WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 25th January 2024**

**Present:** Councillor C Hayes (Chainnan); Councillor R Gill; Councillor J Carr; Councillor E Dinsdale; Councillor A Pearson; Councillor G Roberts; Councillor R Redmond; Councillor A Spedding; Councillor R Taylor; Councillor R White

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer V Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public

Prior to the Meeting starting the Chairman and the Councillors introduced themselves to the public and the Chairman referred to fire alanns/escape and toilets

**2434/24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor G Dinsdale Councillor B O'Kane

Maternity Leave i11

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes 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.

**2435/24 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Hayes declared that he was a member of the Whitehaven Tidy Town Committee and the Harbour Users Group.

Councillor Taylor declared that he was a member of the Red Lonning Community Centre

Councillor Gill declared that he was a member of the Whitehaven Heritage Action Group

**2436/24**

**2437/24**

**Public Participation**

JC attended and made the following points

* He had been looking in Burtons shop where the photos were and said what a fine shop it used to be like a lot of buildings in town that were going downhill.
* He said years ago he used to be a member of what was the Town Centre Group of Whitehaven. It was an amalgamation of the Civic Society, Copeland Council representatives, The Heritage Group and the Chamber of Trade. They were trying to promote the Town.
* They produced quite a bit of literature and he said he had brought some with him for the Council to have a look at
* He wondered if even though the Town Centre Group didn't exist anymore whether the literature could be of any use to anybody.
* He said where we were falling down was Workington and Carlisle had a Town Centre Manager and that was his job full time and we hadn't got one
* The Town Centre Group didn't cost anything because everybody on it was a volunteer and JC wondered (he said he knew the town was run down with online shopping like a lot of towns) if there was any mileage in re-forming something like the Town Centre Group who if it wasn't costing anything as everyone was a volunteer to sort of promote the town
* JC said he had brought some of the type of things they had done - eg if there was a firm who wanted to expand they would contact them and send literature out to them to see if they had any interest in coming to Whitehaven. He said Copeland Council used to give them some funds but unfortunately over the years it started to decline and then fell away and now it didn't exist any more and he just wanted to bring this to the Council's attention and for the Council to look at it and see if there was any mileage in re-forming such a group if there was enough volunteers to do it

The Clerk asked about the brochure and JC said he had brought it for the Council to keep

The Chairman thanked JC for attending

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on 30th November 2023**

The Clerk apologised for the en-or in Minute 2425/23 which should have read seconded by Councillor Spedding not Councillor Pearson and asked that the Minutes be amended. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that subject to the amendment above the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th November 2023 by approved and signed by the Chairman

as a correct record. A vote was held and 9 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained

**RESOLVED** - That subject to the amendment above the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th November 2023 by approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**2438/24 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 17th January 2024**

Councillor Gill asked if the press were at the last meeting and the Clerk asked if it was in the Minutes that the Press were present and Councillor Gill said no.

Councillor Gill said there had been a report in the Whitehaven News yesterday quoting him and he wondered how they got the quote and the Clerk said she didn't know but that the meeting had been in public. Councillor Gill said the newspaper article had quoted verbatim what he had said so obviously it had been recorded

Councillor E Dinsdale said they were assisted by him as at the end of the

Meeting the Council had agreed that the public should be consulted on the road traffic changes and Councillor Gill said that the Council would consult with them through its Officers not through Councillor Dinsdale. Councillor E Dinsdale said it was his Ward and to answer Councillor !Gill's question it was him and Councillor Gill said that he was out of order in his view and Councillor E Dinsdale said in his view he wasn't.

Councillor Gill said that any public statement to the media should go through the Clerk or the Chairman and asked that an item be placed on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting to discuss this point.

Councillor E Dinsdale referred to page 20 and the title Road Traffic Regulation Order for Whitehaven and said within point 3 on page 14 to the report that for map 4 this should be residents parking only and within the itemised list where it said proposal Map 4 where it has been bullet pointed further down and says from Corkickle no objection or comments on this and he did comment. The Clerk said she had written it down on the plan what was said and Councillor E Dinsdale said he had commented on it and it was in the Minutes and Councillor E Dinsdale said it would be worthwhile checking that it did get

submitted to Cumberland Council because it was a really key point because he

had originally submitted that. The Clerk said it had been submitted to CC and that a response had been received which had been sent to all Councillors by email that day. Councillor E Dinsdale said he would look at it. The Clerk said that the matter would be going back to the Council for further discussion because of certain points.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 17th January 2024 by approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 17th

January 2024 by approved and signed by the Chai1man as a coffect record.

**2439/24**

**Planning Applications**

1. Councillor Roberts refeffed to planning application 4/23/2164/PIP in respect of 108 Victoria Road - 3 dwellings and referred to subsequent plans and access onto that road and pointed out that the application was faulted because of the number of dwellings (3) to be erected at the rear of another propetty so there would be 4 dwellings with one access. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Taylor that Cumberland Council be informed that the application was faulted because of the number of dwellings (3) to be erected at the rear of another property so there would be 4 dwellings with one access. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That Cumberland Council be informed the application was faulted because of the number of dwellings (3) to be erected at the rear of another property so there would be 4 dwellings with one access.

ii. Councillor White refeffed to planning application 4/23/2355/0Fl - 8 Corkickle, Whitehaven and wanted to know how many holiday lets there would be, the parking and access details and parking availability. He also wanted to know whether extra Council Tax was charged for holiday lets as this could have an effect on housing. It was proposed by Councillor White and seconded by Councillor Hayes that Cumberland Council be asked how many holiday lets there would be, the parking and access details and parking availability. Also whether extra Council Tax was charged for holiday lets as this could have an effect on housing. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That Cumberland Council be asked how many holiday

lets there would be, the parking and access details and parking availability. Also whether extra Council Tax was charged for holiday lets as this could have an effect on housing.

111. Councillor Taylor refeffed to planning application 4/24/2017/OF1 - The Boat Shed, North Shore and asked if it was possible to get more clarity on this and asked what the intent was from Cumberland Council with the piece of land as he had been under the impression that the land was earmarked for development purposes eg car park/hotel/part of the bus exchange. The Clerk said that all of this detail could be seen on CC' s website. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Carr that a letter be sent to Cumberland Council asking them what their intent was with this piece of land. A vote was held and it was unanimously

 

**RESOLVED** - That a letter be sent to Cumberland Council asking them what their intent was with this piece of land.

1v. There were no further representations on any other planning application on Schedule one and it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor White that Cumberland Council be informed that with the exception of i-iii above there were no further representations on any other planning application on Appendix 1.

**2440/24**

**RESOLVED** - There with the exception of i-iii above there were no further representations on any other Planning Applications listed on Appendix 1.

**Report from Cumberland Council**

Councillor J Ghayouba who represents Bransty Ward on Cumberland Council attended and gave the following rep01i.

He said he didn't have a lot to bring to the Meeting and the main item was an ask from the Council with regard to the Community Investment Plan.

Councillor Ghayouba said the Whitehaven and Coastal Community Panel had put together a local investment plan where they had set out their priorities and how they wanted to try and improve the community and they wanted a representative from the Town Council to go to their community network meetings to provide feedback on the local investment plan that had been published and said he believed that it had been emailed to the Clerk and to the Council so that they could have a read and that the next Meeting was on 13th February 2024.

The Chairman said that he would go along.

The Clerk said that Councillor Hawkins had said that it was normally the Chairman of Town Councils who attended and that she had received an email from Tamsin Beatty who said that only I person was needed but that if after attending the first meeting the Chainnan felt there should be another Councillor or 2 Councillors to accompany them then that would be in order.

Councillor Ghayouba said that he wanted to encourage all Councillors to read the investment plan thoroughly and feed their comments into the Chairman so that when he attended the meeting he would have the all the Council's comments

* Councillor Ghayouba said the TRO consultation would close at the beginning of Februaiy 2024. He knew there was a lot of concern in respect of disabled parking etc. He said his understanding from speaking with the officers was that residents don't get what they don't want so that if there were proposals out there and a sea of views against the proposals he didn't think CC would go ahead and force it on people. One of the things to take into account was that a lot of the proposals were legacy proposals and asked the Council to encourage people to go on the CC website and leave their comments.

**2441/24**

The Chairman thanked Councillor Ghayouba for the presentation

Councillor E Dinsdale said he had spent 3 hours going round his Ward on Monday getting a direct feel and said there were strong feelings from the Aladdin's Cave/Chemist part of the Market where you have 3 shops and the bird seed/tobacco shop and all 3 businesses were on that part of the Market where it was loading only outside and were firmly of the opinion that their businesses would benefit more from disc badge parking. There were also feelings from the butchers side where there had been no change at all around more blue disc parking and he had told them all to submit their comments on the consultation to CC and that he would also do it as a Town Councillor. He said he welcomed the increase in disc parking to the Market, Swingpump Lane and the top of Strand Street.

The Clerk asked Councillor Ghayouba if the public consultation would be advertised and he confirmed it would and said if a resident was in an area of town affected they should get a letter from CC. Councillor Ghayouba confirmed that he would let the Clerk know the period for public consultation.

**Finance Report**

The Council considered a Finance report

1. Appendix 1 - Invoices paid to avoid late payment fees as no Council Meeting since November 2023. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the invoices paid be noted and approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the invoices paid be noted and approved

u. Appendix 2 - The Assistant Clerk reported that there was an invoice on Appendix 2 for£18,000 from Cumberland Council which was the total amount set aside in the Town Council budget for 2023/24 for St Nicholas Gardens. There was no breakdown of costs to show how the figure had been arrived at. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the invoice be not paid until a breakdown of costs had been received, A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That that the invoice be not paid until a breakdown of costs had been received.

111. Appendix 2 - The Assistant Clerk reported that there was 1 additional invoice to consider on Appendix 1 namely

Bennett Brothers £50 plus VAT for Christmas Tree

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the invoices shown on Appendix 1 plus the 1 extra invoice be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the invoices shown on Appendix 1 plus the 1 extra invoice be approved and paid.

**2442/24**

**2443/24**

1v. Appendices 3 and 4 - It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that Appendices 3 and 4 be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That Appendices 3 and 4 be approved and noted.

**Internal Auditors Report**

The Council considered a report received from the Council's Internal Auditor. Everything was satisfactory. Councillor Gill moved a vote of thanks be given to the staff and that the Internal Auditors Report be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Hayes. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That a vote of thanks be given to the staff and that the Internal Auditors Report be approved.

**Quotes Received for planting and Maintenance of Summer and Winter Plants in Whitehaven 2024/25**

The Council considered quotes received for planting, maintenance and watering of summer and winter plants in Whitehaven for 2024/25. Five quotes were sought and two were received as follows:-

Contractor A Contractor B

£48,472.50 plus VAT

£54,998.64 plus VAT

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the quote of £48,472.50 plus VAT from Contractor A be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the quote of £48,472.50 plus VAT from Contractor A be accepted.

**2444/24 Quote Received for Erection, Maintenance, Repair and Dismantling of Christmas Lights in Whitehaven 2024/25**

The Council considered a report on a quote of £24,500.00 plus VAT received from Cumberland Council for the erection, maintenance, repair and dismantling of Christmas Lights in Whitehaven for 2024/25. It was reported that this was

an increase of£ 100 and was the first increase in 6 years. In order to accept this quote the Council had to consider suspending Financial Regulation 11 to pe1mit this. Financial Regulation 18 states that the Council may by resolution duly notified prior to the relevant Meeting of the Council suspend any part of the Financial Regulations provided that reasons for the suspension are recorded and an assessment of the risks arising had been drawn up and presented to the Council in advance. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor White that (i) The Council suspends Financial Regulation 11 to allow Cumberland Council to erect, maintain, dismantle and repair the Christmas Lights in 2024/25 at a cost of £24, 500.00 plus VAT and

(ii) Having made the resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks stated in the report be accepted and approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That (i) The Council suspends Financial Regulation 11 to allow Cumberland Council to erect, maintain, dismantle and repair the Christmas Lights in 2024/25 at a cost of £24, 500.00 plus VAT and

(ii) Having made the resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks stated in the report be accepted and approved.

**2445/24**

**Quote received for the Erection, Repair, Maintenance and Dismantling of Bunting in Whitehaven 2024**

The Council considered a report on a quote of £4,446.91 plus VAT from Cumberland Council for the erection, repair, maintenance and dismantling of bunting in Whitehaven for Town Council events. In order to accept this

quote the Council had to consider suspending Financial Regulation 11 to permit this. Financial Regulation 18 states that the Council may by resolution duly notified prior to the relevant Meeting of the Council suspend any part of the Financial Regulations provided that reasons for the suspension are recorded and an assessment of the risks arising had been drawn up and presented to the Council in advance. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Taylor that (i) The Council suspends Financial Regulation 11 to allow Cumberland Council to erect, maintain, repair and dismantle the

bunting in Whitehaven at a cost of £4,446.91 plus VAT and

(ii) Having made the resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks stated in the report be accepted and approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That (i) The Council suspends Financial Regulation 11 to allow Cumberland Council to erect, maintain, repair and dismantle the bunting in Whitehaven at a cost of £4,446.91 plus VAT and

(ii) Having made the resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the rep011 be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks stated in the report be accepted and approved.

 

**2446/24**

**2447/24**

**Quote for Purchase of additional Bunting**

The Council considered a report on the purchase of 530 metres of Union

Jack bunting from the Hampshire Flag Company at a cost of £777.70 plus VAT In order to accept this quote the Council had to consider suspending Financial Regulation 11 to permit this. Financial Regulation 18 states that the Council may by resolution duly notified prior to the relevant Meeting of the Council suspend any part of the Financial Regulations provided that reasons for the suspension are recorded and an assessment of the risks arising had been drawn up and presented to the Council in advance. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Taylor that (i) The Council suspends Financial Regulation 11 to allow the purchase of 530 metres of Union Jack bunting from the Hampshire Flag Company at a cost of £777.70 plus VAT and

(ii) Having made the resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks stated in the report be accepted and approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That (i) The Council suspends Financial Regulation 11 to allow The purchase of 530 metres of Union Jack Bunting from The Hampshire Flag Company at a cost of £777.70 plus VAT and

(ii) Having made the resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks stated in the report be accepted and approved.

**Consideration of purchasing Lamp Post Banner Brackets**

The Clerk reported on a suggestion by Cumberland Council's Lighting Department to purchase 5 Lamp Post Banner Brackets at a cost of £450.00 plus VAT to be used for Christmas lights displays and advertising.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that 5 lamp post banner brackets be purchased at a cost of £450 plus VAT. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That 5 Lamp Post Banner Signs be purchased at a cost of

£450.00 plus VAT

Councillor Gill asked that a letter be sent to Brian Holmes to thank him for all the help and advice that he had given to the Council over the years and to wish him well for the future and this was agreed.

 

**2448/24 Councillor Ward Matters**

1. Councillor White said he had been considering alongside Councillor Hawkins having another session with Home Group which they had had last autumn. He asked if any Councillors had any other residents with Home Group issues and said maybe we should organise an evening session in the town to discuss these

ii. Councillor White referred to his Ward Grant and funding for the Boxing Club in his Ward and said he would speak to the Clerk about this after the Meeting

111. Councillor Taylor raised 3 issues

* Viberoptix had been installing round Hillcrest and had left an unfinishedjob on Highfields and he had been in touch with the foreman that day to get tarmac round the connection boxes and made good because it was creating a tripping hazard
* There had been gangs of youths from Woodhouse estate kicking down people's doors and people had been complaining about this. The kids had been approached and some had been captured on door bell cameras. He said they were going to have a community engagement session and that Councillor Forster had been engaging with the Police and doing walks rounds the estate. The youths had said they were coming from Woodhouse because there were more Police up there
* On Hillcrest Avenue a barrier had appeared round the bus stop and now elderly people using the bus stop were having to go on the grass where it was all flooded and muddy and causing serious problems for the residents and that he was trying to sort this out

1v. Councillor E Dinsdale said he had spent over 3 hours the previous Monday in the Market talking to shop keepers and businesses about the proposed draft changes and they really welcomed the Swingpump Lane and Strand Street and the additional blue badge parking that has been allocated in the Market. He said they would like to see the blue badge parking go a bit further on the other side of the Market which is Kinsellas Shop, the Post Office, the butchers and where there was a loading bay in front of Aladin's Cave, the birdseed and tobacco shop and the Chemist they would like to see blue badge parking there. The businesses considered that the Traffic Wardens were being a bit over zealous and believed that this was having an impact on businesses and would like to see a more common sense approach in particular to loading and unloading. They said that maybe a meeting could be arranged with the Supervisor of the Traffic Wardens as they would like to see a common sense approach

1. Councillor Pearson raised 3 issues
	* Street lighting - he had reported on the Whitehaven to St Bees main road there were 2 footpaths leading from one estate to the

other from Greenbank down towards Mirehouse and the 2 street lights that light up the entrances to these footpaths are out and were causing absolute blackspots. He said he had reported this to CC highways who said they had looked at one and it was an underground problem that would cost a lot of money and they had no intention to do any work. So he had been in touch with Councillor Williamson and told her it was a road that was renowned for speeding and these 2 footpath entrances cross this busy, dangerous road and these lights are very important and they have been out for months

* + 2 lights had been out on Bowness Road for 6 months
	+ During the cold snap for some reason they don't grit Woodhouse Hill and he had had a lot of concerned people going to him and saying it would turn into sheet glass which it did and there was chaos. He said things were not being looked at properly as to what was causing danger to the public. Councillor Pearson said that he had reported these on the CC website.

v1. Councillor Taylor said there were also other areas not gritted - there were 2 accidents at Harras Moor on the hill going down and on Hillcrest the bus route had not been gritted and this was causing, in bad weather conditions, real dangerous problems and thought it was something that we should ask clarification on from CC.

v11. Councillor Ghayouba said Cumberland was aware of Barras Moor as residents had been in touch with him about it and in the case of Barras Moor the Highways Team told him that they had gritted Barras Moor but there had been some rain. He said that in terms of gritting routes these had been put out for review and would be constantly under review and that each Cumberland Councillor had a dedicated Highways Mentor who would be a single point of contact where they could go to raise concerns and with whom they had direct contact for highways issues and would be given feedback on any issues.

v111. Councillor Carr said he had nothing as such but that he had been walking on the 09 side - and the Cattle Arch behind the school and it was good to see that the pigeon loft had been cleaned up and the full length of the cycle path there had been cleaned. He said it all looked really clean

1x. Councillor Hayes said he had been delighted to attend the opening of the Howgill Play Centre and said it was a great building for kids and that there were a few places left.

Councillor Hayes said parking for the school was bad so that needed to be kept an eye on

Councillor Hayes said he had been unable to do the Christmas Lights competition on Kells due to illness and that he had donated the prizes to Kells RLFC to raise money for the kids

 

**2449/24**

**2450/24**

**Date and Time of next Meeting**

The next Council Meeting would be on Thursday 29th February at 6.00pm in the Beacon Portal

Councillor E Dinsdale left the Meeting

**IN PRIVATE**

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. Councillor Roberts proposed this and Councillor Gill seconded this. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the public and or press be instructed to withdraw.

**St Nicholas Gardens**

The Clerk reported on the quote that had been accepted for the planting, watering and maintenance in St Nicholas Garden for 2024/25.

The Clerk reported that the Church had agreed that the Gardens could be used for Town Council events in 2024/25 and last year the Council made a contribution of £250 to the Church for the electricity used during our events in St Nicholas Gardens. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Taylor that a contribution of £300 be made to the Church for electricity used during Town Council events in St Nicholas Gardens in 2024/25. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That a contribution of £300 be made to the Church for electricity used during Town Council events in St Nicholas Gardens in 2024/25.

Councillor Taylor stated that himself and Councillor O'Kane were going to try to get the Angels reinstated on St Nicholas Tower and said the Angels were not in a very good condition so they were looking at getting a projector and he had spoken to contractors about community work to see if they could do the electrical installation.

**2451/24 Office Accommodation**

Further to Minute 2422/24 the Clerk repo1ied that nothing had changed and that she was still waiting to hear from NALC about VAT. The Clerk referred to a quote that had been received in 2022 from Kone the provision of a lift in the building and that she had written to them that week asking for a revised quote. The Clerk said that she would be looking at starting to submit some grant applications in the next few weeks. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the report be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the report be approved and noted

The Meeting closed at 7.15

Chairman

