

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th June 2018

Present: Councillors G Roberts (Chairman); B O’Kane ; J Forster; C Maudling; J Laine; T Lowrey; S Poland; J Rayson;

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
V. Gorley Trainee Assistant Town Clerk

Members of the Public

1012/18 Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gill and Councillor Kane.

1013/18 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Forster declared a non pecuniary interest in item 12 as the organisation Always Another Way took part in the Hensingham fun day. Councillor Laine, Councillor O’Kane and Councillor Roberts declared non pecuniary interests in item 13

1014/18 Minutes of the Meeting held on 31st May 2018

Councillor O’Kane moved that the Minutes of 31st May 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Forster Councillor Laine asked for a recorded vote and voted against because of the VAT element. The remaining Councillors voted as follows

Councillor O’Kane	For
Councillor Roberts	For
Councillor Forster	For
Councillor Poland	Abstained
Councillor Lowrey	Abstained

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

1015/18 Public Participation

Peter Tyson asked about getting work done by the Council’s Ranger and was

informed that he should telephone or call in at the Council offices.

1016/18 Planning Applications

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

Concerns were raised re application no.CH/4/18/2230/001 regarding the Distressed Sailor and it was stated that the property had been there since 1760 and it was thought that it had been a listed building and queried when it had been delisted. It was considered that Historic England should be brought in to stop the building being pulled down and that it would be good to have a conservation report. Councillor O’Kane said CBC had commissioned an in- depth conservation of the town including photographs and that it was an extensive document. Councillor Laine asked if the document could be circulated to Councillors.

RESOLVED – (i) That the Clerk inform the Planning Department of the Council’s concerns regarding planning application no. CH/4/18/2230/001.

(ii) That CBC be asked for a copy of the conservation document and that it be circulated to Councillors.

(iii) That the Clerk inform the Planning Department that the Council had no representations to make on the planning applications shown at Appendix 1

1017/18 Financial Report

(i) The Council considered a Financial Report.

Councillor O’Kane proposed that the invoices shown at Appendix 1 be approved and paid. This was seconded by Councillor Lowrey
Councillor Laine asked for a recorded vote on this and voted against it

RESOLVED – (a) That the invoices shown at Appendix1 be approved and paid.

(ii) The Council considered Appendices 2 and 3 relating to the Cashbook and Income and Expenditure.

Councillor O’Kane proposed that Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted and this was seconded by Councillor Lowrey.

Councillor Laine wished her voted to be recorded and voted against.

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

1018/18 **Stagecoach**

The Council considered a letter from Stagecoach which outlined the problems that traffic congestion was having on service provision and offered to meet with the Council to talk through local issues.

RESOLVED – (i) That Stagecoach’s offer of a meeting be taken up to voice the concerns of the Council and to bring about improvements.

(ii) That the Chairman of the CCC Local Committee or a representative be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council.

1019/18 **Audit and Governance Report**

Councillor Rayson entered the meeting during the discussion of this item

The Council considered a report from CBC’s Audit and Governance Committee regarding a complaint made against a Town Councillor under the Code of Conduct for bringing the Council into disrepute and the recommendations made therein.

RESOLVED – That the report be approved and noted.

Councillor Laine stated that the ICO would be investigating this

1020/18 **Report on Allotments, Whitehaven in Bloom, St Nicholas Gardens and Silent Soldiers**

Councillor Maudling entered the meeting during the report on St Nicholas Gardens.

The Council considered a report on the above giving the up to date positions and making recommendations.

Councillor O’Kane gave a report on St Nicholas Gardens and said

- There had been issues with the preparation of the beds but these had been resolved
- CBC had cut the grass twice and the hedges once and St Nicholas gardens was much improved but there were still problems
- United Utilities had community grants available and they were looking for projects and that he might be able to join with another person to apply for a grant
- Weeding was a problem and that when summer plants die winter bedding would be required’

- The Clerk reported on quotes that had been received for the provision of 1500 begonias (or similar) for the 5 planters outside the Civic Hall. It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Maudling.

RESOLVED –(i) That that the Clerk in conjunction with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be authorised to accept the lowest tender for the 1500 begonia (or similar) plants provided that it did not exceed £500.

(i) That the reports in 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 be noted and approved.

1021/18 Councillor Matters

- i. Councillor Poland said in her ward there was
 - A lack of bins
 - A lack of bus shelters
 - A lack of bus services
- ii. Councillor Poland said that there were kids hanging about in trees at the bottom of Uldale Road and litter thrown about everywhere drunks were starting to set fire to things. The Chairman asked Councillor Poland to send him an email about the bus shelter and he would contact Christian Moss.
- iii. Councillor Poland said there were overgrown areas and a continuing argument with CBC as to who actually owned the land and that they both needed to take responsibility for their own land. The Chairman said we had to get the weeds sorted out on the estates. The Clerk said she would ask CBC for a copy of the plans showing the land transferred to Home Group under the Housing Stock Transfer.
- iv. Councillor Forster complained about the state of the paths round the Ullswater estate, Richmond. She said the grass was growing through the tarmac and it was really dangerous and that there had been quite a few complaints. She said it was about getting someone to take ownership and that what was needed was to get everyone together and have a walk around and see if we can get something done.
- v. Councillor Forster said that round the skatepark the grass and weeds were horrendous and were taking over the paths and she was hoping to get the Ranger in there.
- vi. Councillor Lowrey said people were dumping TV sets on land towards Summergrove. There were kids down there drinking. Parking tickets had been issued in Whitehaven town centre even though the vehicles were in a loading bay and appeals were getting turned down. Councillor Maudling said Enforcement Officers had to watch a parked vehicle for 15 minutes and if no-one returns they issue a ticket. He said that if someone was unloading you have to be in an unloading bay and if you’re on double yellow lines you will get a ticket and if someone is in an unloading

- bay they have to be seen to be unloading. The Chairman said we need to speak to CCC about this.
- vii. Councillor Maudling referred to Home Group and said there was still a problem with people in Peter Street, George Street and Duke Street. He had had a meeting with the new manager of Home Group who was very positive and keen to get things sorted out. He said the manager knew Home Group had a bad reputation in Whitehaven and was keen for any problems to be brought to his attention. Councillor Maudling asked what the criteria was for putting the same type of people in an area as it was bad for the other people who live there and for the retail people who suffered losses.
- viii. Councillor Maudling said there was a dog fouling problem in St Nicholas and said no dogs should be allowed in there. The Clerk said that CBC could enforce dog fouling in St Nicholas gardens and that no dogs were allowed in there.
- ix. Councillor Maudling referred to the hanging baskets. He said he had got people to sign and people had taken down damaged brackets and asked if they would be replaced. The Clerk said most of the hanging basket apart from about five had been put up and where brackets had been broken these had been removed and replaced. Councillor Maudling said he could be wrong but he had walked around and counted about 50 baskets. The Clerk said this would be checked.
- x. Councillor O’Kane said he had been to Castle Park that day with his granddaughter and that although it was a couple of weeks since he had last been in he was still disgusted with the state of Castle Park because there was glass around the bandstand, the bandstand itself was an absolute disgrace and that the Town Council should tell CBC that the service they were providing in Castle Park was poor.
- xi. Councillor O’Kane said that from a safety point of view if you go on the swings there are problems because there are 4 to 5 inch holes beneath where the wood chippings have been. So if any child falls on any of those areas they will be hurt. He said he had been told last year that the wood chippings were continually rolled over so that this type of thing would not happen but that the state of the area was really poor verging on dangerous and said he thought CBC should be asked to close it. Councillor Laine said we had been talking about Castle Park for 3 years and that she had been asking that it be asset transferred to the Town Council. Councillor O’Kane said that would depend if Councillors would vote for an asset transfer and that he would not. Councillor Laine said she would as she thought it was a necessity for people walking their dogs. Councillor Maudling said Councillor O’Kane had brought this up at CBC full Council and Councillor O’Kane said that someone had told him that CBC had appointed a Park Ranger.
- xii. Councillor Rayson said she had had a walk around the estate and there were weeds on the pavements and the roads. She said a lot of the roads at the top of Hillcrest have got no road markings and are quite badly damaged.
- xiii. Councillor Rayson said that the trees overlooking Jericho Play Park have grown a lot. They were cut back about three years ago.



- xiv. Councillor Rayson said there were not enough dog bins
- xv. Councillor Rayson said that she had been in contact with Andrew Wonnacott and had suggested that they and John Kane get together with the Police and have a walk round and see what can be done.
- xvi. Councillor Rayson said that she was going into Jericho School the following Friday for the Cumbria Litter Pick and then she would be interviewed regarding success stories of the Town Council.
- xvii. Councillor Laine asked if Councillor Matters just got put in the Minutes or do the Clerks follow things up. The Clerk said it was for Councillors to note their matters and there shouldn't be any real decisions although it was sometimes noted that the Clerk would follow up but that really it was for Councillors to say what they were doing.
- xviii. Councillor Laine said that we just come up with the same things for three years and we still ask the same questions and that there was no feedback and that the Council was just hoping that someone reads the Minutes.
- xix. Councillor Laine said at the last meeting we were taking about the safety outside Valley School and the Chairman had said that he would get back after he had spoken to CCC about this. The Chairman said Councillor Whiteside knew about this and suggested that she have a word with him. Councillor Laine said she had done that but was getting nowhere and that she had spent approximately 24 hours on a report about the bins in everybody's wards and asked what was happening with the bins. The Clerk said she had spoken to Janice Carroll from CBC on several occasions and that when it was first raised CBC were busy with the new recycling scheme. Councillor Laine asked why it had anything to do with CBC and why couldn't the Council get these bins. The Clerk said it was all to do with emptying of the bins and that CBC was the waste collection authority. Councillor Laine said there were lots of others like Biffa. The Clerk said the Council agreed to contact CBC about it going back a few months. Councillor Laine said it was in January. The Clerk said CBC had done a report on the best places to put bins some of which would tie in with Councillor Laine's report. Councillor Laine said the Council had the money in its bank account to provide the bins and said it was what people wanted. The Clerk said she would contact Janice Carroll again.
- xx. Councillor Laine said the same thing applied to bus shelters and that it was not rocket science to go round and get the bus shelters done as well as the Council had the money and asked why we were dragging our feet. The Chairman said we were only a link in the chain and the CCC would work at its own speed. Councillor Laine asked what CCC had to do with it and the Chairman replied that bus shelters were the County Council's responsibility because they were the transport authority. Councillor Laine said the Council had the power to erect bus shelters and the Chairman said we could not erect anything on the public highway because the highway authority was CCC. Councillor Laine said the Council had the power to provide bins and shelters
- xxi. Councillor Laine asked when potholes would be sorted on Mirehouse. The Chairman said this should go through CCC. Councillor Laine said that as a

- County Councillor the Chairman should know but he said he did not keep track of these things.
- xxii. Councillor Laine referred to parking tickets on cars around St Gregory's school. The Chairman said this was nothing to do with the Council. Councillor Laine said that parking tickets were being put on cars parked outside residential houses.
- xxiii. Councillor Laine said she had asked at the last meeting regarding training for Councillors dealing with vulnerable people and asked if any Councillor had had safeguarding training. The Chairman said there had been safeguarding training at CBC and he had attended. Councillor Laine said she had received an email from a CBC employee in the CBC Council Tax Department to say that WTC needed this type of training. The Chairman said arrangements would be made for Councillor Laine to attend a safeguarding course. Councillor Lowrey said safeguarding training could be done online and that he had actually done it. Councillor Forster said that Councillors should not be expected to deal with issues themselves but that they should point people in the right direction
- xxiv. Councillor Laine said that there were stray dogs going outside peoples gardens when they were at work and that was a problem. She had been told by CBC that they would deal with dogs that were strays but that a dog that was allowed to run in and out of a garden was not classed as a stray dog.
- xxv. Councillor Laine said that she had received a report that day from a resident in the town centre that there was anti- social behaviour and drug taking in St Nicholas Park at the back and that she had informed the Police. Councillor Maudling said there was a police team in the town centre now and they were aware of St Nicholas
- xxvi. Councillor Laine said that there had been a post on social media about something that had happened two weeks ago where a young mum had been walking through St Nicholas with a pram and child and she saw a woman drop her trousers and inject herself in the groin. Councillor Laine asked if we could do something about this. The Clerk said there were authorities to deal with this such as the Police and drug groups like Unity and Cadas. Councillor Laine asked if we could ask the Police if there could be more footfall around the town and the Clerk said the Police would be contacted.
- xxvii. Councillor Maudling said this was a very big problem and referred to a conversation he had had with Sgt Mc Donald and suggested that the Town Council send a letter to the Police outlining all the problems. Councillor O'Kane suggested that if there was a meeting with Sgt McDonald there were other things that needed to be mentioned like the Royal Mail van going down King Street

1022/18 Date of next Council Meeting

RESOLVED - The date of the next meeting be 26th July 2018 at 6.30 pm



1023/18 IN PRIVATE

Prior to the two following items of business the Chairman moved that in view of the special or confidential nature of business about to be transacted it was advisable in the public interest that the public and/or press be instructed to withdraw.

RESOLVED – That the press and public be excluded.

1024/18 Grant Applications

The Council considered five applications for grants. Three Applicants attended the meeting to present their applications but there was information that the Council required which was not available for them to consider.

(i) Kellsfest

A representative from Kellsfest attended and gave a presentation.

RESOLVED – That the matter be deferred to the next meeting pending receipt of financial details.

(ii) Greenbank Community Centre

Councillor Maudling declared that the representative was his cousin.

A representative from Greenbank Community Centre attended and gave a presentation.

It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Lowrey that £500 be awarded.

Councillor Poland proposed an amendment to the proposal which was seconded by Councillor Forster that £1000 be awarded.

Councillor Laine proposed an amendment to the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Rayson that the matter be deferred until all financial documents are in front of the Council

Councillor Laine asked for a recorded vote on this and voted for the amendment to the amendment.

RESOLVED – That the matter be deferred until all financial documents are in front of the Council.

(iii) Colourful North

A representative of Colourful North attended and gave a presentation

RESOLVED – That it be deferred to obtain further legal advice

(iv) Always Another Way

No representative attended to make a presentation

RESOLVED – That the matter be deferred to obtain further legal advice

(v) Golden Sands Polar Bear Club

No representative attended to make a presentation.

RESOLVED – That no grant be made because the Council did not have a power to do so.

(vi) The Council then discussed the process for awarding grants and it was

RESOLVED – That a Grants Committee be appointed to deal with grants and that the following Councillors be appointed:-

Councillor Laine

Councillor Maudling

Councillor Rayson

to deal with grant applications and to make recommendations to full Council. The first Grants Committee to be held at 6.30pm on 26th July 2018 prior to the full Council meeting which instead of its usual starting time of 6.30pm would now start at 7.00 pm the same day.

1025/18 Audit and Governance Reports

Councillor Laine said that this item was breaching confidentiality.

The Chairman read one report out and Councillor Maudling read out two reports regarding Code of Conduct complaints. One complaint was dismissed and the remaining two complaints were upheld with sanctions being imposed.

RESOLVED – That the Audit and Governance Reports be approved and noted

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman

