

# WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Press Representative

### **1856/21 Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R Redmond

### **1857/21 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Maudling declared an interest in Item 5 he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel.

### **1858/21 Public Participation**

A member of the public attended (MG) and read out the statement below:

“Thank you for allowing me to address the Town Council. I would appreciate any help you can give me in the ongoing saga relating to 9 self builds on Harras Moor. My concerns ,yet again, are that when this application was granted Outline Planning permission it was for and I quote from a document explaining conditions attached to the application "The Design and Access Statement submitted indicates the properties will be self builds " It then follows on to say "the register indicates that there is a healthy requirement for self build detached properties in Whitehaven Area and I would therefore suggest the case officer can give reasonable weight to the proposal in this respect. If the case officer is satisfied that the proposal delivers significant and demonstrable economic, social and environmental benefits then the application meets with Criteria 1 of the IHP Policy SS3". I have asked the case officer for her interpretation of self builds and her reply was as follows "the outline application was indicated to be for self builds with each plot owner building out their own dwelling." My concerns now are that a developer has taken over the planning application which is presently before the planning department, and

which Nick Hayhurst has subsequently passed by delegated decision, the appearance and landscaping of plot one which one would assume to be a show house. Could I respectfully ask therefore if the council would make a request that this application goes before the full planning panel? It is obvious that these 9 plots are now not up for sale so therefore are not going to be self builds as what was originally granted. This application doesn't meet the criteria presented to the planning panel so if the developer wants to proceed he should surely now need to reapply.”

Councillor O’Kane said delegated planning decisions were not public facing and something of this nature should be in front of a Panel. He said any panel Member can ask for it to go to the Panel and be heard in front of the Panel. He said he was not being critical but he was concerned about the system. Councillor Gill proposed that CBC be asked that this matter go before CBC’s Planning Panel and that the member of the public’s statement be read out at the Planning Panel Meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Rayson. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

**RESOLVED** – That the Clerk write to CBC to ask that the matter go before CBC’s Planning Panel and that the members of the public’s statement be read out at the Planning Panel Meeting.

#### **1859/21 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained.

**RESOLVED** -That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

Councillor G Dinsdale entered the Meeting

#### **1860/21 Planning Applications**

The Council considered a report on Planning Applications received and shown at Appendix 1.

- i. Councillor O’Kane said he had spent a lot of time on CBC’s website trying to get details on planning applications without much success. He asked if the Council could have a bit more information like we used to get from CBC previously to see if there was something the Council wanted to look at in detail because at the moment all the Council received was a description. The Clerk said she had previously sent an email about this

with no result. The Clerk was asked to send another email asking for a reply and that this be copied into the Chief Executive.

- ii. Councillor Rayson referred to dwellings to be erected on the former Romar factory site at Hensingham and said her concern was that due to the infrastructure there had been flooding on the road where there had been developments in the past and with the junctions of Richmond Hill Road/Spar junction, the one onto Horsefield Close and Thornton Road and the other where the emergency Services come out all being within 100 yards of each other.

The Council considered all the planning Applications on Appendix 1 and had no further comments/representations to make and that CBC be informed accordingly.

## **1861/21 Finance Report**

The Council considered a Finance report.

- i. Appendix 1 – It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 be approved and paid. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That the Invoices shown on Appendix 1 be approved and paid.

- ii. Appendices 2 and 3 – It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

## **1862/21 Town Council Apologies**

The Council considered an email from CALC regarding the recording of apologies. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that in future the Minutes will state that any apology for absence is noted and accepted and the reason for the apology recorded. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That in future the Minutes will state that any apology for absence is noted and accepted and the reason for the apology recorded

## **1863/21 Repairs to Office Building**

The Council considered a report on repairs necessary to the Council's Offices

- i. Due to heavy rainfall on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021 it was discovered that the main roof and the kitchen roof in the Council Offices were leaking. The leak to

the kitchen roof was stopped after the gutter was cleaned out by a Copeland operative. Numerous contractors were contacted to give quotes to repair the leaking main roof but only one replied and submitted a quote after an inspection. The quote was for £1,450.00 plus VAT. It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the repairs to the roof be approved and the expenditure of £1,450.00 be authorised. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That the repairs to the roof be approved and the expenditure of £1,450.00 be authorised.

- ii. Following the Legionella Risk Assessment being carried out (Minute 1820/21 refers) there was a recommendation in the Risk Assessment Report that the combination water heater header tank located in the old photo booth on the first floor should be cleaned and chlorinated and the tank inspected annually. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Maudling that works to the combination water heater tank be authorised and expenditure for this be authorised after Council consideration of quotes received. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That works to the combination water heater header tank be authorised and expenditure for this be authorised after Council consideration of quotes received.

## **1864/21     Recommendations from Events Advisory Group**

1. The Council considered the recommendations made by the Events Advisory Group at their meeting on 19/08/21 which were as follows:-

### **1. Gazebo Pegs**

When the last Traders Market took place the Assistant Ranger reported a back injury caused by the amount of lifting and moving the weights for the market gazebos across distances in St Nicholas Gardens. So alternatives had been explored and a set of tent pegs had been produced by a local firm and successfully tested on a gazebo on site. It was unanimously recommended that

- i     That 110 pegs be purchased at a cost of £150 and these would be trialled at the next market but
- ii    A few weights would also be kept at hand just in case
- iii   The new gazebos that the Council had got a grant for come with weighted bags with handles and these would be used

## **2. Using Marquees for the Markets**

It was unanimously recommended that the Council reduces the number of CBC gazebos and trials the Christmas Market by hiring 2 marquees and that quotes be sought for these.

## **3. Continental Market**

It was unanimously recommended that the Council would organise and be responsible for the cost of the June 2022 Continental Market

## **4. Next Year's Markets**

It was unanimously recommended that the Traders Markets for next year follow the same format as the December Traders Market if the trial is successful ie 2 marquees and a smaller number of Council gazebos.

## **5. Ukelele Group**

Gerard Richardson said he had been approached by a local Ukelele Group who had asked if the Council could hire them for events. Following a discussion the Group had said that they were happy to come to the Christmas Market if they could put a hat/collection tin out. He suggested that the Christmas Traders Market was infilled by a couple of school choirs and on the same basis as there was no cost to this. The Advisory Group recommended unanimous approval to this.

## **6. Church Fete**

The Rev Robert Jackson had been supportive of the Council Markets in St Nicholas Gardens and it was suggested that the Council make a gesture to budget a few hundred pounds to support an old- fashioned church fete/garden party using our own gazebos with some entertainment. The Advisory Group recommended unanimous approval for this suggestion.

## **7. Banner**

It was unanimously recommended that a 4m x 1m banner costing approx. £100.00 be purchased to be attached to a marquee

## **8. Leyland Bus Anniversary**

It was reported that it was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Leyland Bus and that a 2 day event on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022 was to be held with 17 or 18 vintage buses parked on the Marina and an open -topped one going around the town. The group is a non profit making group. Security would

be required for the 2 day event (2 nights) and if the Council was interested costs and details for the provision of security would be obtained. The Events Advisory Group unanimously recommended an indication of support be given subject to costings being obtained and reported.

#### **9. Town Crier**

The position of Town Crier had been running for 25 years and it was an independent body but a civic position. Gerard Richardson said that in 18 months Copeland Borough Council was going to be non-existent and that an option would be for the Town Crier position to go to the new authority or it could go to the Town Council. It was unanimously recommended that the position of Town Crier be included with the Town Council.

#### **10. Tables for Gazebos**

It was reported that the Council had agreed to purchase 20 folding tables for use in gazebos at a cost of £799.00 plus £100 delivery charge but that due to transportation difficulties it had not been possible to purchase them. It was unanimously recommended that enquiries be made of other suppliers to see if the Council could get them at the same price or if that was not possible to get them at a reasonable price.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the above recommendations be approved and actioned. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That the above recommendations be approved and actioned.

Councillor Arrighi left the Meeting and did not return

#### **1865/21 Whitehaven in Bloom**

The Council considered a report on winter planting and considered quotes received for the purchase of additional planters and barrier baskets.

- i Provision of Winter Plants in 2021. The Council received a quote of £2,116.80 from the preferred supplier for 8 hexagonal planter bases, 20 barrels, 12 cast iron planters, 5 aluminium planters, 6 plastic planters, Trinity bed, Pelican bed, Corkickle badge bed, the Hensingham ship and Wilkinsons window boxes. In order to purchase the winter plants from the preferred supplier Financial Regulation 11 requires the Council to make a Resolution to do so and having made a Resolution that the Council then makes a resolution to record the reasons for suspension and consider the assessment of risks drawn up and presented and approve the same. It was



proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the Council makes a Resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11 to allow the Council to purchase the winter plants for 2021 at a cost of £2,116.80 plus VAT from the preferred supplier. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the Financial Regulation 11 be suspended to allow the Council to purchase the winter plants for 2021 from the preferred supplier at a cost of £2,116.80 plus VAT.

- ii Having made the Resolution in i above it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the Council resolve to record the reasons for suspension and consider the assessment of the risks drawn up and presented and approve the same. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the Council record the reasons for suspension and consider the assessment of the risks drawn up and presented and approve the same.

- iii Councillor O’Kane proposed that the Council purchase winter plants for the wooden barrels on the Harbour which the Council had recently supplied (Minute 1846/21 refers) and that the amount of £2,116.80 authorised in i and ii above be increased to £2,500.00 to provide this. This was seconded by Councillor Roberts. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That the amount of £2,116.80 authorised in i and ii above be increased to £2,500.00 to provide winter plants for the barrels which the Council had placed on the harbour.

- iv Purchase of Additional 3 Tier Planters and Barrier Baskets. Quotes had been received for the purchase 2x 3-tier planters and 4 barrier baskets as follows:-  
Supplier A - £1505.20 plus VAT  
Supplier B - £1523.84 plus VAT  
Supplier C - £2072.90 plus VAT  
It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor E Dinsdale that the 2x3 tier planters and the 4 barrier baskets be purchased from Supplier A at a cost of £1505.20 plus VAT. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the 2x3 tier planters and the 4 barrier baskets be purchased from Supplier A at a cost of £1505.20 plus VAT.

- i. Councillor Gemma Dinsdale said a drain had been removed which had left a massive sink hole at the bottom of Valley Park Hill and that this was a CCC matter.
- ii. Councillor G Dinsdale said she had asked residents to put in complaints about weeds to CCC but they were coming back and saying that a generic reply was coming back saying it was not available right now and that it would be at least 12 months before work could start. She said there was a problem with weeds blocking pathways and although she knew it was not our issue as such she didn't know what could be done about it. The Chairman said that irrespective of this the matter had to be noted.
- iii. Councillor Edwin Dinsdale thanked the Clerk for the updates on the bins that were going to be put on the cycle path and the bus shelter.
- iv. Councillor Maudling said the Police were doing a good job although the problems had moved to other areas. He said there had been a lot of compliments about the Council's flowers in the town.
- v. Councillor Maudling said that some businesses were leaving their seagull bags tied to lamp posts all night and that this was detracting away from what we want to achieve with the flower beds. He said seagulls were still getting in the bags because they may be left half empty and they're just left out every night and asked that when people get a seagull bag that we ask them not to leave them out all night. The Clerk said that this was being done.
- vi. Councillor Rayson said she had been contacted about an ongoing issue that the lights in Market Place/James Street were not working and that a lot of the lights were missing. She said she had emailed CBC Councillors and had been informed that it was someone at Copeland called Emanuel who was dealing with it and that he was going out that night to have a look as it was an ongoing legal issue and that it would be costly to get the residents to agree to the rewiring being done for the lights that weren't working. She said she thought out of 12 lights only 2 were working. Councillor O'Kane said this had been an ongoing issue for 3 months and that he had sent Copeland a long letter on the health and safety issues as the lights had not been working for approximately 13 years and the officer mentioned said guaranteed that they were being being fixed and said the vast majority of the lights were supposed to have been completed by now.
- vii. Councillor Rayson referred to the rat problem and said some residents had been issued with letters about rats coming up from the ghyll and a lot of residents on Hillcrest had been asking why everyone hadn't got them because the rats were everywhere at the moment. She said people were being asked not to encourage the rats into their gardens by feeding the birds or action would be taken against those people who were doing things that make it difficult to control the rats. Councillor Rayson said there were a lot coming up from Jericho Park on Highfields and around that area of



- Hillcrest. She said there had been some more work done at Jericho School recently and the seagulls on the roof. Councillor Rayson said trees had been cut down on part of the ghyll coming down Thornton Road and Springfields so that had disturbed a lot and they were everywhere. She said it might be worth getting in touch with Environmental Health about it. But she said people were still putting food out in their gardens to feed the seagulls/birds and that this was also attracting rats.
- viii. Councillor Rayson said she had been round the allotments with other Councillors and the Allotment Site Reps and a few issues had been brought up and it had been suggested that a meeting of the Allotment Advisory Group be set up consisting of Councillors only. Councillor Gill said he had asked the Clerk to do this.
  - ix. Councillor O’Kane said that he was delighted that the hedges had been cut on Victoria Road.
  - x. Councillor O’Kane said there were problems with parking at Sunnyhill on Sundays when it becomes almost gridlocked and the difficulty was that if you want to support businesses and then people are reported to the Police then you affect the businesses.
  - xi. Councillor O’Kane asked if an update could be given on the bus shelter at Bransty and the Clerk said it had now been determined that the land belonged to CBC.
  - xii. Councillor O’Kane referred to the weeds problem and said people were quite rightly complaining about the weeds that were all over the place and asked if the Council should be asking CBC/CCC to do something.
  - xiii. Councillor Edwin Dinsdale said there had been weedkiller put down on an area in Corkickle so on a positive note that was an improvement but that there was still a long way to go.
  - xiv. Councillor Roberts said there was a problem with weeds and also with the use of chemicals to control them and said he had been onto CCC about this and suggested that they try flame wands which were better for the environment.
  - xv. Councillor Hayes said things had been quiet on Kells and that he attended a health and wellbeing event at Whitehaven Rugby League and it had been really good.

## **1867/21 Date and Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

The Clerk referred to an email previously circulated to Councillors about the costs and conditions of the hire of the Harbour Gallery at the Beacon for Council Meetings.

Following a discussion on various alternatives Councillors agreed that they would look at other venues and get costings and pass these onto the Clerk and it would then be put on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting but that the next Council Meeting would be held in the Harbour Gallery at the Beacon on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 6.00pm.

**RESOLVED** – That Councillors would look at other venues and get costings

and pass these onto the Clerk and it would then be put on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting but that the next Council Meeting would be held in the Harbour Gallery on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 6.00pm.

Councillor Rayson left the Meeting and did not return

**IN PRIVATE**

**1868/21** That prior to the following item of business the Chairman moved the following resolution: -

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 from the meeting.

Councillor Roberts proposed this and Councillor Gill seconded it. A vote was held and it was unanimously.

**RESOLVED** – 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 press be instructed to withdraw from the Meeting. All members of the public and press then left the Meeting.

**1869/21** **Councillor Ward Grant** – CVG

Further to Minute 1853/21 it was reported that a letter had been sent requesting full details of expenditure in respect of the £1,000.00 Ward Grant but no reply had been received. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Maudling that a letter be sent to all members of the CVG to ask if they knew what had happened in respect of the £1,000.00 Ward Grant and to request payment of the unspent part of the Grant. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted for and 2 Councillors abstained.

**RESOLVED** - That that a letter be sent to all members of the CVG to ask if they knew what had happened in respect of the £1,000.00 Ward Grant and to request payment of the unspent part of the Grant.

**1870/21** **Application for Grant** – WAU16

Further to Minute 1845/21 The Clerk reported that the Applicant had stated that they had obtained sponsorship from elsewhere and therefore no longer required the Grant and thanked the Council for their consideration of this.

No decision was required for this and the matter was noted.

The Meeting closed at 7.35pm

  
Chairman