

# WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 23rd February 2023

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Member of the Public

### **2196/23 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor E Dinsdale

Family bereavement

Councillor G Dinsdale

Family bereavement

Councillor J Rayson

Work commitments

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes 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

### **2197/23 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

### **2198/23 Public Participation**

There was no public participation

### **2199/23 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th January 2023**

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th January 2023 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 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**2200/23**     **Planning Applications**

- i.     Councillor O’Kane said although it was not on the list of Planning Applications at Appendix 1. He asked if any information had been received on the request about the Council being informed about the Inspector. The Clerk said no and that any information received is emailed to Councillors.  
Councillor O’Kane asked if there had been a reply from Mr Hayhurst and the Clerk said no. Councillor O’Kane asked if the Council could ask him again. The Clerk asked Councillor O’Kane which application he was referring to and he said it was the Harras Moor one that was on a while ago and the question we asked was as we had objected should we not have been informed that the Inspector was making his review at the present time. Councillor O’Kane proposed that the Council write to Mr Hayhurst again about this and this was seconded by Councillor Roberts. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted for and 1 Councillor abstained.

**RESOLVED** - That the Council writes to Mr Hayhurst again to obtain an answer to the question.

- ii.    The Council considered a list of Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that following consideration of the Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1 that CBC be informed that the Council had no representations to make on these. A vote was held and five Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained

**RESOLVED** - That following consideration of the Planning Applications at Appendix 1 that CBC be informed that the Council had no representations to make on these.

**2201/23**     **Finance Report**

The Council considered a Finance Report.

- i.     Appendix 1 – The Assistant Clerk reported that there were 5 extra invoices to consider on Appendix 1 namely:-

|                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| The Georgian House | £130.00 B&B for Stefan Gates |
| Viking             | £200.86 for stamps           |
| Viking             | £25.06 for copy paper        |

Online Systems  
CBC

£1158.90 for software and licensing  
£17,688.42 St Nicholas 2022/23

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 5 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 5 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid.

- ii. Appendices 3 and 4 – the Council considered Appendices 3 and 4 and it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that these be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

### **2202/23 Flower and Vegetable Show**

The Council considered a report on a proposal to hold a Flower and Vegetable Show in marquees in St Nicholas Gardens on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The Clerk reported that this may now be on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Council holds a Flower and Vegetable show in St Nicholas Gardens in September 2023 and approves expenditure of £1,770.00 for the hire of marquees for this. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - that the Council holds a Flower and Vegetable show in St Nicholas Gardens in September 2023 and approves expenditure of £1,770.00 for the hire of marquees for this.

### **2203/23 Christmas Lights Switch On**

Following Minute 2184/23 the Council considered a report on quotes for the Christmas Lights Switch On Event to be held in the Market place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

- i. It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Gill that the quote for the 7.5 ton smaller stage at a cost of £1400 including mileage be accepted and booked. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the quote for the 7.5 ton smaller stage at a cost of £1400 including mileage be accepted and booked.

- ii. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the expenditure contained in recommendations 1.1 i to vi in the report be approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the expenditure contained in recommendations 1.1 i to vi in the report be approved.

**2204/23 Harbour Lights Show**

Further to Minute 2193/23 when the Council agreed a 10 minute firework show to follow our Christmas Market there was a brief discussion but no decision made on having a harbour light show to precede the Firework Display. Further information had been received from the Company which provided the uplighters for St Nicholas Tower. They have said that they can provide a one hour light display across the harbour from a static base for £1,000.00 and which would finish just before the Firework Display. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the Harbour Light Show be booked at a cost of £1,000.00.

**RESOLVED** - That the Harbour Light Show be booked at a cost of £1,000.00.

**2205/23 HPE Support Service Contract**

The Council considered a report on the renewal of a 1 year contract for support services for hardware and of the quote of £285.43 plus VAT received from Hewlett Packard Enterprise for this. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the 1 year contract be renewed with Hewlett Packard Enterprises at a cost of £285.43 plus VAT. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the 1 year contract be renewed with Hewlett Packard Enterprises at a cost of £285.43 plus VAT.

**2206/23 Allotments – Skip Hire Quotes**

The Council considered a report on quotes received for the provision of skips to the Council's 4 Allotment sites in March 2023. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that the quote from supplier B in the sum of £300.00 plus VAT be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That that the quote from supplier B in the sum of £300.00 plus VAT be accepted.

**2207/23 Christmas Lights – New Lamps**

The Council considered a report on quotes received for the purchase of additional Christmas lights (400 x 230v bayonet cap LED lamps) to increase/replace the existing stock. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and

seconded by Councillor Maudling that the quote received from Supplier A in the sum of £1,040.00 plus VAT and delivery be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That that the quote received from Supplier A in the sum of £1,040.00 plus VAT and delivery be accepted.

**2208/23 Update on Council Offices**

Further to Minute 2187/23 the Clerk reported that the Building Control Application had been submitted and the first part of the fee paid. There was no decision taken on this as it was for information only.

**2209/23 Concerns about the level of service provided to the people of Whitehaven by GP Practices and Dentists**

Councillor Roberts gave a report on this and said any points that could have been flagged up to our MP by Copeland haven't been and that Copeland have let us down very badly.

Councillor Roberts made the following points:-

- Allerdale's Task and Finish Group met during July to December 2022 and the final report was to be considered and approved by the Committee which would then be recommended to the Allerdale Executive. A number of recommendations were specific to Allerdale to pick up and action, the remainder were to be forwarded to the new Cumberland Council from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.
- The scope of the review was intended to focus on the delivery of GP and Dentistry services with particular regard to the service in Workington, to scrutinise the plans of the NHS for those services and work with County Health Scrutiny, Health Watch and patient participation to understand the needs of the community in those services.
- It was suggested that as a way forward for the Allerdale specific recommendations that the Co-Chairs of Scrutiny agree with the Leader of the Council to send a joint letter of representation to the 3 Members of Parliament for Allerdale detailing the TFG review and their recommendations and this was agreed by the Committee.

Councillor Roberts said that he was sorry that any points that could have been flagged to our MP Trudy Harrison weren't made by Copeland and that he was deeply disappointed because this could disappear into the ether but he said he would be going along to flag this up at one of the early meetings of Cumberland Council to make our point that they must if they can do a review because Copeland have let us down very badly on this one.

Councillor Gill thanked Councillor Roberts for all the work he had done and that we would need to get in touch with the new authority to carry this forward.

## **2210/23 WCSS Group**

There was no discussion on this as Councillor E Dinsdale was absent due to a family bereavement.

## **2211/23 Coronation Weekend**

The Council considered a report to say that the Continental Market Company had asked if they could come to the Harbour for 4 days over the Coronation weekend. The Harbour Commissioners agreed to this and asked if the Council could give a contribution towards the cost of litter collection for the weekend. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that a contribution of £500.00 be given to the Harbour Commissioners for litter collection. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That a contribution of £500.00 be given to the Harbour Commissioners for litter collection.

## **2212/23 Councillor Ward Matters**

- i. Councillor O’Kane said that he had given up asking for work to be done on the hedge area at the top of Victoria Road and every excuse under the sun had been given for the work not being done.
- ii. Councillor Gill said he had had a lot of calls that day about the rent increases by Home Housing – they had put up ground maintenance from £12 to £22 per year and that was a lot of money and people were complaining about it. Councillor Hayes said that on Kells people who owned their houses also had to pay maintenance charges to HH. Councillor Gill said a lot of people can’t afford to pay this as it was a lot of money and that there were people just below the benefit provisions who could endure hardship because of this. He asked if a letter could be sent to HH complaining about this rise and that it was not justified. Councillor O’Kane said Home Group had got away with a lot of things in the last few years and Councillor Gill said they should be invited to a Council Meeting to talk to us about it.
- iii. Councillor Maudling said that there was a lot of fly posting going on in Whitehaven town centre but they had been on to Copland to see if we can get it dealt with because with the amount of empty units we have in town there’s a lot of fly posting and that it was an offence.
- iv. Councillor Roberts said a lady had mentioned to him about the amount of litter in the town which puts tourists off. He said there were trees overhanging on High Street and they were more than half way over the road and were nearly touching the houses opposite so he was going to get in touch with the CC about this.
- v. Councillor Hayes said up on Kells and Woodhouse the HH houses all had had cladding put on and it was causing condensation. He said he had

been shown a photograph of water running down the inside of the front door and people had been told it was condensation and a humidifier had been put in. He said the outsides were worse now than they had been before they did them with big black smear marks.

- vi. Councillor O’Kane it amazed him how over the years we had moaned and groaned about HH. He said we were the Town Council and we should be asking HG to give us an annual report in terms of housing in our area. Councillor Maudling suggested we invite HG ger) to one of our Council Meetings to speak to the Council about the various problems HH tenants have. Councillor Gill said we want our people to be happy and HG want their tenants to be happy so we both want the same.
- vii. Councillor Maudling suggested that we invite the Home Housing Area Manager/Regional Manager to attend a Council Meeting to speak to the Council about various problems that their tenants have.

### **2213/23 Date Time and Place of next Meeting**

The next Council Meeting would be on 30th March 2023 at 6.00pm at the Beacon Portal, Whitehaven.

### **2214/23 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 from the meeting. Councillor Hayes proposed this and Councillor Roberts seconded it. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – 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 press be instructed to withdraw from the Meeting. All members of the public and press then left the Meeting.

### **2215/23 Whitehaven in Bloom**

The Clerk gave a verbal report on a recent meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023 called by CBC to discuss this year’s Britain in Bloom. Councillor Hayes and Councillor Gill attended as did representatives of other organisations and groups. It was decided to set up a Committee to co-ordinate this and the following people volunteered to sit on the Committee:-

Emanuel Flecken  
Lee Hodgson

CBC  
Memb. of public but formerly part of the  
Whitehaven in Bloom Group

Stan Sanzcuk  
Callum Scott  
Lara Schwab

Hensingham School  
CBC  
Whitehaven Tidy Town

It was agreed that the Town Council should also have a representative on this Committee to be decided at the next Council Meeting on 23/2/23. Following a discussion at the Council Meeting it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that Councillor Maudling and Councillor O’Kane be appointed to represent the Council at the Committee meetings. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That Councillor Maudling and Councillor O’Kane be appointed to represent the Council at the Committee meetings.

**2216/23**     **Grant Application – WCT**

The Council considered an application for a grant of £1,000.00 from WCT. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to WCT. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to WCT

The Meeting closed at 7.05

Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.