

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th January 2018

Present: Councillors B O’Kane (Chairman); J Forster; S Gearing; J Kane; J Laine; C Maudling; J Rayson; G Roberts

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

869/18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gill and Councillor Lowrey

870/18 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Rayson declared an interest as she was a member of the Whitehaven Academy Action Group

871/18 IN PRIVATE

The Chairman moved the following Resolution in respect of the following item of business namely grant applications

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

RESOLVED – That this be approved and the public and/or press left the room during the continuance of this item of business

872/18 Grant Applications

The Council considered 5 applications for grants and it was

RESOLVED – That (i) Active Cumbria. This application had arrived out of time and it was resolved that the matter be deferred for further

information

(ii) Whitehaven Academy Action Group. That no grant be awarded. Councillors O’Kane, Councillor Forster and Councillor Rayson agreed to fund this from their Ward Grants

(iii) Whitehaven District Amateur Operatic Society. That no grant be awarded.

(iv) Rosehill Theatre. That no grant be awarded.

(v) Whitehaven Tennis Club. Councillor Laine said that a relation of hers played tennis for the club. It was resolved that £1,000 be granted pending the receipt of further information. The Clerk pointed out that if the Council were in any doubt or required further information about the grant application then a grant should not be awarded. Councillor Kane then proposed a change and said the application should be referred to a future meeting and the applicants be asked to attend. It was resolved that the change be approved and that the application be referred to a future meeting.

The Meeting then moved back into public

873/18 **Public Participation**

(i) Theresa Ancell said she noted the Council would be getting someone to deep clean the town and asked when it would be starting. She said Whitehaven was really depressing with no one on the streets and no one in the shops and that the town just needed a good clean. The Chairman said this was on the Agenda and would be discussed later

874/18 **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th December 2017**

RESOLVED –That the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to Minute 857/17(i) being amended to remove the words that defibrillators were needed outside Jericho school and the Fire Station.

875/18 **Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 14th December 2017**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

876/18 **Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 18th January 2018**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

877/18 **Planning Applications**

Councillor Maudling declared an interest as he was on the CBC Planning Panel.

Councillor Laine asked to defer consideration of planning application 4/17/9007 as there had not been enough time to consider it and asked if further time could be given.

There were no objections/representations to be made to CBC on the remaining applications shown on Schedule 1.

RESOLVED – (i) That the Clerk contact Cumbria County Council to ask for an extension of time to comment on application 4/17/9007.

(ii) That the Clerk inform Copeland Borough Council that there were no representations on the other planning applications shown at Appendix 1.

878/18 **Financial Report**

The Council considered a Financial Report and it was:-

RESOLVED – (i) That the invoices shown at Appendix 1 be approved and paid

(ii) That payment of the invoice referred to in paragraph 1.2 of the report be deferred until there had been a meeting between the Chairman, Councillor Maudling, Julie Betteridge and the Clerk about this.

(iii) That the Cash Book and Income and expenditure shown at Appendices 2 and 3 be noted.

That thanks be given to Theresa Ancell and Julie Bennet who had helped with the Land Train on the Christmas lights switch on.

879/18 **Street Lighting on Unadopted Road**

Members considered a report on a matter that had been discussed at the Council meeting on 7th December 2017 (Minute 853/17) and the policy supplied by Copeland Borough Council. Councillor Rayson said she had inspected the area and 4 lights had been removed and expressed concern about this. Following a discussion it was:-

RESOLVED – (i) That the County Councillor for Hillcrest be contacted to meet Councillor Rayson on site to discuss safety issues.

(ii) That the police be asked that a PCSO go to the area

(iii) That CBC be asked who owns this stretch of roadway.

880/18 **St Nicholas Gardens**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on this and made the following points

- The budget for Whitehaven in Bloom had been set at £18,000
- The Chairman said St Nicholas had approached the Town Council about the gardens
- Many people want St Nicholas Gardens to be returned back to what they were
- A person who was one of the key workers in St Nicholas is preparing and costing a plan to bring the gardens back to what they were
- St Nicholas feel that they cannot do this by themselves and will need help
- They have suggested that the Council take control of the gardens on a peppercorn rent for 5 years
- The Chairman and Councillor Maudling had been to see BEC who want to work with the Council
- The proposal is that BEC and the Council take the lead to bring the gardens back to what they were
- That the Chairman was asking permission to work with BEC to put a plan together

RESOLVED – That the Chairman carry on with this project and that plans be prepared and the matter reported back to the Council when there is any further information.

Councillor Laine wished it to be noted that if the Council does go ahead that BEC is introduced to the Church and they can get on with it.

881/18 **Christmas Lights and External Committee for Christmas Festivities**

Further to Minute 781/17(ii) A report was considered on Christmas lights and an external committee for Christmas festivities.

Following a discussion it was:-

RESOLVED – (i) That the Council be responsible for the erection, maintenance, dismantling and storage of the Christmas lights.

(ii) That an outside body separate from the Council be set up to raise money for and to organise Christmas festivities with Charles Maudling taking the lead on this.

882/18 **Litter Bins For Wards**

The Council considered a report on Litter bins for wards and the types of bins which might be suitable and the costings for these. The Chairman said that there was a need for one Councillor to take this forward and to liaise with the Council's office to progress things.

Councillor Laine proposed a budget of £10,000 for Ward Bins and this was seconded by Councillor O'Kane.

RESOLVED – (i) That £10,000 be allocated for Ward bins and
(ii) That all Councillors let Councillor Laine have details of the number and type of bins that they require for their Wards in order that the requirements be collated; and
(iii) That this be reported back to the next Council Meeting.

883/18 **Quotes for seats/benches**

Further to Minute 769/17(i) where the Council resolved to spend £10,000 on 10 replacement seats in Whitehaven the Council considered quotes received for the provision of replacement seats in Whitehaven. The Clerk reported that there was a new seat called the Lowther seat which had weather resistant ends and enviropol slats and cost £450.00 each plus VAT. Councillor O'Kane proposed that 10 Lowther Seats be ordered and this was seconded by Councillor Laine.

RESOLVED – That 10 Lowther Seats be ordered for Whitehaven.

884/18

MV700 Gladiator Chewing Gum Removal Machine

The Council considered a report on a demonstration of the MV700 Gladiator Machine and that a quotation had been received to carry out works in Whitehaven using the machine to remove chewing gum from certain pavements. The demonstration was very successful and produced impressive results.

The subcontractors for the manufacturers of the machine had said they could clean King Street, Lowther Street, Market Place, Tangier Street, part of Duke Street and outside the Civic Hall for £11,000 plus accommodation only costs over a 5 day period.

The Chairman stated that it was not possible to get quotes as there were no other companies who manufactured the machine and it would be necessary to suspend Financial Regulations to go ahead with the project. BEC had said that they would contribute £2,000 towards this.

RESOLVED – That the Council makes a resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11 to be considered at the next Council meeting and that the reasons for suspension are recorded and an assessment of the risks arising prepared.

885/18

Whitehaven Academy Update

Councillor Rayson gave an update on Whitehaven Academy and read out a statement from Katherine Cowell, Deputy Director of North Academies Regional Delivery Group which made the following points

- Senior Staff from Bright Tribe and the Dept. of Education have spent a considerable amount of time in recent weeks to prepare the transition for a new sponsor
- This includes preparing for new governance and identifying local partners who can support Whitehaven in its improvement journey
- The school leadership team is actively involved in these discussions with DfE
- DfE officials visited the Academy on Monday and Tuesday of this week and a further meeting between the school, DfE and local partners the week after next
- A proposal to the Strategic School Improvement Fund to support school improvement in West Cumbria was successful and Whitehaven will be one of the key beneficiaries

The Head Teacher of Whitehaven Academy, Warren Turner had said he would like to thank the Town Council for all their hard work and support and that he was 100% committed to leading WHA to a successful future for the long term and am confident we can achieve this as a community.

RESOLVED – That this be noted.

886/18 **Markets Report**

A report on the Market which was received from CBC shortly before the meeting was circulated. The Chairman said that we needed someone from CBC to give us some feedback. Councillor Laine said the market was a flop and was not working.

The Chairman proposed that the market should be on the Agenda for the next meeting and that CBC be asked to deliver the report.

RESOLVED – (i) That this report be deferred to the next meeting and that the Markets Manager from CBC be asked to deliver the report and answer any questions.

(ii) That Mike Starkie be invited to answer any questions.

Councillor Gearing left the meeting during the above item and did not return.

887/18 **The Chairman proposed suspending Standing Orders for 30 Minutes in order that the business of the Council could be concluded.**

RESOLVED – That Standing Orders be suspended.

888/18 **Meeting with Copeland Borough Council and Executive**

The Chairman reported that meeting dates were still being negotiated and that these would be reported back. Councillor Laine asked that Mike Starkie attend and the Chairman said he would ask him. The Chairman said there had been an invitation from BEC to the Town Council for a presentation by them to look at their future proposals for Whitehaven.

RESOLVED – That the Chairman report back on this and that the position be noted.

889/18 **Audit and Governance Report**

Audit and Governance Decision Notices received from Copeland Borough Council were circulated for consideration.

RESOLVED – That consideration of these be deferred to the next Council meeting.

890/18 **Corruption in Copeland**

RESOLVED – That consideration of this be adjourned until Councillor Guest attends.

891/18 **Employment Tribunal Update**

The Chairman reported that nothing had come back from the Employment Tribunal and it could be up to 4 weeks before we heard anything.

RESOLVED – That this be noted.

892/18 **Councillor Matters**

(i) Councillor Kane said he still had problems with Home Group and in particular that there was no access to them.

(ii) Councillor Forster said she had a few issues

- There had been anti social behaviour problems with settling fire to wheelie bins. CBC had been unhelpful and had said they would have to wait 2 weeks for a replacements
- The “men in sheds” project will be done in Hensingham
- There is a group in Hensingham going to do Hensingham in Bloom
- There will be some more litter picks done in Hensingham
- There are tarmacked paths breaking up in the Hensingham area

(iii) Councillor O’Kane referred to the use of defibrillators and asked if anyone would take over and steer this by the next Council meeting as to how many defibrillators were needed and where they were needed.

(iv) Councillor O’Kane said he found problems with the lighting and the

acoustics in the Solway Hall and asked that in future meetings be held elsewhere.

(v) Councillor O'Kane asked if the Council could get to the stage where the Council could meet and discuss things with no agendas or resolutions to talk between themselves and throw ideas around as a team.

(vi) Councillor Maudling said the biggest problem was St James Infant School and the dog fouling there. He said the children were paddling it through the school in both the infants and the juniors. The Chairman said the Council should ask what the Enforcement Officers have done in the last few months about this.

(vii) Councillor Laine asked for the Standing Orders to be suspended for a further 10 minutes in order that there would be time for her to complete her Councillor matters. RESOLVED that this be agreed and that Standing Orders be so suspended.

(viii) Councillor Rayson said she had been approached by shopkeepers in the town centre about the state of the town centre and said cable ties had been left on the ground when the lights were taken down and thought that this was shoddy workmanship.

(ix) Councillor Rayson referred to disabled parking and the loading space in the Market Place. She said there were only 4 stalls on the market.

(x) Councillor Rayson referred to the sign at the top of Coach Road which was really filthy and which could not be read.

(xi) Councillor Rayson said she had had a meeting with residents to do community events and a general tidy up. They were going to try to dig back the path at Rascals.

(xii) Councillor Rayson said that she had referred a highway issue to CCC and had been told that Hillcrest was not a priority.

(xiii) Councillor Rayson said she had left a message with Johnstone House to arrange a meeting to see if there was anything that the residents wanted.

(xiv) Councillor Laine said that she had contacted Kevin Cosgrove regarding the markings at Valley School and the road markings had been done. She had asked for another speed bump there and referred to the cushions all around Mirehouse and said she had asked for extra markings to be put on them.

(xv) Councillor Laine said Councillor Whiteside had secured £120,000 for Meadow Road to be resurfaced also extending to Derwentwater Road and Burnmoor Avenue.

(xvi) Councillor Laine said she had attended a St Bees Parish Council meeting and Councillor Whiteside also attended. She referred to the cycle path which St Bees Parish Council had been looking into between Mirehouse and St Bees and that this could now be on the cards and that St Bees were looking for funding to buy some patches of land.

(xvii) Councillor Laine said she had been contacted by residents as to whether a letter could be sent to Mirehouse shops on litter awareness.

(xviii) Councillor Laine said she was happy to deliver seagull proof bags to any residents.

(xix) Councillor Laine asked if the Council would support John Woodcock the MP for Barrow MP re the Poppy Worthington case and that the Council should be supporting the call for a full public inquiry

893/18 Date Time and Venue of next Meeting

RESOLVED – That the date of the next meeting be 22nd February at 6.30 at a venue to be arranged.

The meeting closed at 9.10

Signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the amendments in Minute 903/18

