vulnerable adults who are not familiar with the UK never mind Whitehaven, never mind key areas of Whitehaven and asked if it was the right thing to do to be situating people in what is the crime hotspot for Cumbria and he questioned if this area was the right place. He said we have vulnerable people coming to this town and in his opinion they could be exploited. He encouraged all Councillors to look at the crime rates on crimerate.co.uk
- vii. Councillor O'Kane said that if we didn't pass sensible comments on this we would be letting our residents down and that his only reservation was the location of that particular street and that we did not have full information.
- viii. Councillor Gill said the roads were getting worse. He said CCC had filled in some potholes but had left half of them. He said he had been told that they were not potholes but surface damage. He said it was just one big hole from one side of the road to the other. He said CCC Mike Hawkins was fighting to get the road repaired.

2087/22 Date Time and Place of next Meeting

The next Council Meeting would be on 29th September 2022 at 6.00pm at the Beacon Portal, Whitehaven.

IN PRIVATE

2088/22 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 Hayes 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.

2089/22 **Grant Application** - EOSG

The Council considered an Application for a Grant of £1,000 from EOSG

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that a Grant of £1,000.00 be not awarded to EOSG. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that a Grant of £1,000.00 be not awarded to EOSG.

2090/22 **Grant Application – WADAOS**

The Council considered an Application for a Grant of £1,267.80 from WADAOS.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to WADAOS. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

2091/22 With the Chairman’s permission the Clerk mentioned the following:-

Quotes for Fire Safety Contractor

Further to Minute 2063/22 the Clerk reported that our Architects had received 2 quotes from Fire Safety Contractors. The first quote was for £7,850 and the second quote was for £9,350

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote of £7,850 be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the quote of £7,850 be accepted

The Meeting closed at 7.05pm

Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, positioned above the word "Chairman".