

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16th December 2016

Present: Councillors R Gill (Chairman), C. Arrighi, J. Forster, M. Guest, J. Kane, J. A. Laine, G McKew, G. Roberts

M. Jewell, Interim Clerk to the Council

Members of the Public

592/16 Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B O’Kane and Councillor N Williams

593/16 Minutes of Meeting held on 6th December 2016

Councillor Laine said that the Minutes of 6th December 2016 should have read that both CALC and an independent auditor should be appointed to assist the Town Council. The Chairman said the Minutes were correct and that what had been agreed was that the Mayor would contact CALC to ask them to assist the Town Council to carry out a forensic audit. A vote was taken on the Chairman’s view and the result was

1 abstention; 1 against and 6 for

The Chairman moved a motion which was duly seconded that the Minutes be approved and the result of the vote was

2 against; 6 for

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of 6th December be signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

594/16 Declarations of Interest

Councillor C Arrighi and Councillor G Roberts declared an interest in Item 5, Staffing Matters on the basis that they knew the former Clerk

595/16

Staffing Matters

The Chairman explained that in respect of this item only paragraphs 5(ii); 5(iii); and 5(iv) and Item 6 would be discussed in the public domain and that paragraph 5(i) would be discussed in private and stated that the public items would be dealt with forthwith:-

- 5(ii) The Chairman said that CALC had recommended an independent and suitable qualified person who was a former Local Government Finance Officer and who was currently the Parish Clerk of Windermere to undertake a full financial appraisal of the Town Council's accounts and produce a report. The Chairman stated that it was not expected that it would take a long time to produce the financial report. The charge for undertaking this work was £25 per hour plus mileage expenses.

Following a discussion on this there was a recorded vote on the motion to make this appointment and Councillor J Laine abstained, Councillor M Guest voted against it and the remaining 6 Councillors voted for the motion

RESOLVED – That the person recommended by CALC be appointed on the terms and conditions above.

- 5(iii) Following the Meeting on 6th December 2016 Chairman reported that Copeland Borough Council had agreed to release Marlene Jewell on secondment for 22 hours a week to the Town Council as Interim Clerk until such time as a permanent Clerk was appointed.

RESOLVED – That the appointment be confirmed.

- 5(iv) **RESOLVED** – That the payment of submitted invoices be approved subject to ratification at the next full meeting of the Council

596/16

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Town Council be held on Thursday 26th January at 7.00pm at Whitehaven Civic Hall.

597/16

Public Participation

- (i) Charles Maudling said that he came to most Town Council Meetings and said it would be better if the Finance Committee worked with the rest of the Council instead of everything being done by the Chief Executive. This was noted.
- (ii) Kevin Young said that he had seen a lot of hostility in the room and that as the Clerk to Parton Parish Council and also because he was employed as a full time trade union official he had a great deal of experience in mediation and was offering his help as a mediator to the Town Council. This was noted and Mr Young was thanked.

598/16

Exclusion of Press and Public

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the public should be excluded from Item 5(i) on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

599/16

Staffing Matters

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the current position regarding a staffing matter and asked Members for their views. Following a full discussion on this it was

RESOLVED – That the position be noted.

The Meeting closed at 8.25pm

Minutes approved as amended by Full Council on 27/1/17



Chairman

