

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th September 2021

Present: Councillor R Gill (Vice Chairman in the Chair); Councillor E Dinsdale; Councillor B O’Kane; Councillor G Roberts; Councillor R Redmond

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Redmond back and said it was nice to see him fit and well again

The Chairman said he was sorry to hear Councillor Louise Walmsley had resigned and read out her resignation. He proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Louise Walmsley which was agreed.

The Chairman wished Councillor Hayes a speedy recovery and asked a card be sent to him on behalf of the Council

1871/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received as follows

Councillor C Hayes	Recovering from operation
Councillor J Rayson,	Work commitments
Councillor C Maudling	Flu
Councillor G Dinsdale	Ill
Councillor C Walmsley	Work commitments

It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the apologies be noted and accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the apologies be noted and accepted

1872/21 Declarations of Interest

Councillor G Roberts declared an interest in Item 8 Christmas Lights as he was a member of Cumbria County Council

1873/21 Public Participation

There was no public participation

1874/21 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th August 2021**

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th August 2021 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 Meeting held on 26th August 2021be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1875/21 **Planning Applications**

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

- (i) Before considering Appendix 1 Councillor O’Kane made a proposal that the CBC’s Planning Officer be requested to explain the procedure regarding delegated decisions and the request to go before the Planning Panel. This was seconded by Councillor Roberts. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That CBC’s Planning Officer be requested to explain the procedure regarding delegated decisions and the request to go before the Planning Panel.

- (ii) It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that following consideration of the Planning Application shown at Appendix 1 CBC be informed that the Council had no representations to make. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

1876/21 **Finance Report**

The Council considered a Finance report.

- i. Appendix 1 – The Assistant Clerk reported that there were 6 extra invoices to be considered namely:

Gordon Ellis &Co	£1523.84 plus VAT for 4 barrier baskets 2x3 tier planters and 4 linings
Cumbria Roofing	£1400 plus VAT for repairs to Council Office roof
Lockhart Leisure	£1475 plus VAT for marquee for Science show

Debra McKenna	£1000 plus VAT for final 50% fee for Stefan Gates Science show
Cumbria Media	£104.40 plus VAT for accessibility Software for website
Fluid Productions Ltd	£1046.40 plus VAT for technical Support for Science Show

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 together with the 6 invoices above be approved and paid. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Invoices shown on Appendix 1 together with the 6 invoices above be approved and paid.

- ii. Appendices 2 and 3 – It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane 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.

1877/21 Annual Governance & Accountability Return – External Auditors Report for Year Ended 31st March 2021

The Council considered the Annual Governance & Accountability Return – External Auditors Report for year ended 31st March 2021 received from PFK Littlejohn the External Auditors. The Clerk said that the Council had been given a clean bill of health and the Chairman thanked the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for all their hard work in this. It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council note and approve the External Auditor Report and Certificate for 2020/21. A vote was taken and 4 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained

RESOLVED – That the Council note and approve the External Auditor Report and Certificate for 2020/21.

Councillor O’Kane asked if the Council could present this as an item to the local media as people needed to know that the Council’s accounts were in order. Councillors indicated agreement and Councillor E Dinsdale asked that in the article it be recorded that 4 Councillors had voted for and 1 Councillor had abstained. The Chairman made a ruling and said this was a quorate meeting of the Council and this matter had been approved by the Council.

1878/21 Christmas Lights

The Council considered a report on Christmas lights for 2021 and the quote of £24,400.00 plus VAT received from the Council's preferred Contractor, Cumbria County Council Highways Lighting Department for the erection, maintenance, dismantling and repair of the Christmas lights in 2021. The same amount has been charged for the past 3 years.

In order to use the preferred supplier Financial Regulations have to be suspended and the reasons for suspension recorded and that an assessment of the risks has been presented to the council.

- i. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council makes a resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11 to allow CCC to erect, maintain, dismantle and repair the Christmas lights. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Council makes a resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11 to allow CCC to erect, maintain, dismantle and repair the Christmas lights.

- ii. Following the making of the resolution in i above it was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that in accordance with Financial Regulation 18 the reasons for the suspension be recorded and that the assessment of the risks provided be accepted and approved so that CCC can undertake the works at a cost of £24,400.00 plus VAT. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That following the making of the resolution in i above and in accordance with Financial Regulation 18 the reasons for the suspension be recorded and that the assessment of the risks provided be accepted and approved so that CCC can undertake the works at a cost of £24,400.00 plus VAT

- iii. Following a discussion as to when the Christmas lights be switched on it was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Christmas lights be switched on on Saturday 20th November 2021 at 5.00pm by The Mayor, Councillor Chris Hayes. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That that the Christmas lights be switched on on Saturday 20th November 2021 at 5.00pm by The Mayor, Councillor Chris Hayes.

- iv. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that a letter be sent to Whitehaven Rugby League Club to congratulate them on their successful season this year. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - that a letter be sent to Whitehaven Rugby League Club to

congratulate them on their successful season this year.

1879/21 Events Expenditure

The Council considered a report on expenditure in connection with Council events.

- i. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that following Minute 1864/21 the purchase of 20 folding tables for £939.80 plus VAT to be delivered after 17/11/21 be noted and approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That following Minute 1864/21 the purchase of 20 folding tables for £939.80 plus VAT to be delivered after 17/11/21 be noted and approved.

- ii. Further to Minute 1864/21 quotes had been received to provide 2 marquees one 12 x 6 and one 15 x 9 for the Christmas Market as follows:-

Supplier A	£1,620.00 plus VAT
Supplier B	£1,550.00 plus VAT
Supplier C	£2,054.24 plus VAT

It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote from Supplier A be accepted at a cost of £1,620.00. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the quote from Supplier A be accepted at a cost of £1,620.00 plus VAT.

- iii. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the Council authorise an additional £70 to cover the increased rail fare and taxi fares for the presenter of the Science Show. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Council authorise an additional £70 to cover the increased rail fare and taxi fares for the presenter of the Science Show.

1880/21 Summer Plants 2022

The Council considered a report on a quote of £6,889.55 excluding VAT received from the Council’s preferred supplier for the provision of summer flowers for the hanging baskets, hexagonal planters, barrier baskets, barrels, cast iron planters, Trinity bed and the Pelican bed in 2022. The quote also includes the additional three-tier planters and barrier baskets as well as the Harbour – a total of 5,093 plants. The cost last year was £6,368.10 plus VAT for 5,038 plants. In order to use the preferred supplier Financial Regulations have to be suspended and the reasons for suspension recorded and that an assessment of the

risks has been presented to the council.

- i. It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council makes a resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11 to allow the summer plants for 2022 to be purchased from the preferred supplier. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Council makes a resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11 to allow the summer plants for 2022 to be purchased from the preferred supplier.

- ii. Following the making of the resolution in i above it was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that that in accordance with Financial Regulation 18 the reasons for the suspension be recorded and that the assessment of the risks provided be accepted and approved so that the summer plants for 2022 can be purchased from the preferred supplier at a cost of £6,889.55 plus VAT. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That following the making of the resolution in i above and in accordance with Financial Regulation 18 the reasons for the suspension be recorded and that the assessment of the risks provided be accepted and approved so that the summer plants for 2022 can be purchased from the preferred supplier at a cost of £6,889.55 plus VAT

1881/21 Replacement of Defibrillator Electrode Pads

The Council considered a report on the replacement of 13 defibrillator electrode pads in its 7 defibrillators which had an expiry date of November 2021. Three quotes had been received for replacement pads:

- Supplier A - £52.99 each plus VAT
- Supplier B - £36.00 each plus £9.95 delivery plus VAT
- Supplier C - £69.99 each plus VAT

Following consideration of the quotes received it was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that 13 replacement defibrillator electrode pads be purchased from Supplier B. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That 13 replacement defibrillator electrode pads be purchased from Supplier B.

1882/21 Remembrance Sunday

- i. The Council considered a report on Remembrance Sunday. The Clerk reported that the Whitehaven Brass Band would be in attendance for the service in Castle Park but it was not known if they would be able to march. There may also be a cost for the Band. This would be reported back.
- ii. The Assistant Clerk explained that it would not be possible to use the Civic Hall for pie and peas as it had been booked and it had not been possible to find a venue large enough to accommodate the number of people and with the facilities for heating pies. An alternative would be to provide tea, coffee and biscuits and/or sandwiches in the United Church Hall if that was possible. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that consideration of this be left to the next Council Meeting in October. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That consideration of this be left to the next Council Meeting in October.

- iii. It was proposed by Graham Roberts and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that 5 poppy wreaths be ordered at a cost of approximately £25-£30 each. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That that 5 poppy wreaths be ordered at a cost of approximately £25-£30 each.

1883/21 Grass Cutting Contract

The Council considered a report on the Grass Cutting Contract for 2022. Councillors had been asked if they had any areas in their wards that should be included in the contract. Councillor O’Kane said there was a piece of land at Elizabeth Crescent which had been advertised for sale by the people who owned it and said it had been cut by the Council in the past. He said it was the only piece of grass in the area. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that the land be included in the Contract and that quotations be sought from local contractors to carry out the grass cutting of those areas in the Contract in 2022. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the land be included in the Contract and that quotations be sought from local contractors to carry out the grass cutting of those areas in the contract in 2022.

1884/21 **Allotment and Pigeon Loft Maintenance Contract**

The Council considered a report on the Allotment and Pigeon Loft Maintenance Contract for 2022/23. It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that quotations are sought for the provision of this service for 2022/23. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That quotations are sought for the provision of this service for 2022/23.

1885/21 **Code of Conduct**

The Council considered a Notice of Decision issued following a hearing by Copeland Borough Council’s Standards and Ethics Committee into a complaint concerning Whitehaven Town Councillor Carla Arrighi. The Chairman read out the sanction imposed which was that the subject Member be issued with a conditional warning in respect of future behaviour for a period of 2 years from the date of the notice.

No decision was necessary and the Notice of Decision was noted

1886/21 **Copeland Local Plan 2021-2038: Additional Focused Pre-Publication Draft Consultation on Potential Changes to Local Plan**

The Clerk informed Members that the consultation on the above document had started on 13th September 2021 and would end on 12th October 2021.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the document be noted and that individual Councillors submit any comments they have direct to CBC. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the document be noted and that individual Councillors submit any comments they have direct to CBC.

1887/21 **Councillor Ward Matters**

- i. Councillor E Dinsdale said there were issues since the last meeting with general waste and recycling collection on Maple Grove at Valley Park. The date for waste collection didn’t happen and along with road resurfacing made it difficult for the van to get there. He said letters had been sent to CBC and a response had been from CBC apologising but that while he understood that the pandemic had made it difficult at times this had happened too many times and CBC has got to get a handle on this
- ii. Councillor E Dinsdale referred to Garlieston Court and said the residents there had contacted him about a historic issue around the road resurfacing where the builders had taken a deposit and then left and the residents were still waiting to get the work done

- iii. Councillor E Dinsdale said there were issues around parking in Garlieston and that people working at Centre Parcs were getting picked up there and leaving their cars parked and preventing residents getting a park there. Councillor Dinsdale asked if he could use the Council's zoom for a meeting with the residents and the Clerk confirmed that he could.
- iv. Councillor O'Kane referred to Bransty Bus Stop and said that we now know who owns the land.
- v. Councillor O'Kane referred to Oakbank Avenue and said that frequently the residents there had their waste missed out and that he had made numerous calls to CBC about this but had not been able to speak to a waste officer.
- vi. Councillor O'Kane referred to Caldbeck Road and said there was an area of unadopted land where there are 4/5 unadopted street lights that nobody will do anything with. Councillor O'Kane said that the worry was in future at the top of Hensingham there was going to be 6-700 houses up that end of town and no one can tell if the services will be adequate. He said he would like a meeting to look at the plans that CBC has for that area.
- vii. Councillor E Dinsdale said that when recycling and waste was left out and not collected plastic and cardboard was blown all over the place.
- viii. Councillor Roberts said he had had complaints about people hanging around on the street late at night with cans of diamond white and said that people are getting concerned that the Police are toothless. He said the Police don't act on the PSPOs.
- ix. Councillor Gill expressed concern about the length of time it takes to get through to CBC about residents' complaints

1888/21 Date and Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Further to Minute 1867/21 it was reported that no information had been received on alternative venues and that therefore the next Council Meeting would be held in the Harbour Gallery at the Beacon on 28th October 2021 at 6.00pm.

IN PRIVATE

1889/21 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 O'Kane 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.

1890/21 Councillor Ward Grant – CVG

Further to Minute 1869/21 was reported that no response had been received from Allan Forster.

Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that after considering the receipts that a letter be sent to Allan Forster asking for the unspent amount of the Councillor Ward Grant to be returned to the Council at the earliest opportunity and that failure to do so would result in further action being taken. A vote was taken and 3 Councillors voted in favour of the proposal, 1 Councillor voted against and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED - That that a letter be sent to Allan Forster asking for the unspent Amount of the Councillor Ward Grant to be returned to the Council at the earliest opportunity and that failure to do so would result in further action being taken.

The Meeting closed at 7.35pm



Chairman