

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29th June 2017

Present: Councillors G Roberts (Deputy Chairman in the Chair); J. Forster; M. Guest; J Kane; J. A. Laine; C Maudling

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
V Gorley Trainee Assistant Town Clerk
Representative from Whitehaven Rugby League Football Club
The Press

Before the meeting started the Chairman introduced a new member of staff, Vanessa Gorley, the Trainee Assistant Town Clerk

710/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gearing, Councillor Gill, Councillor Lowrey and Councillor O’Kane.

711/17 Minutes of Meeting held on 25th May 2017

- (i) Councillor Laine referred to Councillor Matters at Minute 696/17 and said she had not said “it would take up Council time” and that these words should be deleted and replaced with “ it was not an Agenda item and we need an Agenda item for this”
- (ii) The Clerk referred to Minute 692/17 (i) – the grant to Taste Cumbria – and said that following discussions with CALC regarding the power to award the grant the advice was that it should be reported in the Minute that the grant was being made under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 which is the power used when the Council has no other power. The Clerk asked that the Minute be amended accordingly. The Clerk informed the Council that only a certain amount of money could be awarded under s 137 in a year which for 2017/18 was £7.57 per head of the electorate which was 19,352. Councillor Laine said that this would amount to approximately £147,000. The Clerk said that for any grants awarded under s137 the Council had to be satisfied that the area or part of the area or the inhabitants or the majority of

inhabitants of the area would be getting benefit out of it and that what is spent has to be commensurate with the benefit.

Councillor Guest said he did not disagree with what had been said and was supportive but was concerned about public money supporting commercial activities and did not agree with this but that he did agree with everything else and did not doubt that it would be of value to the community

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the amendments in 710/17(i) and (ii) above.

712/17 **Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 13th June 2017**

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

713/17 **Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting on 27th June 2017**

- (i) Councillor Guest referred to Minute 707/17 and said he would have liked an advert to have been put in the local press so that local people could quote for work and that we need to review our tender process.
- (ii) Councillor Laine said that she had asked in the meeting for it to be noted that because it was not advertised in the local press the Clerk had to google and companies in Yorkshire and Brighton replied and that it was not feasible for them to come all this way to clean the town and that if it had been in the press a lot more people would have replied.
The Chairman disagreed with this and said not many people wanted to do work of this sort.
- (iii) The Clerk referred to Minute 707/17 and asked that it be amended to include the expenditure power as being s137 of the Local Government Act for the same reasons as the Taste Cumbria Minute above as street cleaning was a borough Council function.

RESOLVED – That Minutes of 27th June 2017 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject the amendments contained on 712/17 (ii) and (iii) above

714/17 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

715/17 **Public Participation**

- (i) John Crewdson asked whose responsibility it was to clean the pavements. He said the town was filthy and had been told by a Copeland Councillor that it was the Town Council's responsibility and that the Town Council had been given money to do it. Mr Crewdson was informed that the responsibility for cleaning the pavements was with Copeland Borough Council and the responsibility for repairing the pavements and highways was with Cumbria County Council. Mr Crewdson asked what would happen after the current cleaning of the town was finished and Councillor Maudling said that this was the start and that something was being done now.

- (ii) Julie Rayson stated that there was a payment of £15 for an unpaid cheque and she wondered what it was for. The Chairman said she would receive a written reply.

- (iii) Julie Rayson said as she was a resident of Hillcrest and that there was at present no Councillor for Hillcrest. She said there were not many issues but a few had been raised with the previous Councillor and County Highways some of which had been sorted and said as far as she was aware the Councillor Ward allocation of £4,000 for the past 2 years had not been spent and asked if it could be reallocated to the Hillcrest Ward because there were more things that needed to be done. The Clerk said that this would be looked into and a reply sent.

716/17 **Planning Applications**

- (i) **RESOLVED** – that no representations be made on the list of planning applications shown at Appendix 1 and the Planning Authority be informed accordingly.

- (ii) **RESOLVED** – That the Clerk liaise with Cumbria County Council to receive any County Council planning applications received for the Whitehaven area.

717/17

Financial Report

The Council considered a Financial Report as follows:-

- (i) Appendix 1 invoices for authorisation

RESOLVED – (i) That the invoices shown at appendix 1 be authorised for payment with the exception of the account for £780 for a parking permit.

(ii) That with respect to the payment for the parking space that this be deferred until the Council has further information.

- (ii) **RESOLVED** - That the Cashbook and Expenditure be noted.

718/17

Grants

- (i) Whitehaven Rugby League Football Club

The Council heard a presentation from Mark Stamper from the Whitehaven Rugby League Football Club about the grant application for £10,000 that had been submitted. Mr Stamper said the grant was for a music festival which was to help run the club and keep it going and that a major sponsor had been unable to commit. He said Whitehaven was a rugby league town and to lose it would be a tragedy and that the Club was asking for help to keep things going. He said they had lost funding last year for the community programme which involved going into schools and informing pupils about health and fitness and a reading programme when players read with children and the Club wanted to get that started again. The total cost of the project was £14,000 and they had been to various other organisations for grants. The Council stated that they needed to see the grant application and needed to know what power was to be used for giving the grant. Councillor Laine said an emergency meeting could be called to determine the grant application. The Clerk informed the Council that the budget allocation for grants was £30,000.00 and that £25,525 had been spent to date.

RESOLVED – That consideration of the application be deferred for further information

(ii) Bransty Rangers Football Club

The Clerk reported on a grant application that had been received from Bransty Rangers Football Club for a grant of £1200 to purchase new removeable goal posts to replace the current ones that had been damaged. The cost of the project was £1,200. Councillor Maudling said he was involved in local football and that he thought that if the club contacted the Cumberland Football Association they would be able to purchase goal posts for around £900.

RESOLVED – That consideration of the grant application be deferred for further information

The Chairman stated that Councillor Gill's ward grant could not be discussed as he was not present.

(iii) Ward Grant for replacement Bus Shelter at New Road

Councillor Roberts said he was going to use his ward grants totalling £6,000 to replace the bus shelter on the pelican garage side. Councillor Laine asked why it was coming out of the ward grant and not the regeneration budget and Councillor Roberts said he wanted to get it done as soon as possible. Councillor Guest said that this should be agreed on the proviso that it be refunded at a later date.

RESOLVED – That this be agreed on the proviso that Councillor Roberts be refunded at a later date and the money goes back into his Councillor Ward Grant.

719/17

Appointment to Christmas Advisory Group

RESOLVED - (i) That the group be called the Christmas Events Group and

(ii) That the following Councillors be appointed to the Christmas Events Group:-

Councillor Guest
Councillor Laine
Councillor Maudling

720/17 **Appointment to Allotments Advisory Group**

RESOLVED – That in addition to Councillor O’Kane and Councillor Roberts the following Councillors be appointed to the Allotments Advisory Group:-

Councillor Forster
Councillor Laine

721/17 **Appointment to Britain In Bloom Advisory Group**

RESOLVED – That in addition to Councillor Gill and Councillor Gearing the following Councillors be appointed to the Britain in Bloom Advisory Group:-

Councillor Laine
Councillor Kane

722/17 **Report on Visit to Whitehaven Academy**

Councillor Roberts gave a report on his recent visit to Whitehaven Academy and his meeting with the Headmaster Warren Turner. He said academic achievements were moving ahead and although the school was still in special measures the headteacher and the managers were taking effective measures towards getting out of special measures and that they had received a reasonably good OFSTED Report. He said that this showed the school was really progressing and that when he walked round the school it had a very happy atmosphere which was very different from a couple of years ago. Councillor Guest asked about the school buildings and Councillor Roberts replied that the first thing to do was to get the academia to rise and then repairs to the campus could be looked at. He said he would keep Members informed of the progress.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted

723/17 **Whitehaven Mining Company**

Councillor Laine said that a planning application had been made to Cumbria County Council and the mining company had asked all local

authorities, residents and groups if people would be willing to support the planning application. She said she was concerned that the Town Council had not responded so together with Councillor Guest she had drafted a response which had been circulated to Councillors for approval. Councillor Laine said that included in the letter was reference to

- Creation of approximately 500 new jobs
- Compliance with the Local Plan
- Competitive salaries
- Listening the people's views on environmental issues
- That mining was part of community history

RESOLVED – That the letter drafted by Councillor Laine and Councillor Guest be sent to Rachel Brophy at Cumbria County Council as soon as possible.

724/17

Problem of Drugs and other related items

Councillor Guest stated that both he and Councillor Laine had a problem with this in their wards. He referred to the play park on the Welfare field where a little girl had been pricked with a needle that was on the ground and said that following this himself and Councillor Laine had called a meeting with UNITY, Louise Coid from Copeland Borough Council and the Police. Councillor Laine said at the meeting it became clear that there was a lot of information being received by the Police and CBC but that it was not being shared with UNITY.

Councillor Guest has asked if a card could be produced with contact details of the Agencies so if anything happened people could contact them. Councillor Laine said there was nothing on the Town Council's website about this and said that UNITY would give the Council some information for this. She said that UNITY need to be informed when any needles are found as they may be able to identify the user.

Councillor Laine said that UNITY had said they would like to be consulted on any grant application to the Council for any event being organised or by anyone organising an event so that they could help with a risk assessment and also check the property to be use was clean and free of any drug use.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Laine and Councillor Guest for the report and it was

RESOLVED – That the report be noted

Councillor Matters

- (i) Councillor Guest referred to the licence for the Airmens Memorial and the Clerk said the licence was being dealt with.
- (ii) Councillor Forster said that the residents group were starting a speed watch especially on Main Street Hensingham and that they had been in touch with the headmasters of the schools nearby and it was likely that they would wish to take part in any campaign
- (iii) Councillor Kane referred to car parking spaces opposite Joe Bananas outside St Nicholas Park and said 5 spaces had suddenly appeared. He said cars were coming round the corner and he was concerned that there was going to be a crash. He said there were double yellow lines at each end of the parking spaces and was concerned as people were parking there all day.
- (iv) Councillor Laine asked if we could ask the Borough Council if they would provide free parking during the Taste Cumbria.
- (v) Councillor Laine referred to bins, rubbish and the cattle arch subway. She said she had had a meeting with the Headmaster of Valley School Nigel Shipton-Smith and the Police regarding drugs and anti-social behaviour and had drawn up a questionnaire with the Headmaster which he would be sending to all parents to try and find out what the issue was. Councillor Laine said she had contacted Sustrans who said that they could re-route the cycle path that goes through the area to avoid the cattle arch although the concern was about the path going onto the public highway.
- (vi) Councillor Laine said a number of people had contacted her as they were worried about the cladding and insulation on their homes. She had been in touch with the Fire Service and provided sample cladding from someone's home and the Fire Service and they gave an assurance that this met safety standards
- (vii) Councillor Laine said that the problem with the water seemed to be getting worse and that people wanted to know what was happening and asked if the Town Council could get an official response from United Utilities. The Chairman said a

response had been received and that it was going to the Health and Wellbeing Board of the CCC and that the MP was also involved.

- (viii) Councillor Maudling said that the parking on Duke Street that Councillor Kane referred to was not from Albion Square but that it was the businesses opposite that were parking there.
- (ix) Councillor Maudling said that CBC was replacing the bin liners on King Street but that the liners were too high and people could not get their hands in but that he would bring it to the attention of Janice Carrol at CBC
- (x) Councillor Forster said that assurances had been given that the cladding on the hospital was safe.

726/17

Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

RESOLVED - That the next meeting be held on 27th July 2017 at 7.00pm at the United Reformed Church

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the amendments contained in Minute 732/17 (ii) and (iv)



Chairman