

# WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Luke Johnson

Member of the Public

Press

### **2127/22 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor J Rayson	Holiday
Councillor J Carr	Work Commitments
Councillor G Dinsdale	Work Commitments
Councillor C Walmsley	Work Commitments

### **2128/22 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 as he was a member of CCC

### **2129/22 Public Participation**

There was no public participation

### **2130/22 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 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 29th September 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**2131/22**     **Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 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 Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**2132/22**     **Planning Applications**

Councillor E Dinsdale came into the Meeting following discussion on this item

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

- i. The Clerk handed out a copy of an email received which related to Planning Application 4/22/2398/0F1 – Former Methodist Church, Lowther Street Whitehaven. The email stated that there was a war memorial window inside the Church and that whilst it was intended to keep the window there was no guarantee of this and that the window was in the process of being registered as a war memorial with the Imperial War Museum and the War Memorials Trust in order to protect this Heritage Asset within the building. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council support this planning application subject to the War Memorial window being preserved and that CBC be informed accordingly. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

**RESOLVED** - That the Council support this planning application subject to the War Memorial window being preserved and that CBC be informed accordingly.

- ii. It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that CBC be informed that following consideration of the Planning Applications on Schedule 1 the Council had no further representations to make. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

**RESOLVED** - That CBC be informed that following consideration of the

Planning Applications on Schedule 1 the Council had no further representations to make.

## 2133/22 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance Report.

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

Cumbria Media	£48.00 for uploading website
Sandwich Man	£60 for extra sandwich platters

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes 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 Gill 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.

## 2134/22 Quote for Mobile Optimisation

A quote of £750.00 had been received from Cumbria Media, the Council's website provider to carry out mobile optimisation of the Council's website. The representative from Cumbria Media attended the Meeting and explained that the Council's website was not currently enabled for mobile devices and just shows the same zoomed out website on a phone screen making it hard to navigate. Making it mobile friendly would make it much easier to navigate on mobile devices and therefore more accessible. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that (i) the Council makes a resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11 to allow this work to be carried out by Cumbria Media and that having done this (ii) that the reasons for the suspension be recorded and the assessment of the risks be accepted and approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That (i) the Council makes a resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11 to allow this work to be carried out by Cumbria Media and that having done this that (ii) the reasons for the suspension be recorded and the assessment of the risks be accepted and approved.

**2135/22 Quote for Summer Plants for 2023**

The Council considered a report containing a quote of £7,410.55 from the Council's preferred suppliers for the provision of flowers for hanging baskets, hexagonal planters, barrier baskets, barrels, cast iron planters, plastic planters, Hensingham ship, Trinity bed, Corkickle bed and the Pelican bed. In order to purchase flowers from the Council's preferred supplier the Council considered suspending Financial Regulation 11 to permit this and also considered the reasons for suspension and the risks given in the report. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that (i) the Council makes a resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11 to allow the flowers to be purchased from the preferred supplier at a cost of £7,410.55 and if made (ii) that the reasons for the suspension are recorded and the assessment of the risks be accepted and approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That (i) the Council makes a resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11 to allow the flowers to be purchased from the preferred supplier at a cost of £7,410.55 and having made the resolution that (ii) the reasons for the suspension are recorded and the assessment of the risks be accepted and approved.

**2136/22 Quote from Localiq for Advertisement for the Summer Fair 2023**

The Council considered a report on a quote of £1,099.52 received from Localiq for advertising the Summer Fair in 2023 The Council had previously agreed that £1,000.00 should be spent on a Whitehaven News and online package across the various online and print titles for the Summer Fair. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Gill that the £1,000.00 approved be not exceeded and that the quote be not accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That the £1,000.00 approved be not exceeded and that the quote be not accepted.

**2137/22 Quotes for St Nicholas Gardens for 2023/2024**

The Council considered a quote of £18,000.00 from CBC for the purchase of summer and winter plants for the flower beds in St Nicholas Gardens and for the planting and maintenance of the flowers. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Gill that the quote be accepted subject to having a meeting with all parties involved to discuss and plan the way forward and that meetings continue to take place on a regular basis. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That that the quote be accepted subject to having a meeting with all parties involved to discuss and plan the way forward and that meetings

continue to take place on a regular basis.

**2138/22 Quote for Extra Grass Cutting in Cemeteries 2023/24**

The Council considered a quote received of £16,882.64 for 4 extra grass cuts in Whitehaven and Hensingham Cemeteries for 2023/24. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote be accepted with the proviso that in future years the Council enters into meaningful negotiations with the new authority. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That the quote be accepted with the proviso that in future years the Council enters into meaningful negotiations with the new authority.

**2139/22 Allotments**

The Council considered a report on a request by a tenant to reinstate a fence on an allotment to its original boundary line. This was originally considered at the Council Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 where a decision was deferred until a site visit had taken place. A site visit was held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and Councillors G Dinsdale and R Gill (Members of the Allotment Advisory Group) attended. After hearing a report on the site visit from Councillor Gill it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the request to reinstate the fence to its original boundary line be not approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the request to reinstate the fence to its original boundary line be not approved.

**2140/22 Concerns about the level of Service Provided to the People of Whitehaven by GP Practices and Dentists**

Further to Minute 2111/22 the Clerk informed the Council that an email had been received from CBC to say that at the O&S Committee it had been decided to proceed with the “Access to GP and Dental Services Task and Finish Group and that once membership had been confirmed they would meet to confirm the scope of the group and set out a timetable. They would then be reaching out to GP Practices, local residents and Town and Parish Councils for feedback. It was hoped to get the Task and Finish Group up and running by the end of October/beginning of November. Councillor Roberts said that he had attended 2 meetings of Allerdale’s O&S Committee and they had established a Task and Finish Group and had had an official meeting with the Commissioners, the people who direct the flow of this work.

He said he was going back to Allerdale on 11/11/22 to receive what reports he could. He said that the Government in its Act regarding Patient Participation in health matters had asked all GPs to set up Participation Groups and he was going to join in in his own surgery.

One member of the Task and Finish Group in Allerdale had spoken to people in 5 different GP Practices and had received no reply from 3, 2 got back in touch and 1 of these said they would like to scrap Patient Participation Groups. Councillor Roberts said there were a lot of side issues

- Shortage of GPs
- Struggling to find the services
- What will come out in the Report could be quite horrific

Councillor Gill welcomed the fact that CBC were setting up an O&S Task Group to look at this and the Chairman thanked Councillor Roberts for attending the meetings.

No decisions were taken on this as it was for information only

## **2141/22 Abba Tribute Act**

With the agreement of the Chairman the Clerk raised an issue with the booking of the Abba Tribute Act for the Christmas Lights Switch-on on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The Chairman had booked the Abba Tribute Act in accordance with Minutes 2099/22 vi and 2117/22 but the supplier had only quoted for one performance. Two performances were required and the extra cost for this second performance was £150.00. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the Booking Agent be paid an extra £150.00 for the Abba Tribute Act to do 2 performances in the afternoon. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That the Booking Agent be paid an extra £150.00 for the Abba Tribute Act to do 2 performances in the afternoon

## **2142/22 Councillor Ward Matters**

- i. Councillor Stevens said that she had been to the full planning meeting at Copeland regarding the proposed application by Story Homes behind Valley View. She said there would now be a site visit but there was an awful lot of discussion around the problem at Mirehouse ponds.
- ii. Councillor O’Kane said that he had 2 concerns
  - The letter that had come through about the traffic situation outside St James School. It had really boiled over as several residents had gone berserk and Mayor Starkie had been involved and the CCC had now started to get a little bit more involved. There had been letters going out to parents to try and stop the situation. He said we had all had letters this week from an officer from the CCC who was dealing with traffic particularly the report that he had promised Councillor O’Kane last November and which he didn’t have to hand. So possibly it had not been done. He said would be interesting to see whether the Whitehaven News would be looking at the traffic situation outside the junior schools in the area to see just how bad

and dangerous it is because traffic has increased significantly after covid and a lot more parents are bringing their kids to school because of the bus situation.

- He asked to remind Members that they asked ages ago whether the officers members of County would meet with the Council but so far this has initiated 1 letter from Matthew which everyone has had and his response to that was that there are issues there and we need a face to face meeting even if it's only on zoom because we've all had different thoughts and different circumstances in Wards situations in town and said these need to be sorted out as soon as possible before the TROs are brought out and asked if a separate meeting could be held between all Councillors sometime to discuss the traffic situation in our area and then we can have an overview between us on what we feel are the major problems. The last time the TROs came round we were well fragmented and they just steamrolled stuff including making sure that some areas including the Market Place were changed in terms of the number of disabled spaces and even though the TROs were challenged those TROs were never changed.
- iii Councillor E Dinsdale gave a nuclear update. He said the Council was on the Agenda of the WCSSG on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 at 1.00pm and a vote would take place around the Council getting a voting seat. So if the Chair was in agreement he could attend on behalf of the Council.
- iv Councillor Hayes said that there would be a fireworks display on 4/11/22 on the Rugby League ground at Kells. He said there had been a lot of vandalism of cars but the Police were on the job and were going round interviewing people.
- v. Councillor Carr was not present at the Meeting but had sent an email which the Clerk read as follows:- “ we have sorted new traffic cones out for St Patrick's school as the parking is getting worse but with the new ones this should help traffic flow and the school. Also the lights between Meadow Road and Green Bank fairy path are getting looked into as they are on CBC land but County look after them. If we have no joy when I'm home next week with getting answers on why they have been like this for years I will be taking it to our elected mayor and the Cllrs who get paid to look after our community to get it sorted before there's a serious injury or worse when anyone is using this path at night”.
- vi. Councillor O’Kane said 2 residents had stopped him in town about the new car park in Catherine Street and pointed out that there was a sign showing the amount payable in cash or by card. But payment was only by app. The charges stated payment by cash but when you get onto the car park the charges are only payable by app which adds a standard charge pro rata which then boosts the charge. He said people were attracted by the low charges but then had to pay an additional app charge. The Chairman said this was a private car park. Councillor Hayes said he had

heard they were going to put cash machines in.

**2143/22 Date Time and Place of next Meeting**

The next Council Meeting would be on 24th November 2022 at 6.00pm at the Beacon Portal, Whitehaven.

The Meeting closed at 7.05pm



Chairman