

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10th August 2021

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Before the start of the Meeting the Chairman invited all Councillors to join with him in wishing Councillor Redmond who was in hospital a speedy recovery. Councillor Gill asked that a get well card be sent to Councillor Redmond.

1838/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor E Dinsdale, Councillor G Dinsdale, Councillor R Redmond, Councillor C Walmsley and Councillor L Walmsley

1839/21 Declarations of Interest

Councillor G Roberts declared an interest in Item 11 as he was a member of CCC.

Councillor Maudling declared an interest in Item 5 he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel.

1840/21 Public Participation

There was no public participation

1841/21 Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th June 2021

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th June 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED -That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th June 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record



1842/21 **Planning Applications**

The Council considered a report on Planning Applications received and shown at Appendix 1.

- i. Councillor Roberts referred to land to the West Of Casa Mia (4/21/2263/DOC and 4/21/2268/OR1) and said there were 2 matters – the discharge of conditions and approval of reserved matters. He said it should be noted that other issues like drainage and access have not been addressed by CCC and these could prove problematic and therefore he objected to these two items going forward. Councillor Roberts proposed that CBC be informed of these objections and this was seconded by Councillor Gill. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED – That CBC be informed that the Council objected to planning applications 4/21/2263/DOC and 4/21/2268/OR1 because issues like drainage and access have not been addressed by CCC and these could be problematic

- ii. Councillor O’Kane raised a point of concern on planning applications in that he could not follow the link for the planning app on the CBC website and thought that CBC should send the Council more details on planning applications like they used to. Councillor O’Kane proposed that CBC be requested to provide more details on each planning application that they send to the Council so that the Council can see what it’s about and go back to the previous system where the Council were given outline details by CBC and this was seconded by Councillor Gill. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED – That CBC be requested to provide more details on each planning application that they send to the Council so that the Council can see what it’s about and go back to the previous system where the Council were given outline details by CBC.

1843/21 **Finance Report**

The Council considered a Finance report.

- i. Appendix 1 – It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 be approved and paid. A vote was taken and it was unanimously



RESOLVED – That the Invoices shown on Appendix 1 be approved and paid.

- ii. Appendices 2 and 3 – It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

1844/21 **Purchase of Seagull Proof Bags**

The Council considered a report on the purchase of seagull proof bags. The Council had last purchased 500 seagull proof bags in 2016 and stocks were running low. 3 quotes had been sought and 2 had been received. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that 500 seagull proof bags be purchased from Company A at a cost of £1,575.00 plus £45.00 carriage plus VAT. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That 500 seagull proof bags be purchased from Company A at a cost of £1,575.00 plus £45.00 carriage plus VAT

1845/21 **Council Events**

The Clerk reported on Council events and said

- that due to covid the organisers of Viking Re-enactment to be held on 7th and 8th August 2021 had postponed the event until some time next year.
- That following a meeting that Gerard Richardson had with CCC a Cumbria County Council Community Grant for £3,290.00 had been applied for and granted to the Council for the purchase of 10 gazebos to be stored in the Council offices. The firm supplying the gazebos informed the Council that they could supply 10 gazebos at a cost of £3,190.00 plus sandbags at a cost of £110.00 plus delivery of £120.00 plus VAT making a total of £3,420.00 which was a shortfall of £130.00. Approval was being sought to pay the extra £130.00. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that the shortfall of £130.00 be paid from the Events budget so that the gazebos could be purchased. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the shortfall of £130.00 be paid out of the Events budget so that the gazebos could be purchased.

1846/21 **Whitehaven in Bloom**

The Council considered a report on action that was taken to provide hanging baskets and barrels on the harbour due to the Harbour Commissioners being unable to source these. The Council's suppliers Bennett Brothers said they had



12 spare hanging baskets at a cost of £7.50 each and the 10 spare wooden baskets belonging to the Council barrels could be filled with compost and flowers at a cost of £30.00 each. As there was not time to get Council authority for these the Mayor said that as the Harbour was part of Whitehaven in Bloom he would make a donation and pay for the flowers out of his expenses. Councillor Gill congratulated Councillor O’Kane and the Mayor for their actions in facilitating this and proposed that the expenditure for the hanging baskets and the barrels be paid for out of the Whitehaven in Bloom budget. This was seconded by Councillor Roberts. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the expenditure for the hanging baskets and the barrels be paid for out of the Whitehaven in Bloom budget.

1847/21 Venue for Council Meetings

The Clerk referred to Minute 1833/21 when it was agreed that the Council hold its Council Meetings at The Harbour Gallery at The Beacon at their quoted rate of £40.00 per hour. However it was subsequently discovered that the Beacon had 2 tariffs for the hire of the room - £40.00 per hour during normal office hours of 9-5 and £60 an hour after that. However following discussions with the Beacon it had been agreed that the Council would be charged at the rate of £40.00 per hour. This information was for information only and no decisions were taken.

1848/21 New Unitary Councils

The Clerk said that after the announcement about the new Unitary Councils there had been little further detail and hoped that there would be more detailed information to present to the September Meeting. Councillor Roberts said that the CCC had put in a judicial review of the proposals for a unitary authority but no further details were available on this
A general discussion took place on the transfer of assets etc but no decisions were made although specific mention was made about the mace and the mayoral civic regalia which were held by CBC.

1849/21 Recommendations from Allotment Advisory Group

Councillor Rayson declared an interest as she was an allotment holder.

The Assistant Clerk informed the Council on the current position on allotments. A meeting of the Allotments Advisory Group had taken place on 9th August 2021 and the following recommendations were made for consideration by the Council:-

- i. To give approval to a request from a tenant on the Crow Park Allotments to plant 2 small patio trees on the allotment



- ii. To give approval to a request from a tenant on Cartgate Allotment Site to swap his plot for another plot on the site which was shortly to become available. This was for medical reasons.
- iii. To give approval to a request from a tenant on Crow Park Allotment Site for a set of steps to be installed by the Council down a grassy bank which became very slippery in wet weather and which tenants had to use to get to their allotments. The cost of this work to be carried out by the Ranger and Assistant Ranger was £415.00 plus Vat. The Allotments Advisory Group recommended that the work be carried out at this cost to avoid any health and safety issues.
- iv. That the debris left on an allotment site by a previous tenant and consisting of wooden pallets and tyres be removed by the Council Rangers at a cost of approximately £100.00
- v. That the request from the owner of 5 Crow Park for permission for their contractor to use the communal access way on the Crow Park Allotment Site in order to install a new septic tank in their rear garden be approved subject to stringent conditions being imposed. The Clerk said she had prepared an Undertaking for the Contractor to sign which contained conditions imposed by the Council in consideration of giving permission to use the communal access and read the Undertaking out.
- vi. That a site visit to the 4 Allotment Sites be arranged with the Allotments Advisory Group and the Allotment Sites' Representatives.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the recommendations in i to vi above be approved and actioned. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED - That the recommendations in i to vi above be approved and actioned.

1850/21 Councillor Ward Matters

- i. Councillor Maudling referred to ongoing problems with e-scooters and said that the Police were handling a lot of problems with people being drunk and on drugs
- ii. Councillor O’Kane referred to the state of the hedge on Victoria Road (Bleach Green) and said it was an overgrown and was a hazard. He said it was the same as Church Street (St Nicholas Gardens) in Whitehaven. He said a letter should be sent to Emanuele asking if these can be cut as a matter of urgency
- iii. Councillor O’Kane asked if there was any update on the bus shelter at Bransty and the Assistant Clerk said no as we were still looking for the owner of the land
- iv. Councillor Gill said that the state of the Roads in Hensingham is appalling
- v. Councillor Roberts said there were the same problems at Harras Moor with traffic and planning applications.



- vi. Councillor Hayes said that in Kells Ward they had had a very good meeting with the Police and the Highways Department

1851/21 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting be held on 26th August at 6.00pm at the Harbour Gallery, The Beacon

IN PRIVATE

- 1852/21** 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 from the meeting.

Councillor Roberts proposed this and Councillor Gill 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.

IN PRIVATE

1853/21 Councillor Ward Grant – CVG

Further to Minute 1837/21 Councillor Arrighi was not in attendance but the Clerk read out an email from her that had been received earlier that day. There had been no response from Mr Forster.

It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Gill that a letter be sent to the Copeland Veterans Group asking them to provide full details of the expenditure for the £1,000 Ward Grant prior to the next Meeting otherwise the Council will request the return of the £1,000 Ward Grant in full. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That a letter be sent to the Copeland Veterans Group asking them to provide full details of the expenditure for the £1,000 Ward Grant prior to the next Meeting otherwise the Council will request the return of the £1,000 Ward Grant in full.

1854/21 Application for Grant – WAU16

The Council considered an application from WAU16 and it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the matter be moved

to the next Council Meeting for consideration. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - that the matter be moved to the next Council Meeting for consideration.

1855/21 Application for Grant – WHC

The Council were informed that the application for a grant from WHC had been withdrawn as the applicant had received full sponsorship for the project

The Meeting closed at 7.20pm



Chairman

