 

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

# Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 28th September 2023

**Present:** Councillor C Hayes (Chairman); Councillor R Gill; Councillor J Carr; Councillor E Dinsdale; Councillor B O'Kane; Councillor A Pearson;

Councillor G Roberts; Councillor A Spedding; Councillor R Taylor; Councillor R White

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

Members of the Public

Cumberland Councillors Emma Williamson and Mike Hawkins Cumberland Officers Michael Barry, Luke Leathers and Emanuel Flecken

# 2356/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor G Dinsdale ill

It was proposed by Councillor Gill seconded by Councillor Carr that

the apology for absence be accepted and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the apology for absence be accepted and noted.

# 2357/23 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hayes declared that he was a member of the Whitehaven Tidy Town Committee and the Harbour Users Group.

Councillor Taylor declared that he was a member of the Red Lonning Community Centre

# 2358/23 Public Participation

CL said she was a professional Health consultant and Therapist and had lived and worked in this area all her life and had experience in both management and business ownership.

 

She said she loved this area and felt very fortunate to be a West Cumbrian having easy access to the fells, lakes, and coast; to nature. CL then made the following points:-

* CL said nature was very important for health and wellbeing and that she was concerned about the health and wellbeing of all the constituents of this area. As a Mother she said she had concerns about children and the generations that follow and that Net Zero would impact you, me, everybody.
* Labour Leader Keir Starmer said he preferred to be at Davos than UK Parliament.
* Labour MP Angela Raynor has stated that the ULEZ (Ultra Low Emission Zone) will be extended all over the country.
* CL asked what the intention of Whitehaven Town Council and Cumberland Council was on Net Zero?
* What does Net Zero mean for individuals, public, business, farmers. She said she was interested in the impact both short and long term?
* She asked "What are the 15-minute city / 15 minute neighbourhood proposals for Cumbria"?
* How will the public be consulted? If Net Zero is going to impact everyone the least you can do is hold a public meeting.
* CL gently reminded the Councils that their responsibility was to us. To our human rights and genuine well-being.
* In photosynthesis Carbon dioxide is plant food; therefore, without it there would be no grass, crops, food, animals, humans. Zero carbon is zero life on Earth.

CL then thanked the Council for their time. And the Chairman thanked CL

AA informed the Council that she had been here for 2 years and really liked the place and she wanted to talk about improving its appearance and appeal and felt there were some really simple things to be done to improve the appearance of the town and there had been some improvements already. She said she had lists and would go through them:-

* AA believed there should be massive improvements to the Train Station as the way it looked was not good
* Driving around Whitehaven - it was really unattractive and perhaps it could be painted to make it a bit nicer. Possibly have some facts about Whitehaven and its history like quotes etc
* Going round the one-way system all the way round some of it looks really grubby and when people come in it doesn't look fantastic
* AA said it was an amazing Georgian town with some unattractive flats and said why couldn't they be brightened up with white paint



* At the weekends the old town was taken over by anti social behaviour which needs sorting out
* She said there were some fantastic indies popping up and we need more of those. We need more pop-up food trucks
* She asked what was the 5-10 year plan and said she totally agreed about net zero
* Bike lock up for Coast to Coast riders and said it was very difficult for cyclists to get into Whitehaven on the train
* Where are the recycling points
* Need more dog poo bins on North Shore
* AA asked where were the electric buses
* She said Whitehaven was an amazing place but it was not being shown off to the best of its ability

SO said he had lived and worked in Whitehaven all his life and wished to reiterate what CL had said about concerns around net zero. He said that he saw on the websites from Copeland Borough that they were talking about planting trees to offset that. He said he had read in that days Whitehaven News that Cumbria was striving to become the first net zero carbon county and he thought the public consultation on this was long overdue and he asked when and where do the public consultations start. SD said we were already seeing the effects of climate change in Cumbria in the form of extreme weather and he wanted to know if anyone could elaborate on these comments at some point.

SD said that he thought net zero was just going to get worse year on year with what was being proposed.

KS said she was Whitehaven born and bred and agreed with what had already been said and wanted to voice her concerns as a mother and grandmother. She said we had not been consulted on what ULEZ means for us in this town. She said that she believed that the Council had signed up for all these changes and said that nobody had been consulted. She said that what she wanted to propose that they go with support to the Council and ask for a special meeting to discuss this in more detail.

# 2359/23 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31st August 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31st August 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**RESOLVED** - That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31st August 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**2360/23** The Chairman said because Cumberland Councillors being present he proposed to move Item 20 up to now so that they didn't have to remain for the whole

 

Meeting and asked the public to leave for the next 5 minutes. Councillor Gill proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded that the Meeting be moved into private. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and l Councillor voted against

**RESOLVED** -That the Meeting be moved into private and the Members of the public were requested to leave the room

**2361/23** Councillor O'Kane then said that a lot of members of the public had come with genuine concerns and the Council had turned around and turned the Agenda upside down and he didn't think it was appropriate that the Council has an Agenda and the Council should stick to it. Councillor Taylor said it had been done and the Council needed to move on. Councillor Emma Williamson said it was going to be really hard to do this Item in 5 minutes. The Clerk said that in the circumstances if the Council wanted to make another resolution they could do so. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the public should be allowed back into the Meeting. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the public be allowed back into the Meeting Councillor R White entered the Meeting at this point

# 2362/23 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1.

1. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that consideration of 4/23/2258/0Fl which related to internal and external alterations to existing ground floor commercial unit at 49 King Street be deferred until further information on this is available and the Planning Department at Cumberland Council be informed accordingly. A vote was held and it was unanimously

11. **RESOLVED** - That consideration of planning application 4/23/2258/0Fl which related to internal and external alterations to existing ground floor commercial unit at 49 King Street be deferred until further information on this is available and the Planning Department at Cumberland Council be informed accordingly.

11 It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Planning Department of Cumberland Council be informed that following consideration of the remaining planning applications on Appendix l that the Council had no further representations to make. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the Planning Department of Cumberland Council

be informed that following consideration of the remaining planning applications on Appendix 1 that the Council had no further representations to make.

Councillor Taylor asked if Cumberland Council had been informed about the Council's decision on planning application 4/ 23/2221/0Fl and it was confirmed that they had been.

**2363/23 Planning Matters Generally**

Further to Minute 2334//23 the Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to Councillor Mark Fryer and there was an item on the Agenda for Cumberland Council to give a report and that Cumberland Council were in attendance to Speak to the Council. This was on the Agenda at item 15 but the Chairman was asked if the report could be given now and he confirmed that it could.

Councillor Emma Williamson and Councillor Mike Hawkins informed the Council of what was happening at Cumberland level. Councillor Williamson forwarded a copy of her presentation which is replicated below

Councillor Williamson said Vesting made Cumberland Council 'safe and legal', but the disaggregation requirements of the County Council staff and services meant that much of the base work was still undone at vesting.

This includes critical areas like a pay and grading structure for our staff, and the aggregation work to bring together the former district council services areas - like having a single housing team, working off the same Cumberland policies, etc...

One of these pieces of work well underway is the waste services review - this looks at everything from staff to services and plans to future proof, for example, considering future requirements over food waste collections

Some of the additional things that would affect the town council areas; Housing Needs Analysis. Cumberland Council has a statutory duty to understand and plan for the housing needs and aspirations of its people and communities.

The intention is to create a new Housing Strategy for Cumberland, which will encompass all the statutorily required policies such as Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, Allocations Policy and the new Supported Accommodation Strategy. It is envisaged that the Housing Strategy which will be a pillar corporate document and support other key strategies and policies such as the Local Plan and economic regeneration plans. The first step in developing a new housing strategy is to carry out a housing needs analysis. The scope of this is currently being developed and is likely to include:

* Private sector stock condition survey
* Household needs survey
* Supported Housing needs analysis
* Local Housing Market Analysis. The voice of service users, carers, stakeholder and partners will be central to this large and expansive project.



We would expect our Town Council to be a key stakeholder to feed into these conversations

# Early Help and Prevention Work

We have just formed a transformation programme for 0-19 Children and Families Early Help and Prevention Services. Early Help and Prevention Services for children and families have the potential to directly offer wellbeing support to each child born and living in Cumberland, as well as their wider families. With this in mind, it is important that these services (such as the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme and Child & Family Support Service) are as effective as possible. As in many parts of the country, services like these are experiencing challenges due to increased demand and staff recruitment & retention issues. There is now a requirement to significantly change how we deliver these services. At the Executive Committee meeting on the 5th September, the following was agreed in relation to the 0-19

# Healthy Child Programme and Child & Family Support Service:

* Service delivery plans would be developed with the providers to ensure ongoing improvement work is taking place throughout the life course of the current contracts.
* The contracts for the services would be extended by 12 months to give the

time needed to fully engage with families and partners in order to significantly redesign the services.

Our leader Mark is leading on major opportunities for Cumberland, this will include a town centre regeneration plan for Whitehaven, and he is currently lobbying for SMRs in Cumberland.

The first full round of Community Panels has now taken place with

chairs/vice chairs appointed and agreement on governance regarding aspects of grant funding. This is an iterative process and the learning from this first round of Panels will feed into future discussions and panel meetings.

Community Networks have now started to meet and levels of engagement/attendance have been high. Community Networks have been linked to community events and the conversation with the wider community and stakeholders has commenced. This inclusive approach will inform the setting of priorities for each Panel area which will be set out in the respective Neighbourhood Investment Plans. It was great to see two of Whitehaven Town Councillors at the event and your contributions. Along with that of the councillors at St Bees were extremely valuable and we hope you will continue to engage and support us with the creation of our investment plans put the priorities residents have stated are important at the forefront of delivery.

There is money for 750 charging points

Cumberland was putting in a funding bid for electric buses (Zebra funding)


# Public Space Protection Orders

Work is starting on the development of new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for Cumberland. PSPOs are a tool to support communities by prohibiting specific activities, and / or to require certain things to be done by people engaged in particular activities, within a defined public area, for example the consumption of alcohol or anti-social activity. This work

will be subject to consultation and wider engagement as officers begin to develop a consistent approach across Cumberland. But it will be bigger than before

# Waste Services

Update Following the announcement of the ending of industrial action by Allerdale Waste Limited (AWSL) from 24th August 2023, it is expected to take several weeks to get the waste operations back to business as usual, with a plan in place this is anticipated to be by 18 September. There is now an opportunity, and requirement, to review the current waste collection services (formerly Carlisle and Copeland) that have come together under the new Cumberland Council alongside those delivered by AWS. There is currently no one unique or identified model to adopt and this requires a detailed piece of work to be undertaken to find the right model for Cumberland under a Waste Review Programme. This needs to take into consideration, residents, employees, trade unions and elected members views, in keeping with the wider Council Plan focus, as well as identify best practice and technology from elsewhere, locally, nationally, and globally.

This project has now started.

# Trading Standards Update

Cumberland Council's Trading Standards Service has run a test purchasing operation relating to the selling of vaping materials to under 18 year olds. Overall, a very positive 83 per cent of businesses refused to sell to underage teens, though the results varied across the towns visited:

* Whitehaven - 100 percent.
* Carlisle and Wigton - 92 per cent.
* Workington - 62 percent.
* Maryport - 34 percent. There are strict laws on nicotine vaping products, and it is a criminal offence to sell them to persons under the age of 18 years or purchase them on their behalf. Traders found to be breaking these rules risk being prosecuted and fined up to £2,500.

Councillor Williamson said there were problems with young people vaping. She said Cumberland Council was committed to this community and that she would make sure that everyone has an invite to the next Community Network Meeting



Councillor Taylor said the question was how the Town Council linked in better with Cumberland Council on planning.

Councillor Hawkins said there were 6 Councillors in Whitehaven and the Community Panel was Whitehaven and Coastal. He said the idea was to take their panels round different areas of the town and that was going to be the decision making panel for the £70k investment fund and that elected members would ultimately make the decision on where the money was going based on recommendations and what they got back from the public. He said underneath that there was a network panel which was open to everybody and that was at the United Reformed Church the previous week and two Whitehaven Town Councillors had attended and that was where people could come along for things like net zero or what people would like to see in the town and suggested that for anything to do with Whitehaven people should go to the network panel and get involved that way. He said this was a new way of doing things but that it was more localised.

Councillor E Dinsdale said a resident had raised the problem of recycling and the resident was in the room and identified herself and said there was no recycling in the old part of town. Councillor Williamson said she would take that up.

Councillor O'Kane said the Council were concerned that there were 12 Cumberland Councillors on the Planning Committee but only 1 from Copeland area so we seem to have lost out. And if the Council objected to something we have to go to Workington or Carlisle. Councillor Williamson said Councillors could not be forced to go on a Committee but that they were reviewing this so that our area is better represented and there is more choice for people to voice their opinions.

Councillor Williamson said she would like to bring Nick Hayhurst to a Council Meeting for a conversation about planning and partnership and to make sure that Cumberland is doing everything it can to involve the Town Council.

# 2364/23 Annual Governance and Accountability Return for year ending 31st March 2023

The Council considered a report which showed at Appendix 1 the External Auditor's Report and Certificate for year ending 31st March 2023.

The Report showed that the Council's accounts were in order.

The Notice of Conclusion of the Audit would now be published on the Council's website and displayed in the window at the Council Offices.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts that the External Auditors Report and Certificate for year ending 31st March 2023 be approved and noted.

Councillor Gill added to this in proposing a vote of thanks to the Council's Officers for the way they handle the Council's finances and the efficient way in which they work and Councillor Hayes seconded this. A vote was held and it was unanimously



**RESOLVED** - That the External Auditors Report and Certificate for year ending 31st March 2023 be approved and noted and that thanks be given to the Council's Officers for the way they handle the Council's finances and the efficient way in which they work

# 2365/23 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance Report.

1. Appendix 1 - The Assistant Clerk reported that there were 6 extra invoices to consider on Appendix 1 namely:-

Cumbria Media

Vanessa Gorley Eden Springs Cumberland Council

Sharp Business Systems Cumberland Council

£310.32 Annual Software Fee and Annual Accessibility Fee and Website Maintenance

£5.60 for cable ties

£9.24 water dispenser hire env levy Oct.

£1200.07 Business rates for storage unit

£18.00 Toner delivery fee

£19.50 Commercial Waste Collection

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 6 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the invoices shown at Appendix 1 plus the 6 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid.

ii. Appendices 2 and 3 - the Council considered Appendices 2 and 3 and it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Taylor that these be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

# 2366/23 Fireworks and Lights Donation

The Assistant Clerk reported that last year when the Council had the firework show we asked for volunteer marshalls and the Cumbria Search and Rescue (a voluntary organisation) came with 5 officers. They said they would be delighted to do it again and wondered if the Town Council could donate a small amount of money to their organisation. However they then said that they didn't want a donation anymore as they were community orientated so they were volunteering to do it again for free. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Carr that a donation of£ 100 be given to the Cumbria Search and Rescue. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That that a donation of £100 be given to the Cumbria Search and Rescue


# 2367/23 Christmas Lights Switch On

The Chairman had authorised this additional item to be added to the Agenda. The Clerk reported that the usual festive event in James Street would not be taking place on the day of the Christmas Lights Switch on (Saturday 18th November 2023) and asked the Council to consider booking Street Entertainment. There were three suggestions, a living snow globe, Elton Wong and Singing Christmas Crackers. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that the singing Christmas Crackers be booked at a cost of £600.00 plus £20 travelling costs to provide street entertainment during the day. A vote was held and 9 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor voted against.

**RESOLVED** - That the singing Christmas Crackers be booked at a

cost of £600.00 plus £20 travelling costs to provide street entertainment during the day.

# 2368/23 Remembrance Sunday - RCO and Sandwich costs

The Council considered a report on Remembrance Sunday preparations and Costings and the following recommendations.

1. It was reported that for the first time Cumberland Council was charging for the two necessary Road Closure Orders at a total cost of £266 for Remembrance Sunday and that

1. 2 security personnel were required - one at the traffic lights outside Morrisons and one at Scotch Street and then after the service in the Market Place area at a cost of £58.50 plus VAT

111. Three poppy wreaths were required at a cost of £25.00 per wreath

1v. Last year the Council provided tea, coffee biscuits and sandwiches in the United Reformed Church Hall after the Church Service as many people had travelled to Whitehaven from outside the area and the Council were requested to consider this for this year. Quotes for sandwiches had been sought as follows

* Supplier A - £25.00 (serves 10 people)
* Supplier B - £10.00 (serves 5-6 people)
* Supplier C - £12.50 (serves 5-6 people)
* Supplier D - £12.50 per person
1. The cost of the tea coffee and biscuits would be approximately £40.00
2. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the quote from Supplier A be accepted and 6 platters be purchased. A vote was held and 9 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained

**RESOLVED** - That the quote from Supplier A be accepted and 6 platters be purchased.

 

1. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Gill that the remaining expenditure stated above be authorised on the proviso that hopefully Cumberland Council will change their mind on the road closure order. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the remaining expenditure stated above be authorised on the proviso that hopefully Cumberland Council will change their mind on the road closure order

# 2369/23 Wasps Nests

The Council considered a report on the removal of two wasps nests from Council owned allotment sites which had required urgent action at a cost of £60.00 per nest. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the urgent action taken and the cost of removing the two wasps nests

be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED-.** That the urgent action taken and the cost of removing the two wasps nests be approved and noted

# 2370/23 Unauthorised Removal of Street Furniture

The Council considered a report about the unauthorised removal of a Council seat and litter bin outside the Salvation Army Shop and Angry Boba on King Street. The seat and bins had just been left further up King Street. The Police were informed and the matter is under investigation. Replacement bolts and fixtures were purchased in the sum of £59.99 and the Clerk informed the Council that the seat and litter bin had now been reinstated in their original positions. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the expenditure and action taken be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the expenditure and action taken be approved and noted.

# 2371/23 Quotes for Science Show 2024

The Council considered a report on the suggested date and costings for a Science show for school pupils in Whitehaven in 2024. The show cost was

£2,750.00 plus VAT plus travelling and overnight accommodation costs for the presenter; technical support costs from a local provider of£ 1,357.40 plus VAT. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Science Show be booked at the costs given above and the technical support supplier's the costs for this be also approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the Science Show be booked at the costs given above and the technical support supplier's costs for this be also approved.


# 2372/23 WCSSG

Councillor Gill said that at the last Meeting he had told the Council that he had met with Simon Hughes after the WCSSG Meeting and had a discussion with him and Simon Hughes said that he would get Councillor Gill's details from the Secretary Rosina and contact him which he hadn't done. Councillor Gill said that he had tried to phone Rosina but her phone was always off and he couldn't contact her at Sellafield as they wouldn't put him through to her line because he wasn't a Sellafield employee.

. He said he had sent an email to Rosina and asked her to give him details for Simon Hughes so that he could make contact with him.

Councillor Gill said that the Community Partnership Structure was going to be reviewed at the end of the financial year in any event and that he would be there fighting for the Council so that we are included on it.

There was no decision on this as it was for information only.

# 2373/23 Councillor Ward Matters

1. Councillor White said he and Councillor Hawkins had met with Home Group last evening and gone through a few things and had managed to secure direct contact so that was positive

ii. Councillor Spedding said he had no issues on Corkickle but that the day before he had contacted Whitehaven Police about Castle Park and St Nicholas Gardens and that was ongoing

u1. Councillor Carr said he had made contact with different Councillors and Home Housing about rats which were a big problem.

1v. Councillor Ca1T refe1Ted to top shop cafe and said they were buying new defibrillator batteries and that we would have to make sure that the defib1illators were properly looked at because one in the top shop cafe had an electrical wire running through into it. The Assistant Clerk said that defibrillator was not one of the Council's and that the Council's defibrillators were checked weekly.

1. Councillor Gill said he had concerns about the junction at Rutland Avenue onto the main Road. He said there was a crossing 50 yards off the junction and if we could get Cumberland Council to close that and put a set of traffic lights on it would solve a lot of problems there.

v1. Councillor Hayes said he was delighted to say the Howgill Centre had now opened on Kells and it was already full

v11. Councillor Roberts said he had 2 things

* + He had been to the Planning Committee of Cumberland Council regarding Ha1Tas Moor where Members voted to defer the matter because although they had had a virtual site inspection they voted for a physical site visit
	+ In Whitehaven outside Wilkos 3 ladies had stopped him saying they had waited 3.5 hours for an 02 bus that never aITived and he

thought a letter should be sent to Stagecoach via the integrated Transport Team at Cumberland Council saying that this was not good enough.

vm. Councillor Taylor made the following points:-

* + - He said Tamalder Nursery had gone into liquidation and there was a massive demand for that nursery on Kells and just wanted to say well done for pushing that through.
		- Councillor Taylor referred to surface water at Springfield Avenue. He said a bungalow had recently been developed and that was causing surface water draining onto the highway which in winter was going to be a nightmare for ice and people walking
		- Councillor Taylor said the path behind Jubilee Road which he thought was Council owned had a lot of moss and debris on it and that a little girl had slipped on it and asked that this be cleaned up.
		- For the last 2 meetings he had asked for a new litter bin near Jericho School but this had been refused by Cumberland Council but that he had been promised that something would be done and he had given a list of 6 alternatives of different locations which would enable easy collection
		- Councillor Taylor referred to the street sign for Windsor Court and said there had never been one and he had been waiting months for it
		- There had been 7 emails from the residents of Balmoral Road due to parking nightmares due to Jericho School. He said Windsor Court had a sign up saying that parking was for residents only and there wasn't one on Balmoral cul-de-sac so the problem had shifted one cul-de-sac up to the point where a lady couldn't get her daughter to the hospital as someone had blocked her in. The fire engine had to reverse out of the area because there was no room to turn around due to the number of vehicles parked
		- He thanked United Utilities for action taken. There was a water leak at Balmoral Road which was affecting a number of houses and some people couldn't cut their grass. He had contacted UU about this and as a good will measure they agreed to fix the water leak which had been done the previous week.

1x. Councillor O'Kane said he had a couple of issues ongoing with Home Group and said it was awful the way you could be speaking to one Housing Manager and then a month later that changes and another Housing Manager takes over. He referred to 3 Castles Housing and said he had passed one onto Councillor Joseph Ghayouba as it was housing related and quite difficult to move on with

x. Councillor O'Kane said he had had an enquiry from a family at Bransty about their daughter not being allowed on the St Benedict's school bus and said it was a Cumberland Council decision in terms of who has access to the bus and that he had passed the matter to the relevant Councillor

x1. Councillor O'Kane said he had recently attended the installation of the new Vicar at St James and it was a really lovely service

x11. Councillor Pearson said LC wanted to know if Home Group had something against her because fences were being erected for other people and her fence had been in a state of disrepair for weeks and weeks. She has said that they do things for other people but not for her

xm. Councillor Pearson said on Bowness Road there had been 2 street lights off for months. He said residents had reported it themselves but nothing had been done. He had reported this on 17/09/23 but nobody had been and the problem was that the 2 lights were close together so it was creating an area of total darkness. Highways had told him there was a problem underground and he said they needed to fix it because because these lights have been out for months and the dark nights were commg

1. Councillor E Dinsdale said he had attended a public meeting at the miners social club organised by Cumbria Action Group. He said over 120 had attended because of amongst other things concerns around ULEZ and that as Ward Councillor he shared the concerns that the Group had. He said if this goes ahead it could be the death knell for us. £12.50 every time you come into Whitehaven if that was to happen would mean that nobody would come
2. Councillor E Dinsdale referred to the Wilko job losses. He suggested that the Council put a public letter out thanking the employers who have come forward and offered employment for the staff who have been made redundant. He thought what would also help would be an appeal from the Council for any other employers to come forward and support where ever they can with job opportunities or training

# 2374/23 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting was Thursday 26th October 2023 at 6.00pm at the Beacon Portal

# IN PRIVATE

**2375/23** 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. Councillor Roberts proposed this and Councillor Taylor seconded it. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the public and or press be instructed to withdraw from the Meeting

# 2376/23 Cumberland Council re Partnership Agreements

Officers from Cumberland Council's Parks and Open Spaces Department and Councillor Williamson attended to give an update on partnership arrangements with the Town Council.

The Council voiced their concerns about

* The state of the Town
* The situation was not good - the Council had set off working in partnership with Copeland for various small things and that partnership worked well but it was not so now and the question was asked as to why it had deteriorated
* It was suggested that everyone should get together to sort things out
* The standard of work was not high enough particularly in St Nicholas Gardens and it appeared there was a lack of proper systems
* The Cumbria in Bloom had been imposed on the Council
* There were areas in the Town that had deteriorated Cumberland responded with the following points:-
* It was good to receive feedback
* Cumberland was a new Council and it was all about how it was managed as they were bringing 4 Councils into 1
* Street cleaning had been reviewed and approved
* There were key areas to prioritise and develop standards
* They were doing Service Reviews and wanted to improve services and build back up the partnership with the Town Council
* Some of the issues were acknowledged and there would be a different format to the previous administration as to how the Parks and Open Spaces Department was managed
* It was suggested that a regular feedback should be given to the Town Council and that a working group should be set up
* They would be doing an asset plan of eve1ything they had to create a strategy get quick wins support and investment
* Councillor Williamson outlined the position with regards to playparks
* Councillor Williamson said that Town Councillors would be invited to section 106 training to be given by Nick Hayhurst

 

* That Councillor Williamson would send the digital link to report things to the Clerk

There were no decisions made as this item was for discussion and noting only

# 2377/23 Office Accommodation

Further to Minute 2327/23 the Clerk gave an update on the current Position and said one of the contractors who had expressed an interest had

ceased trading. However they had contacted another Contractor who had asked if they could submit a tender for the renovation work and this was confirmed. At the same time another local contractor made contact and visited the offices with his Team and they said they would be interested in submitting a tender. There was nothing further to report on this. The report from LB had not been received as he had a hospital appointment but this would be forwarded as soon as possible. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that this be noted. A vote was held and 9 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained and it was

**RESOLVED** - That this be noted

# 2378/23 St Nicholas Gardens

Further to Minute 2326/23 and following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Spedding and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the

the Council invites tenders for the provision of and planting of summer plants, winter bedding plants and all maintenance thereof in 2024/25 and that the Tenders received be reported back to the Council for decision. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the Council invites tenders for the provision of and planting of summer plants, winter bedding plants and all maintenance thereof in 2024/25 and that the Tenders received be reported back to the Council for decision.

The Meeting closed at 8.30pm



Chairman