



WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 6:00pm in the Solway Hall at Whitehaven Civic Hall, Lowther Street, Whitehaven

AGENDA

1. Introduction and welcome from Councillor Brian O’Kane of Whitehaven Town Council.
2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st May 2019.
3. Annual Report presented by Councillor Brian O’Kane – to follow.
4. Report from Mike Starkie, the Elected Mayor of Copeland.
5. Report from Sergeant Kelly Pennington, Cumbria Constabulary.
6. Report from Councillor Chris Whiteside from Cumbria County Council.
7. Report from Chris Shaw, CALC Liaison Officer, Copeland.
8. To invite the Deputy Mayor of the Town Council to address the meeting.
9. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest and ask any questions of the representatives of the three local authorities responsible for Whitehaven. The Police may also be available to answer any questions on community policing.
10. Close of meeting and vote of thanks.

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners on the Electoral Roll for the Parish of Whitehaven to raise any matters of concern to them that relates to their local community. It would be helpful to have written notice of any matters to be raised but it is not essential. Matters can be raised at the meeting without prior notice. For any queries please contact the Clerk, Marlene Jewell on 01946 67366.

Brian O’Kane
Chairman, Whitehaven Town Council

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st May 2019

Present: Councillors B O’Kane (Chairman), C Arrighi, G Dinsdale, E Dinsdale, C Maudling, J Rayson, R Redmond, G Roberts, C Walmsley, L Walmsley
Mayor Starkie, Copeland Borough Council
Councillors Christopher Whiteside and Andrew Wonnacott, Cumbria County Council
V Gorley, Assistant Town Clerk
Inspector Richard Smillie, Cumbria Police
Louise Coid, Hub Manager, Copeland Borough Council

Councillor O’Kane opened the meeting and thanked everybody for attending.

APM/18 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2018

Councillor O’Kane proposed and Councillor Maudling seconded that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2018 be signed and approved by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2018 be signed and approved by the Chairman as a correct record.

APM/19 Chairman’s Report on the year 2018/2019

Councillor O’Kane invited Councillor Roberts to present his report as the outgoing Chairman for 2018/2019.

Councillor Roberts introduced people and thanked those present for their continued support of Whitehaven Town Council.

Councillor Roberts reported that 2 new Councillors had joined the Council during his term as Chairman, namely Councillors Hayes and C Walmsley and that following the recent election the Council had bid farewell to Ray Gill, John Kane, Siobhan Poland and Jeanette Forster. Councillor Roberts took this opportunity to thank them for all their held, hard work and support.

Councillor Roberts welcomed newly elected Councillors Arrighi, E Dinsdale, G Dinsdale, R Redmond and L Walmsley

Councillor Roberts reported on the events and activities of the Council for year 2018/2019. He reported how the Council had been involved with lots of things including:

- Welcoming the Deputy Lord Lieutenant and serving soldiers from 4th Battalion Duke of Lancaster Regiment on Remembrance Sunday. A poignant ceremony as it was the 100th Anniversary since the end of World War One;
- Awarding £5295.75 in grant funding to 6 organisations;
- Replacing the Airman's Memorial Seat at Kells;
- Working in partnership with Copeland Borough Council by funding extra grass cuts and new machinery for Whitehaven cemeteries;
- The organising and marketing of its own Events calendar;
- Additional investment in Christmas Lights and associated infrastructure;
- Continued investment for Whitehaven In Bloom.

Councillor Roberts said that one of his main priorities during the past year had been to re-focus the authority and that it couldn't be ignored that the Council had encountered two very difficult years previously but that we were now developing a working partnership with Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council and that the Community Plan was well on its way to being published later in the year to give the Council a mandate for the next five years.

Councillor Roberts closed by saying that he had been proud to be Mayor and had enjoyed every minute of the Office.

APM/20

Report from Mike Starkie, Elected Mayor of Copeland Borough Council

Mayor Starkie acknowledged that the first year of the newly formed Whitehaven Town Council has been a difficult one but that there had been positive improvements recently. Mayor Starkie expressed his sadness that Ray Gill had not stood for re-election after laying great foundations. Mayor Starkie congratulated Whitehaven Town Council on their recent attempts at improving the Town and defied anybody to walk past St Nicholas and Lowther Street and say it didn't look any better. Mayor Starkie then thanked The Clerk and Assistant Clerk and highlighted the difference in the way Whitehaven Town Council now operated.

Mayor Starkie then went on to outline Copeland Borough Council achievements and future issues –

- Over 60 businesses had benefitted from the Pride of Place scheme;
- There was to be a press launch of The Buzz Station and work was due to commence on 1st June 2019;
- Bransty Row Junction scheme was gathering pace and would be a Gateway to the Town and the business setting up would enhance the night time economy;
- A strong bid was in place for Future High Street funding;

- £1.6m grant from Coastal Community Fund had been awarded from Whitehaven to Millom;
- Acknowledged that the next 4 years would be a time of challenge and that by working collectively together could only benefit the residents;
- The continual work to build a business case to be a successful BID's;
- The challenges facing the authority due to the possibility of a new electoral model which would be pioneering and mean the Town Council could have an increased role to play

Mayor Starkie closed by saying he was pleased that a close working relationship now existed between the two Councils.

APM/21

Report from Inspector Smillie of Cumbria Constabulary

Inspector Smillie commenced his report by informing those present of crime figures for the year 2018/2019 including:

- Recorded Crimes increase of 39%
- Burglaries down 5%
- Theft from Cars increase of 38%
- 1226 violent crimes an increase of 30% of which 64 crimes were drug related;
- ASBO's down 20%
- Some of the results were due to improved crime recording by the Police.

Inspector Smillie informed the meeting that his team consisted of himself, Sergeant MacDonald, 2 Police Constables, PCSO Fishpool and that additional Pro-Active Police Constables had recently been appointed due to the increase in Council Tax.

The Pro-Active Police Constables had been in post since September 2019 and from then until January 2019 there had been 111 active intelligence and there had been 35 arrests made, 53 stop/search carried out and 17 drug warrants issued.

Working closely with The Hub and other partners they were able to take a multi-agency problem solving approach. Whitehaven Town Centre was considered a key area with efforts being centered around St Nicholas Gardens, Castle Park and Trinity Park to help combat ASBO, use of drugs and shoplifting.

They were also working with schools, assisted with help from Copeland Borough Council on mini-police projects.

The Cumbria Constabulary Copeland Focus Facebook page had over 2000 members and recent successes included the arrest of a burglar following information received on the page.

Inspector Smillie ended his presentation by informing the meeting that an Emergency Service Day was being held in Whitehaven on 7th September 2019.

Report from Louise Coid, Hub Manager from Copeland Borough Council

Louise Coid, Hub Manager provided those present with some background information. She explained that The Hub opened in November 2016 and was based at Whitehaven Police Station. It was a collaboration between Cumbria Constabulary and Copeland Brough Council and that the aim was to bring all partners together to tackle all issues. Stakeholders involved with The Hub included Home Group, Impact Housing, Castle & Coates, Unity, Mental Health groups, Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council.

The past 12 months had seen The Hub focussing on Whitehaven Town Centre, delivering action plans and monthly tactical meetings where all stakeholders brought data.

Whitehaven Town Centre was deemed a priority location due to drug and alcohol abuse in public places, ASB, litter and waste and the taking advantage of vulnerable people.

Actions recently taken included:

- Home Group has civil injunctions for 9 people preventing them from accessing certain areas;
- Criminal Behaviour Orders currently in place on 17 people which restricts them from entering certain areas;
- Criminal Behaviour Order granted against one person from entering any Pub Watch premises;
- Castle & Coates had evicted 3 tenants from their town centre properties for breaches of their tenancy agreements;
- Proactive team carrying out more visible patrols within the town and carrying out stop/search on known nominal and drug warrants;
- Implementing new Public Space Protection Orders including designated no drinking areas, controlling ASB and control of dogs.

Proactive Projects had been launched including Future Pathways for years 8 and 9 in Secondary Schools and the aim was that the participants would grow in confidence and self-esteem. Following success of the program 13 pupils from Whitehaven School graduated in November and 5 pupils graduating from UTC. 10 students from Mayfield School had started the scheme and had recently completed two team building sessions with the next 2 sessions due to take place at Whitehaven Harbour.

Another project was J.A.S.S (Junior Award Scheme for Schools) – Me and My World, My Interests, Adventure, Get Active Stay Active. This project was similar to the DofE and 72 pupils from St Beghs School had achieved Bronze award and 75 pupils from St James School were currently working towards attaining a bronze award.

Louise went on to outline what future work was planned for The Hub:

- Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria Constabulary would continue to support the work of The Hub by deploying additional resources;
- A designated Mental Health Officer had been appointed in May. The Officer would be based in The Copeland Hub but would cover both Copeland and

Allerdale and liaise directly with the Mental Health and A&E Departments at the hospitals;

- Copeland Borough Council were posting their Regulatory Compliance Apprentice in The Hub from the beginning of June;
- These resources were in addition to the Hub Manager, 3 Police Officers and 1 PCSO already based at The Hub;
- Several agencies had received training on hoarding and The Hub were in the process of setting up a multi-agency protocol to work with hoarding cases.

APM/23

Report from Councillor Chris Whiteside of Cumbria County Council

Councillor Whiteside was pleased to report that things had moved forward since the previous year. The Library, Archives and Registrar were all together at one site. Approximately 70,000 people attended the library annually.

Consultation had taken place in the previous year with regards to the Whitehaven Relief Road with over 800 responses received which had mostly been positive. A response to the consultation was due Summer 2024 with any work due to start in 2027.

Councillor Whiteside informed the meeting that there was a problem with subsidence at Moresby that was going to need action at some point in the future.

There was currently a backlog with regards to roadworks amounting to £18m but Councillor Whiteside was pleased to report that Whinlatter Road, Preston Street and Earls Road had all been re-surfaced at costs of £90k, £40k and £21k respectively.

It was also reported that West Cumberland Hospital success regime for a Consultant Led Maternity Unit that took place 2 years prior had recently been reviewed and was looking fairly positive.

APM/24

Report from Councillor Charles Maudling, Deputy Mayor

Councillor Maudling acknowledged that there had been huge improvements in the Town centre with the streets being tidied and with the proposed addition of over 100 hanging baskets, barrier baskets, tubs and large planters in King Street. He said that the Buzz Station would improve the entrance to the Town and was pleased that Summer events would be starting very soon.

The Christmas Lights Switch On had brought 1000's of people to the Town and Councillor Maudling thanked Brian Holmes and his team from Cumbria County Council for erecting the lights and also thanked Louise Coid from the Copeland Hub for all her help completing the event management forms.

Councillor Maudling expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Town Council and Shop Owners for the increased Police presence in Town.

APM/25

Questions/Comments from Councillors and Members of the Public to Invited Speakers

- A member of the public highlighted the large number of empty premises in the Town Centre and asked if we were any closer to getting larger investments or bigger businesses. Mike Starkie responded by saying that there were plans for new hotel accommodation and they were in the final phase of compiling a Business case which would be presented to LEP in June. Thomas Armstrong had been announced as the main contractor for the Buzz Station. He also said that Copeland Borough Council had re-launched a Tourism Hub and they were looking to recruit a Manager. It was expected that the new hotel would bring business into Town. He highlighted the work that had been undertaken at Union Hall and said work should be completed within the next 6-8 weeks. Mayor Starkie concluded by informing the group of Conference of the North in which Mayors across the North would be holding a joint meeting.
- A member of the public asked if Whitehaven Town Council had purchased the former Whitehaven News office building as the sign on the building was showing that it was still for sale. They were duly informed that the purchase was still in the process of being completed and that the building will eventually be a Community asset to the Town.
- Councillor Maudling asked if there were any figures relating to domestic violence. Inspector Smillie said there were no figures specific to domestic violence and they were part of the number of violent crimes that had been reported earlier in the meeting. Councillor Whiteside reported that according to the Health & Wellbeing report, there had been 590 reported incidents of violent crime and it was estimated that a person may have been subject to the crime 20 times before reporting it.
- Councillor Rayson asked the Police how they could engage with more youngsters due to the recent reports of youths specifically coming into Town to fight in Castle Park and also the increase of bullying and cyber bullying. Louise Coid replied and said that they have a Young Persons Officer who looks into these issues. Councillor Rayson said it might be an idea to have a joint working group with Schools, Police and Town Council involvement.
- A member of the public asked what was the point of having Public Space Protection Order if it couldn't be enforced and asked if there was any opportunity of Copeland Borough Council increasing its enforcement team. Mike Starkie responded and said Sarah Pemberton of Copeland Borough Council was conducting a review and that one of the options they were considering was involving a 3rd Party to deal with dog fouling, cigarette butts/littering.
- Councillor O'Kane asked how can we address the problem of parking. He went on to highlight the issue of cars driving up and down King Street during shopping hours and expressed concern that an accident was waiting to happen. Councillor Whiteside replied and said on street parking was the responsibility of Cumbria County Council and off -street parking was the responsibility of Copeland Borough Council, Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners and private companies. He said to come up with a parking strategy would require all stakeholders coming together and also to invite

Sellafield along to any discussions due to them increasing the number of staff now working in the Town Centre. He also recognised that there needed to be a more visible enforcement presence. Mike Starkie commented that BEC were imminently in the process of surface levelling carpark near Tesco and that the price of parking would reduce and that the Harbour Commissioners would reduce their prices in-line with other providers. Inspector Smillie said he was not aware that there were issues but was willing to work with partners and target problem areas.

- Councillor Maudling informed Councillor Whiteside that residents of the Town Centre were given 3 visitor permits and there had been incidences of the permits being handed out to tradespersons and said it was a misuse of visitor permits. Councillor Whiteside agreed to look into the issue and would discuss further with Councillor Maudling after the meeting.
- Councillor Maudling asked Inspector Smillie if a disabled person had to be in the car and Inspector Smillie responded that as he understood it yes, they had.

APM/26

Close of Meeting and Vote of Thanks

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and expressed his gratitude to Raymond Gill for his years as a serving Councillor and also for the mostly good advice.

The meeting closed at 7:15pm.