

# WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Virtual Extraordinary Council Meeting held on the Zoom Platform on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020

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

Members of the Public

Press

### **1582/20 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence

### **1583/20 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

### **1584/20 Public Participation**

A member of the public (AB) said she had written last week to members on one or two things: -

- i. AB said the premises had just opened and asked if the Copeland Disability Forum could have a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment which had not been received and asked if this could be rectified.
- ii. The Chairman said an Architect had been appointed who were up to scratch with these issues and (AB) asked if they could have a copy of the plans and this was agreed.
- iii. AB asked if the Council had a start date for the renovations or when the renovations had been done as every day the Council was open, they were operating illegally

- iv. AB referred to the documents on the council's website and problems downloading as all the documents were in pdf and asked that document also be put in word.

The Clerk reported that Heather Morrison from Copeland Borough Planning Department had recently visited the offices to give some advice about what measures could be taken to make the building accessible to all.

Councillor G Dinsdale asked that all correspondence from AB be sent to all Councillors.

**1585/20 Social Media Policy**

The Council considered a report on a Social Media Policy together with a prepared Social Media Policy.

Councillor E Dinsdale asked who the Councillors were and what concerns they had raised about social media

Councillor Rayson said she was one of those people and didn't like it when Councillors enticed people into arguments. Councillor Hayes said he was another of those people.

Councillor E Dinsdale said he was looking for a hard and fast example – a screen shot. Councillor Rayson replied that people were making comments and Councillors were getting into the debate and airing their comments in public.

Councillor Arrighi said why was it not just put into a Code of Conduct

Councillor Rayson said she didn't need to provide hard and fast evidence and asked not to be tagged onto any posts.

Councillor O'Kane said that CBC had a Social Media Policy for Councillors and that there was a difference between the Code of Conduct and a Social Media Policy. He said the most important thing about it was that it would help the Council in the future on how to address each other and move on.

Councillor E Dinsdale said he thought that Councillors were cherry picking from the AGM and that the LGA were currently looking at Codes of Conduct including social media and asked if it would not make more sense to wait for this

Councillor Gill said it was not an item for the AGM and it was not known how long the LGA would take.

Councillor Arrighi said there was no openness and transparency in this and the voting was illegal as it was against Article 10 of the Human Rights Act.

Councillor Maudling said there should be a Social Media Policy and it was not about stopping people speaking it was all about how we speak to people and not doing it in a bullying way.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Council adopts the Social Media Policy. A recorded vote was held and the results were as follows: -

Councillor O'Kane	For
Councillor Rayson	For
Councillor Arrighi	Against

Councillor E Dinsdale	Against
Councillor G Dinsdale	Against
Councillor Gill	For
Councillor Hayes	For
Councillor Maudling	For
Councillor Redmond	Against
Councillor Roberts	For
Councillor C Walmsley	For
Councillor L Walmsley	For

**RESOLVED** – That the Social Media Policy be approved and adopted by a majority of 8 votes to 4.



The Meeting Closed at 6.45pm

Chairman