

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31st January 2019

Present: Councillors G Roberts (Chairman); J Forster; C Hayes; J Kane; C Maudling; J Rayson; C Walmsley

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V Gorley, Trainee Assistant Town Clerk

Members of the Public

1193/19 Apologies For Absence

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

1194/19 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Maudling declared that he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel.

1195/19 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29th November 2018

It was proposed by Councillor Kane and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the Minutes for the Council Meeting on 29th November 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting on 29th November 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1196/19 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 13th December 2018

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Walmsley that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 13th December 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 13th December 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1197/19 **Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 17th January 2019**

It was proposed by Councillor Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 17th January 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 17th January 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1198/19 **Public Participation**

A group of residents attended to speak about APP/Z0923/W/18/3217111 which was an appeal by Harras Park Estates relating to a site to the South of Elizabeth Crescent Whitehaven.

They made the following points:-

- They thanked the Council for their support in March 2018 when objections were put in against the planning application
- They said that CBCs decision to refuse planning permission had gone to appeal with the Planning Inspectorate and asked if the Council would reiterate their comments to CBC to the Planning Inspectorate
- They said there was still a great strength of feeling from the residents about this application and that they had set up a residents group to raise funds to pay a professional planner to support the group and to pay for a traffic survey

The Council noted the comments and said that there was an item on this on the Agenda and it would be discussed there.

1199/19 **Planning Applications**

The Council considered a report on planning applications received and shown at Appendix 1.

- i. APPZ0923/W/18/3217111 was referred to following the item in public participation and it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Kane that the Town Council's objections to the planning application which had been submitted to Copeland Borough Council be reiterated to the Planning Inspectorate.

RESOLVED – That the Town Council's objections to the planning application which had been submitted to Copeland Borough Council be reiterated to the Planning Inspectorate

- ii. CH/4/18/2545/0B1- Ivy Mill Site, Hensingham. Councillor Forster said that there had been a lot of flood water coming down Main Street from the buildings at the top and that before any more building goes on she would

like CCC to have a look at the drains. Councillor Forster said she was in contact with CCC about this.

No resolution was made on this item

- iii. CH/4/18/2545/001 - 1A- 1B Quay Street. At a Council Meeting on 17th January 2019 representatives from St Begh's Church attended to talk about the Chapel of St Gregory and St Patrick. The Council expressed its support to the representations and said they would be making a formal decision at the full Council Meeting on 31st January 2019. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Kane that the Council support the representations made by Sr Begh's and inform CBC's Planning Department accordingly.

RESOLVED – That the Council support the representations made by the representatives from St Begh's on 17th January 2019 and inform CBC's Planning Department accordingly.

1200/19 Financial Report

The Council considered a Financial Report.

- i Since the Agenda had gone out it was reported that an additional invoice for £24,400 had been received from CCC for the installation, maintenance, repair and removal of Christmas lights. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the invoices shown at Appendix 1 including the additional invoice for £24,400 be approved and paid.

RESOLVED – That the invoices shown at Appendix 1 including the additional invoice for £24,400 be approved and paid.

- ii The Council considered Appendices 2 and 3 relating to the Cashbook and Income and Expenditure. It was proposed by Councillor Rayson and seconded by Councillor Maudling that Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

RESOLVED – That the Cash Book and Income and Expenditure shown at Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

1201/19 Office Accommodation

The Chairman reported that the present office accommodation was too small for the Council's needs and in early November 2018 the Council became aware



that the former Whitehaven News Building was for sale at a reduced price. The Council agreed that a building survey should be carried out following which the Council agreed on 13th December 2018 to offer the asking price of £150,000 and authorised the appointment of a local solicitor to deal with the conveyancing and the matter was now proceeding. The Chairman said that he would keep the Council informed as the matter progressed.

RESOLVED – That this be noted.

1202/19 **Whitehaven in Bloom**

The Council considered a report on Whitehaven in Bloom. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Kane that the recommendations contained in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of the report attached to the Agenda be approved.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations contained in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of the report attached to the Agenda be approved.

1203/19 **Christmas Lights Infrastructure**

The Council considered a report on the Christmas Lights Infrastructure and was informed that last year an amount of £24,000 was put in the budget for this so that catina wires could be replaced, new feeder boxes and pillars could be installed, lights could be replaced where necessary and all the anchor bolts could be tested. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the recommendations contained in paragraphs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the report be approved.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations contained in paragraphs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the report be approved.

1204/19 **Budget and Precept**

The Council considered a report on the proposed budget and precept for 2019/2020 and was informed that the 2019/20 precept based on the proposals in Appendix A of the report would be £66.48 per Band D equivalent property. Last year it was £61.06 per Band D equivalent property. It was reported that the precept had gone up because of a forecasted cost of £24,000 for the elections in May 2019, the cost of a seasonal worker, business rates for the new building and an extra Ward Grant

- i. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Forster that having considered the proposed 2019/2020 Revenue Budget and Precept and any amendments to be made that the proposed 2019/2020 budget be approved without amendment

RESOLVED – That the proposed 2019/2020 Revenue Budget and Precept be approved without amendment.

- ii It was proposed by Councillor Forster and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the Chairman and Clerk sign the 2019/2020 precept form received from CBC to advise CBC of the approved Town Council precept for 2019/2020 for the setting of the overall Council Tax Requirement for 2019/2020.

RESOLVED – That the Chairman and the Clerk sign the 2019/2020 precept form received from CBC to advise CBC of the approved Town Council precept for 2019/2020 for the setting of the overall Council Tax Requirement for 2019/2020.

1205/19 **Councillor Matters**

- i. Councillor Hayes said the problem with dog fouling on Kells was unbelievable. A site had been proposed for new bins but he didn't believe that this would solve the problem as there was a pile of dog mess beside an existing bin. Residents said that they had never seen a dog warden on Kells
- ii. Councillor Hayes said that on Solway View at the entrance to Haig Enterprise the CCC had resurfaced it but didn't put the give way signs back on which was causing mayhem. He said he had written to CCC who said that they would send someone to have a look at it.
- iii. Councillor Rayson said people were still complaining about anti-social behaviour outside Wilkinsons and she had seen some guys sitting on the window sills and asking customers for money as they went into the store. She said she had seen some PCSOs talking to them but they weren't moved on. She said the store manager wanted window boxes installed on the window ledges which WTC had agreed to do but she was waiting for permission from head office.
- iv. Councillor Rayson said if people were dispersed they would just go elsewhere and asked what the engagement was with the Police regarding ASB on the street outside Wilkinsons. The Chairman said the Hub Manager had spoken to him and would be talking to the Town Council about this.
- v. Councillor Rayson said that in the first week in January 2019 there had been a man in a shop doorway outside a flower shop. He had blankets and cans and was obviously homeless. She said she went to the Police about this and they said they would have a look at it.
- vi. Councillor Rayson referred to Whitehaven Academy and said CET were the new sponsors. A parents meeting had been held the previous Thursday and it had descended into chaos as parents saw it as a sales pitch. 23 people were on the stage – someone from Workington Academy, solicitors and consultants.

Agendas were placed on the seats and parents had to confirm attendance and submit questions in advance. It became quite heated as parents did not feel they were being listened to.

There is a lot of supply staff at the school: No engagement: No Governing body set up yet: No Head

The Parents feel that they're not much further forward.

However there has been a lot of money put forward for repairs and teachers are getting resources but the parents feel that it isn't moving along quickly enough.

- vii. Councillor Maudling referred to the homeless person in the town centre and said people had offered to buy him food and drink but he was only interested in money so that he could go to a nearby shop to buy alcohol
- viii. Councillor Maudling confirmed that he had spoken to Wilkinsons store manager who had confirmed that the matter of the window boxes was with Head Office
- ix. Councillor Maudling said there was still a problem with people sitting outside the store and also with shoplifting inside the store. Because the bus stop is there when it's raining people go into the store so the automatic doors remain open. He said Wilkinsons would like the bus stop moved.
- x. Councillor Maudling said there were regular police patrols through the town centre and that there had been arrests and evictions.
- xi. Councillor Maudling said dog fouling is a major problem everywhere.
- xii. Councillor Maudling said a lot of people were walking past the litter bins and pitting out their cigarettes on top of the bin and just leaving them there to then fall on the pavement. He asked if something could be done about this and the Clerk said the bin supplier had been contacted to ask what could be done.
- xiii. Councillor Forster asked if there was any news on the bins for the wards and it was confirmed that bins for those areas identified in a previous Council meeting had been delivered and that the Ranger was liaising with CBC about installation
- xiv. Councillor Forster referred to flooding on Ribton Moorside and said we need to speak to CCC about this.
- xv. Councillor Forster said there was anti-social behaviour at the skate park and there had been gangs attending There had been a lot of support from the Police and that a meeting was being arranged.
- xvi. Councillor Forster said she was looking at getting community groups gathered together to do projects and clean up the area.
- xvii. Councillor Walmsley said Mirehouse didn't have enough dog bins and so there was a lot of dog mess on the pavements. The Clerk said dog mess could be put in an ordinary bin and Councillor Walmsley said the problem was that with some bins so many people used them for dog mess that there was no room to put the rubbish in. Councillor Walmsley said that were bags of dog poo in branches everywhere and that there were a couple of areas on Mirehouse crying out for a dog bin. The Clerk asked Councillor Walmsley to give some locations for the bins so that she could liaise with CBC.

- xviii. Councillor Kane said work had started that week on the bandstand and asked if the Town Council had been told what CBC were going to do. The Chairman said the Town Council should know what was going on. The Clerk was asked to write to CBC to get details of the work to be carried out to the bandstand.

1206/19 Date and Time of next Meeting

RESOLVED – That the next meeting be on 28th February 2019 at 6.30 at Whitehaven Civic Hall.

The Meeting closed at 7.45

Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Markus John ...', written over a horizontal line.