WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

# Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 30th November 2023

**Present:** Councillor C Hayes (Chairman); Councillor E Dinsdale; Councillor G Dinsdale; Councillor B O'Kane; Councillor R Redmond; Councillor G Roberts; Councillor A Spedding; Councillor R Taylor; Councillor R White

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Members of the Public

Member of the Press

Prior to the Meeting starting the Chairman and the Councillors introduced themselves to the public and the Chai1man referred to fire alarms/escape and toilets

# 2403/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor R Gill Councillor A Pearson Councillor J Carr

Holiday Holiday Work

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.

# 2404/23 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 Lanning

Community Centre

# 2405/23 Public Participation

Charles Maudling addressed the Council with regard to Item 11 on last month's Agenda in which Councillor Hayes told lies to the Council. He said no conversation had been held with him it was only on social media and he passed a photocopy of the social media round the Councillors. The Chairman said so we did speak but Mr Maudling said they did not speak it was only a message. Mr Maudling said that in the photocopy that he had passed round Councillors would see that Councillor Hayes had asked him about the Christmas Window Competition and he said that the Chamber of Trade had had a Christmas Window Competition for years and that they always went with the first week in December and that Councillor Hayes had said that it was for members only but

Mr Maudling said no - that all businesses were allowed to enter and for the last 4 years it had been won by non members of the Chamber of Trade. Mr Maudling said that all businesses in Whitehaven have always been invited to do the Christmas Window Competition and never at any time had anyone been excluded. He said you don't have to be a member and that had been that way since 1905. He said they presented a huge prize and had suggested to Councillor Hayes that he could join in and present his 3 prizes and do it jointly to save confusion with having 2 Christmas Window Dressing Competitions and that Councillor Hayes could also join in the judging. He said this was fact not lies as told by Councillor Hayes and that Councillor Hayes had brought his name and the Chamber of Trade's name into disrepute and that he would like a public apology. Councillor Hayes said he didn't think he needed to apologise and Mr Maudling said that was fine he would go through the media. Mr Maudling said he thought that Councillor Hayes did as he had told downright lies and said there's our conversation there. Councillor Hayes said he would reply privately and Mr Maudling said that was not acceptable and wanted it in public as the public were here last time when you told pure lies and it's there in black and white and I have told the truth

Mr Maudling said he also wished to say what a disgrace it was (he said the gentleman concerned was sitting there) that the leader of the Council even though he was out of his Mayoral outfit to say he was going to blackmail businesses. Councillor Hayes said it was not blackmail and Mr Maudling said well it was blackmail and that the video had gone viral and everybody heard the blackmail and he thought it was a disgusting thing and could have serious repercussions for the Council at the Standards and Ethics Committee

The Chairman thanked Mr Maudling

Councillor G Dinsdale and Councillor White entered the Meeting

# 2406/23 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th October 2023

Councillor E Dinsdale referred to Minute 2389/23 and said this was not a true reflection of the discussion that took place and was not an accurate account of what was discussed. Councillor O'Kane said any Councillor could challenge the

validity of what was there and that was all. The Clerk pointed out that there was no resolution and it was for information only. Councillor E Dinsdale said it was the Clerk and the Chainnan who wrote the Minutes and Councillor O'Kane corrected this and said it was the Clerk who wrote the Minutes.

It was proposed by Councillor E Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor G Dinsdale (who stated that she was not at the relevant Meeting) that the Minutes were not accurate as they were not a true reflection of the discussion that took place. A vote was held and 2 Councillors voted for the proposal, 6 Councillors voted against the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

**RESOLVED** - That the proposal be not approved

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th October 2023 be approved

and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors voted against

**RESOLVED** - That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th October 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**2407/23 Planning Applications**

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1.

1. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that a letter of support be sent regarding Aldi's planning Application no.4/23/2314/0Fl. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** -That a letter of support be sent regarding Aldi's Planning Application no.4/23/2314/0F1.

Councillor Roberts referred to Planning Application no. 4/23/2336/0Rl, land at Harras Dyke Farm and said he saw no problems with this.

11. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that having considered the planning applications on Appendix 1 that Cumberland Council be informed that the Town Council had no further representations to make. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That having considered the planning applications on Appendix 1 that Cumberland Council be info1med that the Town Council had no further representations to make.

**2408/23 Report from Cumberland Council**

Councillor Mike Hawkins was not in attendance and the Clerk read out the report that he had previously submitted.

There was no decision taken on this

# 2409/23 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance Report.

1. Appendix 1 - The Clerk reported that there were 7 extra invoices to consider on Appendix 1 namely:-

Logan Paul Murphy Eden Springs

St James Community Centre AJ Security

Rachel Kelly Bookkeeping Viking Direct

V Gorley

£350.00 - Lights Switch On

£9.24 - Water Dispenser costs

£15.00- Room Hire

£421.20 - Security Lights Switch on

£300.00 - Internal Audit

£51.42 - Copier Paper

£26.98 - Glow Sticks

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor White that the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 7 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the invoices shown at Appendix 1 plus the 7 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid.

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

**RESOLVED** - That Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

# 2410/23 Christmas Lights

The Council considered a report on the purchase of additional cluster line Christmas lights at a cost of£ 1,530.00 plus £50.00 delivery plus VAT. from the Council's preferred supplier. In order to purchase the additional Clusterline lights from the Council's preferred supplier the Council had to consider suspending Financial Regulation 11 to permit this together with Financial Regulation 18 which states "the Council may by resolution of the Council duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of the Council suspend any part of these Financial Regulations provided that the reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been drawn up and presented in advance to members of the Council". It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that (i) The Council suspends Financial Regulation 11 to enable the Clusterline lights to be purchased from the Council's preferred supplier at a cost of£ 1,530 plus £50 delivery plus VAT and

(ii) having made that resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the Report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks 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 Clusterline lights to be purchased from the Council's preferred supplier at a cost of£ 1, 530 plus £50 delivery plus VAT and (ii) having made that resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the Report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks in the report be accepted and approved.

# 2411/23 Quotes Received for Summer Flowers 2024 in Whitehaven

The Council considered a report on a quote of£ £6,203.65 excluding VAT and peat free compost from the Council's preferred supplier for the provision of summer flowers for 167 hanging baskets, hexagonal planters, barrier baskets, barrels, cast iron planters, Corkickle badge bed, Trinity Bed, Pelican bed and Hensingham Ship. In order to purchase flowers from the Council's preferred supplier the Council had to consider suspending Financial Regulation 11 to permit this together with Financial Regulation 18 which states "the

Council may by resolution of the Council duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of the Council suspend any part of these Financial Regulations provided that the reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been drawn up and presented in advance to members of the Council". It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that (i) The Council suspends Financial Regulation 11 to allow summer flowers for 2024 to be purchased from the preferred supplier at a cost of

£6,203.65 and (ii) Having made that resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks 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 summer flowers for 2024 to be purchased from the preferred supplier at a cost of

£6,203.65 and (ii) Having made that resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks in the report be accepted and approved.

# 2412/23 Quote Received for Winter Bedding Plants 2024 in St Nicholas Gardens

The Council considered a report on a quote of£ £2,558.40 plus VAT received from the Council's preferred supplier for winter bedding plants in St Nicholas Gardens. In order to purchase winter bedding plants for 2024 from the Council's preferred supplier the Council had to consider suspending Financial Regulation 11 to permit this together with Financial Regulation 18 which states "the Council may by resolution of the Council duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of the Council suspend any part of these Financial Regulations provided that the reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been drawn up and presented in advance to members of the Council". It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that (i) The Council suspends Financial Regulation 11 to allow winter

bedding plants for St Nicholas Gardens for 2024 to be purchased from the prefen-ed supplier at a cost of £2,558.40 and (ii) Having made that resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks 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 winter bedding plants for St Nicholas Gardens for 2024 to be purchased from the prefen-ed supplier at a cost of £2,558.40 and (ii) Having made that resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks in the report be accepted and approved.

# 2413/23 Fire Walk

Further to Minute 2391/23 when the Fire Walk was approved for events in 2024 the Council considered a report following communication from the

Organisation offering some date in February/March 2024 at a cost of£ 1,595.00. There was money in this year's budget for this.

It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor White that a Firewalk be held on Tuesday 20th February 2024. A vote was held and it was unanimously agreed that a Firewalk be held on Tuesday 20th Febtuary 2024.

**RESOLVED** - That a Firewalk be held on Tuesday 20th February 2024.

# 2414/23 Free Parking for Council Events at Christmas

The Council considered a report on the position regarding free car parking on Cumberland Council's pay and display car parks in Whitehaven for Town Council Events at Christmas. It was reported that some Christmas events in Cumbria were being supported with free car parking in Cumberland's pay

and display car parks but Whitehaven was not and that an email had been sent to Councillor Wlliamson to ask for free car parking at the Council's Christmas Event on 8th December 2023 but that no reply had been received. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that a letter be sent to Councillor Williamson asking for a speedy response to this matter. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That a letter be sent to Councillor Williamson asking for a speedy response to this matter.

# 2415/23 Reinstallation of Seat

The Clerk informed the Council about the present position about the seat on King Street which had been removed as follows:-

* Members would note that originally this item was to be held in private as all the required information had not been received. Since the Agenda had been issued that information had been received#
* Reference was made to the recent press release in the Whitehaven News regarding the seat that had been removed twice from its position in King Street and the fact that these seats were fairly new and had replaced older seats that had been in the same location for decades and were all along King Street for the benefit of the public especially the elderly
* The previous week the seat had been removed from its fixings and had disappeared. This was reported to the Police and at the end of that week the business occupier of the shop that the seat was outside admitted that he had removed the seat and was storing it and would not return it unless the Council agreed to move the seat elsewhere. The press release was then read out.
* The Clerk referred to recent communications from Cumberland Council. The first one said a complaint had been received about the shop premises and the removal of a bench from outside the premises and asking if it belonged to the Town Council which was confirmed. Then another email was received from CC saying that a Pavement Licence had been granted to the shop keeper and it had been made clear on the Pavement Licence and the shop keeper had been told that the seat was not to be removed. Then recently another email was received from CC's Local Area Network Manager and the opening line was "The bench must go back in its original position". In view of this the recommendation is that the bench be reinstated back to its original position as instructed by CC.

Councillor E Dinsdale asked the Chairman about his comments to the shopkeeper in relation to threatening to blacklist his business and asked him if he thought it was appropriate and was he prepared to give the shopkeeper an apology and did he think he had brought the Council into disrepute.

Councillor Roberts said he thought this was out of order and said he thought it should be discussed in private. He said he thought that this matter was a separate issue. Councillor E Dinsdale asked what his grounds were for wanting this to be discussed in private and said who would want to support a Council that was wanting to do its business in the shadows. We have got to be open and honest for the people we represent and that this warranted a public discussion.

The Clerk said this matter was for a decision to be made and that the Council had been told by CC to put the seat back in its original position and the recommendation was that because there had been 3 communications from CC telling the Council to reinstate the seat that this should be done as soon as possible and that is what is to be decided tonight. Councillor E Dinsdale said that he was going to abstain from the vote and he was going to have a discussion with the shopkeeper first as he wanted to find out the greater detail that was attached to the issue. He also asked all Councillors present what their views were of the publically made comments by the Chair around blacklisting or threatening to blacklist one of our businesses.

Councillor Taylor asked if there were any options to move the bench somewhere

else on King Street. Councillor Spedding said he didn't think it should be. Councillor Taylor said he was just looking for a compromise. Councillor Spedding proposed that the seat should be reinstated and this was seconded by Councillor Roberts. The Chairman asked for a vote and Councillor O'Kane said no, there needed to be a discussion.

Councillor O'Kane outlined the procedure for moving a bench starting with the request from the shopkeeper to CC but that the Council had no say in this except there were 2 aspects

1. The bench had been removed and he didn't know what the bill was - £150,

£200? Or maybe more. So the Town Council now had a bill of several hundred pounds for something it had no control over and he said it was bad enough moving something that was public property. He said it had been reported to the police and it was 2/3 weeks before it was investigated and there was no dialogue between the shopkeeper and local council. So at the end of the day we are beholden to the fact that CC have made the decision

1. His attitude was that he was appalled that somebody had just taken something and said to a public body I'll give you it back on condition that you don't put it back. He said the Town Council was in a position of no win

- the CC had made the decision. He said what he wanted to propose was that this has cost the Town Council money and he thought what the Council should be doing is to actually claim the money back and it was up to the Town Council to decide whether to claim the money back or waive the money because this had a cost to the public by the actions of an individual.

Councillor G Dinsdale asked if there was anything we could do going forward to open communications with businesses because at the minute it looks like all we are trying to do is blacklist them when we should be trying to support them especially at a time when businesses are desperate so if we can just push those communication lines and let them be aware they can come and speak to us and they're welcome. Councillor E Dinsdale said he was abstaining from the vote until he had had a meaningful and respectful conversation with the shopkeeper and Councillor O'Kane said that with respect he should have had that before he came into the meeting.

Councillor O'Kane then proposed that the bench be reinstated as per the request from CC and any further discussions between the shopkeeper and the people who make the decisions is between the shopkeeper and Cumberland Council. It

was stated that there was already a proposal which had been seconded on the table. It was agreed that the proposal be added to to read as follows "that the bench be reinstated as per the request from CC and any further discussions between the shopkeeper and the people who make the decisions is between the shopkeeper and Cumberland Council. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted for the proposal and 4 Councillors abstained

**RESOLVED** - That the bench be reinstated as per the request from CC and any further discussions between the shopkeeper and the people who make the decisions is between the shopkeeper and Cumberland Council.

2416/23 **Councillor Ward Grants**

The Council considered a report on 2 Applications (TDR and HPAG) for Councillor ward Grants which appeared before Council as the payment of the Grants was under sl37 of the Local Government Act 1972 whereby the Council has to be satisfied

* that there is direct benefit to the area or part or the area or to some or all of the inhabitants and
* that the Council must ensure that the direct benefit accruing to its area or residents is commensurate with expenditure incurred

Councillor E Dinsdale asked if another Councillor Ward Grant Application (RYT) could also be considered and said that this would either be out of his Councillor Ward Grant or if it was possible split equally between his and Councillor G Dinsdale's Councillor Ward Grant.

The Council considered the 3 Applications and it was

1. Proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that the provisions of s137 were satisfied and that a Councillor Ward Grant of £900.00 be awarded to (TDR) and a Councillor Ward Grant of

£300.00 be awarded to (HPAG). A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That a Councillor Ward Grant of £900.00 be awarded to

(TDR) and a Councillor Ward Grant of £300.00 be awarded to (HPAG).

11. Proposed by Councillor White and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the provisions of s137 were satisfied and that a Councillor Ward Grant of £500.00 be awarded to (RYT) to be taken from Councillor E Dinsdale's Councillor Ward Grant or if possible split equally between the Ward Grants of Councillor E Dinsdale and Councillor G Dinsdale. A vote was held and it was unanimously

111. **RESOLVED** - That the provisions of s137 were satisfied and that a Councillor Ward Grant of £500.00 be awarded to (RYT) to be taken from Councillor E Dinsdale's Councillor Ward Grant or if possible split equally between the Ward Grants of Councillor E Dinsdale and Councillor G Dinsdale.

# 2417/23 Councillor Ward Matters

1. Councillor Taylor said that Fiberoptix were digging up Hillcrest at the moment and leaving quite a nice job on the pavements but the roads around where they are digging are a disgrace so he was wanting a contact to speak to them about it. He said the road sweeper was going round the streets at the moment and was asking if there was any way we could get the roadsweeper up to give it a tidy up as it was absolutely

terrible. He said that where the gas had carried out works they had left a little bit of mess. Councillor Hayes suggested that maybe the Cumberland Councillor could help.

11. Councillor Taylor said that 2 weeks ago Viberoptix took out the main lights on the Loop Road and it had been reported and Councillor Taylor expressed his thanks and said he had spoken to someone from the Company and showed them where they had taken the cable out and it had now been repaired

n1. Councillor Taylor referred to the Jericho School lights that he had previously mentioned and said they were now on and that it was a brilliant example of Cumberland Council, the School, the Chairman of the Governors and himself working together to get a good solution

1v. Councillor Taylor said a couple of people had asked why the Town Council events - the Christmas Lights switch on and the 8th were separate events as they had gone to the Workington event which was a big one and had been held on the same day but ours were separate. He said this was just a question and didn't require any action

v. Councillor Taylor referred to the Angels that many years ago had been on St Nicholas Tower. The Chairman said he had spoken to St Nicholas that day and they had said they were wrecked and there was no chance of getting them back on again. There was also no power to the top of the tower. He wanted to know if the Council could do something to get the Angels reinstated.

v1. Councillor O'Kane referred to Brackenthwaite and said he was very disheartened to find Cumberland Council were going to plant wild flowers as a compromise when they eventually take the wood around it. He didn't know what pressure we as a Council could put on. He said he had assumed if nothing was going to be built there the least thing they could have done was to have at least grassed the area and put some benches down. He said it looked like a cop out to plant wild flowers. He wondered if there was any way we as a Town Council could ask Cumberland Council to reconsider the wild flower situation and instead flatten the area and grass it. He said he didn't think wild flowers in the middle of town was appropriate. Councillor Roberts said he had discussed this previously when the area was earmarked for extra care housing and yet again the people of Whitehaven have been sold short as there was a need for extra care housing. Councillor O'Kane asked the Clerk to write to the appropriate person to object to the planting of wild flowers in a central area of the town and ask them to do something that would benefit the area. He said Cumberland Council were probably looking at this as the cheapest option and said why should we have the cheapest option

vu. Councillor Robe1is said that he had been told that the area had been earmarked as extra care housing and said that the Council should lodge an objection to the planting of wild flowers in the central area and ask them to reconsider the decision

v111. Councillor E Dinsdale said he was speaking on behalf of Councillor Pearson who was on holiday. He said he had been contacted by residents of the Woodhouse Estate asking about bins being located around Woodhouse so he had directed them to Councillor Pearson who had then asked him if he could raise this at the next Meeting. Councillor Dinsdale said the residents had emailed him the proposed locations for the litter bins and that this was something we had been through before on the cycle path and that he would send the Clerk the emails received so that the matter could be dealt with in the usual way

1x. Councillor G Dinsdale referred to the bulbs in the street lights which had been changed to LED and said they were not as bright as they used to be and if one of them was out it was the equivalent of what used to be 3 or four of them being out and you can't see anything. She wondered if it would be possible to speak to the constable who used to come every now and then to ask if there had been more crashes or incidents or a difference in the number or crashes as a result of these lights

# 2418/23 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting was Thursday 26th January 2024 at 6.00pm at the Beacon Portal

# IN PRIVATE

**2419/23** That prior to the following item 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 Taylor proposed this and Councillor Roberts seconded it. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

Councillor E Dinsdale and Councillor G Dinsdale left the Meeting and did not return

# 2420/23 St Nicholas Gardens

The Clerk reported that the Council had previously resolved to go out for quotes from contractors for the planting and maintenance of flowers in St Nicholas Gardens and that the specification was being prepared and the quotes received would be reported to the next Council Meeting for decision. The Council had previously budgeted up to £18,000 for 2023/24 for the planting and maintenance of flowers in the gardens as part of the partnership with Cumberland Council.

However Cumberland Council had confirmed that their policy was to move away from commercialism and did not wish to carry on with this going

forward although they would be fulfilling their responsibilities in respect of the Closed Churchyard. 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 .

# 2421/23 Tenders for Grass Cutting

Further to Minute 2399/23 where it was resolved that further consideration of this be delayed until the relevant information had been received. It was reported that Cumberland Council's property Department (for the former CBC area) had said that they could only give the Council information on land ownership for the former CBC area and that for any other CC land Cumberland Highways would need to be contacted. This had been done but there had been no reply. Also Cumberland had informed the Council that should the Council wish to cut any grass owned by Cumberland they would have to obtain their permission and that the grass would need to be cut to their specification. It appeared that all the grass cutting areas contained in Schedule 1 to the Tender Document were owned by Cumberland Council and therefore the Grass Cutting Contract would not be required. This discussion led onto the fact that Cumberland Council had stated that they would not be submitting a quote for the provision of 2 Rangers 3 days a week as this was causing their workforce to be stretched The Clerk said that the Council therefore needed to seek quotes for the\_planting of summer and winter bedding plants in Whitehaven and watering, weeding and maintenance of the various cast iron, large, small and tiered planters, barrels, hanging baskets and barrier baskets ( both summer only), flower beds and window boxes in Whitehaven for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. Also

quotes would be required to collect, deliver, erect, dismantle and return the Council's gazebos, tables and other equipment required for Council events throughout the year.

1. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the people who submitted quotes for the grass cutting contract be informed that this was no longer required and that the Council put a small amount in the budget for grass cutting so that if necessary the Council could pay for the services of someone to cut the odd small area of grass. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the people who submitted quotes for the grass cutting contract be informed that this was no longer required and that the Council put a small amount in the budget for grass cutting so that if necessary the Council could pay for the services of someone to cut the odd small area of grass.

11. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Council seeks quotes for the\_planting of summer and winter bedding plants in and watering, weeding and maintenance of the various cast iron, large, small and tiered planters, barrels, hanging baskets and barrier baskets ( both summer only), flower beds and window boxes

for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the Council seeks quotes for the\_planting of summer and winter bedding plants in Whitehaven and watering, weeding and maintenance of the various cast iron, large, small and tiered planters, barrels, hanging baskets and barrier baskets ( both summer only), flower beds and window boxes for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

u1. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hayes that quotes be sought to collect, deliver, erect, dismantle and return the Council's gazebos, tables and other equipment required for Council events throughout the year. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That quotes be sought to collect, deliver, erect, dismantle and return the Council's gazebos, tables and other equipment required for Council events throughout the year.

# 2422/23 Office Accommodation

The Clerk reported the following:

* Two tenders had been received for the renovation of the Council's building- the ground floor and if money permits part of the first floor
* There was a different between the Tender figures and the Architects were focussing on that difference to ensure that both contractors had allowed for comparable inclusions and costs. Also the Tenders did not give a full breakdown of the tender sum
* Both Tenders were higher than the allotted budget and the Council would need to have further discussions and give instructions to the Architects
* There was currently £610,571.00 earmarked in the deposit account for the office renovation and it was estimated that there would be £720,000 at the end of the financial year.
* The Council would now be looking at applying for grants
* The Architect had been paid to date and they were going to provide a fee proposal for the follow on stages and would keep this as low as possible going forward in the knowledge of the financial constraints of the project

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that this be approved and noted. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the

proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

**RESOLVED** - That that the repoti be approved and noted.

**2423/23**

**2424/23**

**Appointment of Party Wall Surveyor**

The Clerk reported that in connection with the renovation of the Council Building a Party Wall Agreement would need to be entered into. Quotes had been sought but only one had been received from DC and the Clerk read out the costs of

* £220 for the review of the design preparation of the appropriate patiy wall
* £60 for serving any additional notices on tenants
* £825 for agreement from adjoining owner if required and schedule of condition
* £110 per hour in the event of a full award being required arising from dispute

The Council's Architects had advised that these fees were normal

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts That the quote from (DC) be accepted. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained

**RESOLVED** -That the quote from (DC) be accepted

# Salary Increases

The Council considered a repoti on the National Joint Council agreed rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 which was that for all scale points to 43 the agreed award was a flat rate payment of £1,925.00. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Roberts that this be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - that the agreed rates of pay from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 be approved and noted

# 2425/22 Grant Application

The Council considered a grant application from WCS&R.It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Pearson that a grant of£ 1,000 be awarded to WCS&R. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That a grant of £1,000 be awarded to WCS&R.

# 2426/22 Shop Wraps

The Clerk reported that there had been a meeting with the owner of Burtons who had plans for it and asked if there was anything the Council could do. It was suggested that shop wraps containing local photographs be put on the front and the first window round the corner which was acceptable to the owner. This would cost approximately £800.00 and was something the Council had discussed years ago. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the shop wraps be purchased at approximately £800 and affixed to the shop windows. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for and 1 Councillor abstained

**RESOLVED** - That that the shop wraps be purchased at approximately £800 and affixed to the shop windows.

Meeting The closed at 8.10pm

