

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 27th June 2019

Present: Councillor B O’Kane (Chairman); Councillor C Arrighi; Councillor E Dinsdale; Councillor G Dinsdale; Councillor C Hayes; Councillor C Maudling; Councillor J Rayson; Councillor R Redmond

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public

1343/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Roberts, Councillor C Walmsley and Councillor L Walmsley.

1344/19 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

1345/19 Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 30th May 2019

Councillor G Dinsdale said that point five of Minute 1338/15 should read Gemma Dinsdale not Emma Dinsdale.

It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that subject to the alteration to Minute 1338/19v to read Councillor Gemma Dinsdale that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th May 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

RESOLVED – That subject to the alteration to Minute 1338/19 v to Read Councillor Gemma Dinsdale that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th May be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1346/19 Public Participation

- i A member of the public referred to page 6 of the Agenda and said that the words renewal sim had been put in when it should be renewal sum.
- ii A member of the public wished to raise two issues. The first referred to the

positions in the Town Council vis a vis the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and some of the governance arrangements of the Town Council and questioned whether they tended to be unfair on the individuals themselves and which were not what he considered to be best practice in government. He made the following points:-

- There was deputy Mayor here last year who had given up his time for the town and added value to the town and as a member of the public he had seen that individual being slammed on facebook because he didn't become Mayor.
- We have a position now that the Mayor for last year is the Mayor for this year. He said this could be unfair and could lead to challenge
- He recommended that it should be open to people around the table who should be encouraged to move up from Deputy Mayor to Mayor and that if someone had been Mayor before then don't fill this position again. Likewise a Deputy Mayor should be moving up if they want to.
- He asked that the Council gives some thought to what it does so that everyone could be given the same opportunity

The second issue referred to Whitehaven Market and he said there had been a new fish stall on the market and the stallholder told him that he had asked to have a stall on a Saturday and had been told that there wasn't any available. He said this was unfair and that CBC seemed to be discouraging people from taking stalls and the problem was that there was no marketing of the market and no marketing strategy.

The Chairman said he shared the comments about the market and would refer the issue about the fish stall back to the Markets Officer.

The Chairman said that the Council was bound by its Standing Orders regarding the election of officials.

- iv A member of the public asked if there was a waiting list for allotments and the Assistant Clerk said there was and there was 41 on the waiting list.
- v A member of the public said some years ago he had attended Council Meetings where it had been talked about having a partnership with Whitehaven Town Council to keep the town clean. He said the town was looking nice but there were a lot of weeds under CBC offices.
The Chairman said the Council had spent a lot of time and money on Whitehaven in Bloom but we have no legal right to clean the streets. It is CBC's statutory duty to remove weeds and spray weeds twice a year which turns green weeds into brown.
- vi A member of the public asked if Poundland have special permits to stack pallets on the pavement.
The Chairman said the answer was with the County Council and that they were now becoming very proactive as to what was on pavements.
- vii A member of the public referred to the footpath from Tower House up to the

estate and the footpath on the Loop Road.

The Chairman said this would be attended to in the next couple of weeks or as soon as practicable thereafter.

1347/19 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of planning applications received and shown at Appendix 1.

Councillor G Dinsdale proposed that in respect of planning application CH/4/19/2192/TPO that the trees are not removed and this was seconded by Councillor E Dinsdale.

There were no further representations on the planning applications shown at Schedule 1

RESOLVED – That the Clerk inform Copeland Borough Council Planning Department:-

- i That the trees referred to in planning application CH/4/19/2192/TPO be not removed
- ii That there are no further representations on the planning applications shown at Appendix 1.

1348/19 Finance Report

The Council considered a Financial Report. The Assistant Clerk reported that there were eight additional payments to be added to Appendix 1 namely:-

1. POD Northwest Exhibition Boards - £1,500 plus VAT
2. Deborah McKenna Ltd – Stefan Gates Travel - £176.36 plus VAT
3. CBC Town Council Elections on 2/5/19 - £9,212.93
4. Expenses C Hayes for petrol and petrol can for generator - £15.52
5. Waterplus – Midgey Allotments - £192.44
6. Westcom Symantec renewal - £75 plus VAT
7. Cllr Redmond travel expenses - £4.50
8. D Tallentire balance for marquee - £1806.20 plus VAT
9. Fluid Productions Ltd – Tech for Gastronomists - £834.90 plus VAT

- (i) It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gemma Dinsdale that the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 together with the eight additional invoices be approved and paid.

RESOLVED – That the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 together with the eight additional invoices be approved and paid.

- (ii) The Council had recently had to purchase a generator for use at one of its events and it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Arrighi that the expenditure of £332.50 for the generator be authorised.

RESOLVED – That the expenditure of £332.50 plus VAT for the purchase of a generator be authorised.

- (iii) The Council had recently had to have urgent repairs carried out to the clasp of the Mayoress's Chain at a cost of £47.50 plus VAT. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Arrighi that this expense be authorised.

RESOLVED – That the cost of £47.50 plus VAT for repairs necessary to the Mayoress's chain be authorised.

- (iv) The Council considered Appendices 2 and 3 relating to the cashbook and Income and Expenditure. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gemma Dinsdale that the Cashbook and Income and Expenditure at Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

RESOLVED – That the Cashbook and Income and Expenditure at Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

1349/19 ACTION for Communities

The Council considered a report regarding ACTION with Communities and the preparation of the Community Plan. ACTION with Communities had taken the Council's comments into account and reduced the contract to reflect this and had produced an amended schedule/timescale for completion. The cost of the additional work would be £1,100.

It was proposed by Councillor Arrighi and seconded by Councillor Redmond that the amended schedule and the additional work at a cost of £1,100 be approved.

RESOLVED – That the amended schedule and the additional work at a cost of £1,100 be approved.

1350/19 Whitehaven in Bloom Update

The Council considered a report giving an update on Whitehaven in Bloom. The arrangements for the Cumbria in Bloom competition were given.

It was hoped next year to engage more of the community in this and it was noted that the public response was positive to what the Council is doing in the town. Help was requested for the planting of the tiered planter and the Clerk, the Assistant Clerk, Cllr Redmond and Mrs Hayes had already volunteered.

- i. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the quote for the hire of a minibus at the rate of £45.00 per hour for the afternoon of the judging of the Cumbria in Bloom be approved

RESOLVED – That the quote for the hire of a mini bus at the rate of £45 per hour for the afternoon of the judging of the Cumbria in Bloom be approved.

- ii. It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Councillor Maudling that a meeting be arranged with CBC to discuss urgent street cleaning that was required for the Cumbria in Bloom competition.

RESOLVED – That a meeting be arranged with CBC to discuss urgent street cleaning that was required for the Cumbria in Bloom competition.

- iii. It was proposed by Councillor E Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor G Dinsdale that a contingency sum of £1,000 be allocated to Cumbria in Bloom and spent as necessary.

RESOLVED – That a contingency sum of £1,000 be allocated to Cumbria in Bloom and spent as necessary.

1351/19 Flower Tubs and Barrier Baskets in Whitehaven

The Chairman gave a report on flower tubs and barrier baskets in Whitehaven and said that CCC had advised that the barrier flower baskets on the barriers on the junction of Scotch Street and Lowther Street should be removed for safety reasons because although the flower baskets were on the inside of the barriers nevertheless they could be a distraction to motorists which could result in an accident for which the Town Council would be responsible. Following a discussion the barrier baskets were not thought to be a risk and it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor G Dinsdale that the barrier baskets remain where they are.

RESOLVED – That the barrier baskets remain where they are.

1352/19 Events Update

The Council considered a report giving an update on Council events. This was for information only and no decisions were made. The Chairman made the following remarks:-

- The exhibition had been a success with at one point over 220 visiting the exhibition
- The Gastronomers show had been a great success as had the continental market
- That thanks should be given to Gerard Richardson for all his help in these events.

Councillor Maudling said all was in hand for the window dressing

competition.

1353/19 **Markets Report**

The Council considered a report on Whitehaven Market from CBC. There was no representative in attendance.

Following a discussion it was

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and that the following Councillors be appointed to sit on the Markets Stakeholder Group:-

Councillor C Arrighi

Councillor G Dinsdale

Councillor C Maudling

1354/19 **Office Accommodation**

The Clerk gave a report on the present position with regard to office accommodation and said that the sale was ready to proceed as soon as planning permission was obtained. The Chairman said that when we get the keys there would be an initial meeting of the Steering Group but the biggest thing required was a business plan.

RESOLVED – That the position be noted and that a site visit be arranged for a viewing of the former Whitehaven News office for new Councillors who had not viewed the property and those Councillors who wished to view it again.

1355/19 **Hensingham Play Area**

The Council considered a report about damage that had been done by vandals to the surface of CBC's Hensingham Play Area. CBC had asked for a contribution towards the cost of replacing the surface. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that the relevant Ward Councillors be asked if they are willing to make a contribution from their Ward Grants toward the cost of the repairs.

RESOLVED – That the relevant Ward Councillors be asked if they are willing to make a contribution from their Ward Grants towards the cost of the repairs.

1356/19 **Street Name and Numbering Consultation**

The Council considered a consultation report received from CBC on the street name and numbering for the Former Fish Factory at Hensingham. It was proposed by Councillor Rayson and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the proposed new street name of High Stile Gardens for the residential development on the site of the Former Fish Factory at Hensingham be approved.

RESOLVED - That the proposed new street name of High Stile Gardens for the residential development on the site of the Former Fish Factory at Hensingham be approved and a letter be sent to CBC informing them of this.

1357/19 **Police Update**

The Council considered a Police Update Report for 20th May 2019 to 19th June 2019. A representative from Cumbria Police was unable to attend and therefore Councillors were unable to ask any questions.

No decision was made on this and the report was noted.

1358/19 **Councillor Ward Matters**

- i. Councillor E Dinsdale said that the weeds on the pavements need removed and also on the cycle track that goes through Corkickle
- ii. Councillor E Dinsdale said that town employees were parking in the Corkickle area. The Chairman said there was a report on new parking provisions in Whitehaven and asked the Clerk to contact CCC to ask to be consultees.
- iii. Councillor G Dinsdale said she was looking at recycling bins for the area.
- iv. Councillor G Dinsdale said she was looking at putting together a meeting for all residents.
- v. Councillor Hayes said there was a new initiative in Kells called Women out West and in September when the property is formally opened the Town Council Mayor will be invited.
- vi. Councillor Arrighi said there was still broken glass on the pavements in town. The Chairman suggested that Councillor Arrighi contact CBC Councillor Andy Pratt about this.
- vii. Councillor Arrighi said that a plastic sign had been put up without permission on the Westminster Café. Councillor Maudling said it was a listed building and the Clerk said that Councillor Arrighi should report this to CBC.
- viii. Councillor Maudling said someone had come into his shop and said they had applied for a grant and didn't get it and he could not attend the last meeting but was surprised to see that Calder House had got a grant at this meeting as it is in Egremont and therefore out of Whitehaven. He asked for the reasons for the decision. The Chairman said the matter was seriously discussed and considered and everything had been gone through. Councillor Maudling said that statistics from CBC had shown that no-one from Whitehaven had been in CH in the past three years. Councillor Hayes said that this was not true.
- ix. Councillor Redmond said parking was a problem and asked what was happening with the land next to Spar. Councillor Hayes said that planning permission had gone through.

- x. Councillor Rayson said that due to her commitments she would not be able to do everything that other Councillors could do
- xi. Councillor Rayson said the Whats APP group was being misused and messages were being misunderstood and on a personal basis she did not want to be involved in these type of issues again.
- xii. Councillor Rayson said there was hardly any bins at the bottom of Hillcrest and the one outside Jericho school had disappeared so we need to look at this again.
- xiii. Councillor Rayson referred to Ruskin Drive and said the road was like the surface of the moon. The Chairman said the road was likely to be done either at the end of this year or early next year and suggested that Craig McCarron from CCC be invited to the next Council meeting.
- xiv. Councillor Rayson asked if the Council could send out an invitation to the new heads of St Benedicts and Mayfield schools and Whitehaven Academy to ask to meet them in September.
- xv. Councillor Rayson referred to the Pipers Trust and the Chairman said there was a meeting the following week. Councillor Rayson said there was a parent who lived outside Whitehaven's area and who could not afford the transport costs to send their child to school. The Chairman said that this would not qualify for the Pipers Trust. Councillor Rayson said that the conditions should be changed.
Councillor Rayson apologised and said she had to leave to attend another meeting and she left the meeting at this point and did not return.
- xvi. Councillor O'Kane said he had been trying to help CBC Councillor Cullen bring back a play park back to Bransty.
- xvii. Councillor O'Kane said that he, as Mayor, had been invited to meet Princess Anne at the official opening of the new St Benedicts and Mayfair School.

1359/19 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of full Council be on 25th July at 6.30pm at Whitehaven Civic Hall.

IN PRIVATE –

1360/19 Prior to the following items of business the Chairman moved the following

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 in view of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public and or press be instructed to withdraw.

1361/19 **Grant Application – WJC**

The Council considered a grant application from WJC. It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Maudling that a grant be not Awarded.

RESOLVED – That no grant be awarded

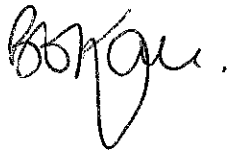
1362/19 **Grant Application – WTOY**

The Council considered a grant application from WTOY. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor G Dinsdale that a grant of £1000 be awarded.

RESOLVED – That a grant of £1000 be awarded to WTOY

The Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. O'Kane', is written below the text 'Chairman'.