

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on the Zoom Platform on 30th

July 2020

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public

Press

1568/20 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence

Councillor G Dinsdale said that she would have to leave at about 6.15pm for another meeting but would return as soon as possible

1569/20 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Maudling referred to Item 5 and declared that he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel

Councillor O’Kane referred to Item 5 and declared that he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel

Councillor Rayson said she did not have a direct interest but referred to Item 10

Councillor O’Kane declared an interest relating to items he purchased and which appeared in the Minutes and which were bought for the Council during the coronavirus crisis and he would refer to them if required.

1570/20 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th July 2020

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that

the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10th July 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 9 Councillors voted for this and 3 Councillors voted against.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting the held on 10th July 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1571/20 Public Participation

There was no public participation

1572/20 Planning Applications

Councillor Gill said that he raised this at the last Council Meeting and he had concerns about planning application CH/4/20/2230/0F1 for 9 self- contained industrial units on the Sneckyeat Industrial Estate.

Councillor Gill expressed concern about the junction at Sneckyeat Road and Overend Road and Sneckyeat Industrial Estate and he was requesting a full evaluation before further expansion was made. He said he would see the Clerk the next day to send a letter to CBC about this.

Councillor E Dinsdale referred to the application no.CH/4/20/2224/OC1 on Union Hall and said a lot of public money was put into the refurbishment of the outside of the building with regards to painting but part of it was being demolished and thought that it was only reasonable that the Council request that a certain amount of this public money should be given back to CBC

Councillor Maudling said that the part being demolished was not part of the listed building itself it is a part that was added on and did not think that the demolition of this part would constitute giving back a grant that CBC had awarded.

Councillor E Dinsdale said he would submit a question on this.

Councillor Rayson referred to the Mount and said although not in her Ward she had been contacted by residents about the development there. Councillor Roberts said that things were going on. Councillor E Dinsdale said that he had also been contacted by residents about this.

Councillor G Dinsdale left the meeting at this point

RESOLVED – That after consideration of the Applications on Appendix 1 no issues were raised other than those above and that CBC be informed accordingly.

1573/20 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance Report.

The Chairman said his name was against items bought by himself from Thomas

Graham at the start of the pandemic which had to be bought rapidly and had to be paid for by credit card and claimed back

(i) Appendix 1. It was reported that there were 3 additions to Appendix for invoices to be authorised for payment namely

- V Gorley £7.88 for batteries for hand sanitiser units
- V Gorley £13.12 postage for copy Agendas
- CBC £240.00 supply of 4 tons top soil for Pelican bed

(ii) Appendices 2 and 3 the Cashbook and Income and Expenditure for approval and noting

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Invoices at Appendix 1 including the 3 additional payments be approved and paid and that the Cashbook and Income and Expenditure at Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted. A vote was held and 9 Councillors voted for this and 2 Councillors voted against it.

RESOLVED – That the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 including the 3 additional payments be approved and paid and that the Cashbook and Income and Expenditure at Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted

1574/20 Proposal to hold an Annual Meeting

At the Council Meeting on 10th July 2020 Councillor E Dinsdale put forward a request that an Annual Meeting be held on 30th July 2020 to appoint a Chairman and Vice Chairman. As it was not an Agenda item it was agreed it would be put on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting. The Chairman asked the Clerk to explain what an Annual Meeting was which was done.

The matter was discussed and it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that an Annual Meeting be held at a time when the Council was able to hold the meeting in a room in a face to face situation. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 3 Councillors voted against it.

RESOLVED – That an Annual Meeting be held at a time when the Council is able to hold the Meeting in a room in a face to face situation.

1575/20 Use of Room in Council Office

Members considered a report on a request from the Copeland Talking Newspaper (a registered charity) to use a vacant room on the ground floor of the Council offices one day per week in order to run the Copeland Talking Newspaper. The Clerk explained the operation of the Copeland Talking Newspaper and said they

had occupied the room free of charge previously when the building was owned by the Whitehaven News and for a time after the Whitehaven News vacated the building. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Council works closely with the Copeland Talking Newspaper to get them into the building. Following a discussion, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Council works closely with the Copeland Talking Newspaper and give them all help and assistance to get them into and use the vacant room in the building.

1576/20 **Footway Lighting**

Further to Minute 1502/20 - when the Council resolved that no action be taken at that time on the information supplied by CBC on the transfer of footway lighting to Parish and Town Councils – the Council received information from CALC suggesting that no action be taken on footway lighting until CBC had upgraded the footway lighting to LED, have had electricity safety tests completed and when good data for electricity, maintenance, installation and decommissioning costs had been provided. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Rayson that the Council reaffirm its previous position and take no action at this time until detailed information is received from CBC. It was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Council reaffirm its previous position and take no action at this time until detailed information is received from CBC.

1577/20 **Litter Bin at Beck Bottom**

The Council considered a request from Hensingham Residents Group for a litter bin at Beck Bottom, Whitehaven. The land was owned by Copeland Borough Council and 3 quotes were sought for the provision of a litter bin.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a Glasdon litter bin be purchased at a cost of £164.76 and installed at Beck Bottom. It was unanimously

RESOLVED – That a Glasdon litter bin be purchased at a cost of £164.76 and installed at Beck Bottom.

1578/20 **Donation to Georgian House**

The Council considered a report on a request from the Georgian House for a donation of £500.00 towards their flower display outside the premises. After a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a donation be not given and Councillors unanimously

RESOLVED - That a donation be not given

1579/20 **Allotments**

The Council considered a report on Allotments. Various issues had arisen during the lockdown as identified in paragraphs 2.6, 2.7 and 2.8. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Rayson that:-

- i. That the tenants of plots 1a and 38a and plot 1b and 38b respectively be allowed to swap their plots so that one tenant will have Plots 1a and 1b and the other tenant will have Plots 38a and 38b. (para 2.6 of the report).
- ii. That the tenant of Plot 21 at Cartgate who has been maintaining Plot 20b on behalf of an existing tenant for the past 7 years be allowed to take over the tenancy of Plot 20b now that existing tenant has indicated that he wishes to give up the tenancy. (para 2.7 of the report)
- iii. That 12 cubic yard skips be provided on each allotment site for October 2020 and March 2021 at the lowest quote of £240 plus VAT.(para 2.8 of the report)

Councillor E Dinsdale wished it to be noted that he had not responded to the requests at the time because he had received a request from the Clerk via the Chairman not to contact the Clerk

It was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the requests stated in i, ii and iii above be approved

1580/20 **Councillor Matters**

Councillor G Dinsdale returned to the Meeting during this item

- i. Councillor C Walmsley said there were problems on the estate with teenagers and the 2 old buildings that they were worried about. He said the Police were involved and he would report it back to the next months meeting and would be asking for support on some things.
- ii. Councillor C Walmsley thanked the Town Ranger and her Assistant for all the work done in the last week
- iii. Councillor Maudling referred to the issue of weeds and said the streets and pavements were done by CCC and the Council did not get much of a response from CCC on this.
- iv. Councillor Maudling said we are all Councillors working for the same team for the betterment of the Town and thought that if we had anything to say we should do it face to face or by phoning each other. To run to social media with all the defamatory comments resulted in people calling the Town Council a joke. He said that all of a sudden this is just running haywire and just looks absolutely silly and he just wished that people had

the face to pick up the phone and have their disagreements with fellow councillors without all the social media.

- v. Councillor Roberts said there were a few weeds up at Harras Moor and photos had been submitted to the Ranger and had been sorted.
- vi. Councillor Rayson said massive thanks to the Ranger and her Assistant for all the work done on her estate and other Wards as well.
- vii. Councillor Rayson said HRLFC were hoping to have a festival on the bank holiday weekend depending on social distancing and were looking for any support/sponsorship that people could give.
- viii. Councillor Rayson said thanks to Luke for hosting the zoom meetings
- ix. Councillor Rayson said she had just heard that day that Councillor E Dinsdale had set up a site on Name and Shame to report things about weeds and asked Councillor E Dinsdale to email her the details of his project
- x. Councillor E Dinsdale said that he and Councillor G Dinsdale had submitted 27 grot spots within Corkickle and said that he had set up a campaign about weeds to get it flushed out and to highlight where we need to cull these weeds. He asked all the Council to support this and get the pictures posted on social media to turn the town around. The Chairman applauded this and said it was back to the responsibility issue and said social media would always come back and ask if we had legal expenditure powers to do this. At the end of the day weeds were the responsibility of the CCC and street cleaning was the responsibility of CBC. Councillor Rayson referred to the social media campaign and said she was concerned that people would take photos of other peoples houses and post them on social media. Councillor E Dinsdale said that the problem was generic. Councillor Rayson suggested forming a task force on weeds with Councillor E Dinsdale as the lead. Councillor E Dinsdale said he appreciated that and if the Council wanted him to be the Town Council lead on weeds then he would accept that. Councillor Rayson thanked him and said that would be really good.
- xi. Councillor G Dinsdale said all Councillors have a responsibility to put their own complaints in. The CCC have an online website and she was willing to share this process and to support and advise people on this but did not feel that they could not do it all
- xii. Councillor G Dinsdale asked if there was an update on the bus shelter at Tower Hill. The Assistant Clerk said there was nothing further to report at this time
- xiii. Councillor Hayes said there was a lot of trouble at Kells with children causing trouble and damaging cars etc and that they were going to have a walk through the estate with the Police to discuss this.
- xiv. Councillor Hayes said that during the summer holidays there would be events on the Kells Welfare Ground around sport and food for the children and this was being done in conjunction with Councillor Emma Williamson.

- xv. Councillor Redmond said that although it was not Council property the Richmond Pub was looking a mess
- xvi. Councillor Gill asked about the progress on the bus shelter at Sneckyeat
- xvii. Councillor Gill said that each Councillor should get a copy of the electoral Register for their ward as there was a legal entitlement to this information. He asked that the Clerk write to CBC to ask for this information as soon as practicable
- xviii. Councillor Gill expressed concern about weeds and about the mess on the roads. He said he thought this should be an Agenda item for a future meeting and that the Council should make a strong resolution to put the full power of the Council behind it to send it to the relevant authorities.
- xix. Councillor O’Kane thanked the Ranger and Assistant Ranger for all the work done in his area.
- xx. Councillor O’Kane said he was surprised last week to hear a conversation about the town Council which ended with someone saying why don’t we start a petition to get rid of Whitehaven Town Council and this after all the hard work we’ve done and all this was not fair on the people in our town.
He said we’re all volunteers and all trying our hardest because we want the best for our town and that we’re here as a group of 12 to do things for our town. We vote for or against things and having done that we shouldn’t be bickering afterwards. Whitehaven has many problems and the Town Council shouldn’t be adding to them
- xxi. Councillor G Dinsdale said every elected member would be given a copy of the electoral register during an election but once the election was over they were required to shred them.
- xxii. Councillor G Dinsdale said there is a map on the CBC website that people can click onto which shows boundaries and ownership of land and that she would be happy to send the link to people.

1581/20 Date of next Meeting

The date of the next Council Meeting be on Thursday 27th August 2020



The Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Chairman