

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on the Zoom Platform on 26th November 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 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

1647/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Rayson

1648/20 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Roberts declared that he was a member of CCC in relation to Item 9
Councillor Maudling declared that he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel in relation to Item 6

Councillor O’Kane declared that he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel in relation to Item 6

Councillor C Walmsley declared an interest in respect to Item 12 as he was part of the Local Development Framework as he was on the Committee for the Borough

Councillor O’Kane declared an interest regarding Public Participation and said he would not be taking part

Councillor G Dinsdale declared an interest as she was a CBC Councillor for the Local Plan

1649/20 Public Participation

There was no public participation but a member of the public had sent a statement about planning application 4/19/2233/001 and asked that

the statement be read out at the meeting which the Clerk did. There was a request in the statement asking for the Council's support. The Clerk read out the statement and Councillor Roberts said he would comment on this in the Planning Application.

1650/20 **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29th October 2020**

- i Councillor E Dinsdale referred to Minute 1633/20 and said that he had made comments that before any money be released for the public toilets that a business case must be submitted and that also with the comments there was no agreement at all for any money to go towards a feasibility study for toilets. The Clerk said there was no mention of a feasibility study in any documentation that she had. The Chairman said that a feasibility study had not been discussed at the meeting. No proposal to change the Minute was put forward.
- ii Councillor G Dinsdale raised an issue on Minute 1631/20 and proposed that the Wording "Councillor G Dinsdale asked if the Contract included access onto the land and the Clerk said it did not. Councillor G Dinsdale wished it to be recorded that there would be no problems with trespass if we entered onto the land to cut it" be replaced with "Councillor G Dinsdale asked if we had access to the land and the Clerk said we did". This was seconded by Councillor E Dinsdale. A vote was held and 3 Councillors voted for, 4 Councillors voted Against, 3 Councillors abstained and 1 Councillor did not vote as he had not been present at the Meeting.
- iii Councillor G Dinsdale proposed an addition to Minute 1634/20 to include her comment that she did not feel the lights were sufficient from a safety perspective. This was seconded by Councillor Arrighi. A vote was held and 10 Councillors voted for and 1 Councillor could not vote as he had not been present at the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor C Walmsley that subject the amendments made in ii and iii above being included the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th October 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for, 4 Councillors abstained and 1 Councillor could not vote as he was not at the Meeting

RESOLVED – That subject to the amendments made in ii and iii above being included the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29th October 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1651/20 **Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 17th November 2020**

Following the Meeting on 17th November 2020 the Chairman reported that he had checked the position with CALC as stated in the Minutes and that there was an inaccuracy in the Minutes as it was clear that the vote taken on the original proposal was invalid and could not take effect and therefore this needed to be corrected in the Minutes and moved that in accordance with Standing Order

10(a) (i) that the Minutes be corrected to show that the vote and therefore the decision made on the original vote was invalid and could not take effect and that the result of the vote on the substantive motion was the decision of the Council. It was proposed by Hayes seconded by Councillor Gill that subject to the amendment made above the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 17th November 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

A vote was taken and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal, 1 Councillor voted against and 3 Councillors abstained.

RESOLVED – That subject to the amendment made above the Minutes of the Meeting on 17th November 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1652/20 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications received from CBC and shown at Appendix 1. Councillor Roberts referred to planning application CH/4/19/2233/001 on the amended plans and said he had submitted objections as a CCC Councillor which had been accepted. The Clerk said the submission read out in the Public Participation part was asking for the Council's support. Councillor Gill said that the Council should be consistent and continue to stand by the residents and proposed that the Council support the residents in their objections and this was seconded by Councillor Roberts. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 3 abstained.

Following consideration, no representations/comments were made on any other planning applications on Appendix 1 and it was

RESOLVED – That Copeland Borough Council be informed of the Council's support of the resident's objections relating to planning application CH/4/19/2233/001 and that following consideration of planning applications on Appendix 1 there were no representations /comments

1653/20 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance Report.

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

- V Gorley £11.48 for postage for copy Agendas
- Christmas Plus £1,760 – 9 outdoor Christmas trees
- CALC £120.00 – Training

- (ii) It was reported that on the list of invoices to be paid was one for winter bedding plants for £1,280.40 and that this had subsequently been queried as it was lower than had previously been reported and it should have been £2,423.10

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Invoices at Appendix 1 including the 3 additional payment and the amended invoice be approved and paid. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for and 4 Councillors abstained.

RESOLVED – That the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 including the 3 additional payments and the amended invoice be approved and paid

- (ii) The Council considered Appendices 2 and 3 and it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor C Walmsley that these be approved and noted. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for and 4 Councillors abstained.

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

1654/20 **Ranger and Assistant Ranger**

The Council resolved to enter into a 2- year service contract with CBC for 2021/22 and 2022/23 for the services of a Ranger and Assistant Ranger subject to the proviso that the % salary increases for the second year be clarified and reported back to the Council. (minute 1630/20 refers). Following consideration of a report on this which explained that the reason for the discrepancy was because of different salary grades and increments it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council accepts and notes the reasons for the discrepancy with the % increase between the 2 salaries for 2022/23.

RESOLVED – That the Council accepts and notes the reasons for the discrepancy with the % increase between the 2 salaries for 2022/23.

1655/20 **Christmas Lighting**

The Council considered a report on Christmas lighting. The Council's Christmas lighting contractor following an evaluation of the lighting stock and possible up grades had identified 22 lighting displays shown at Appendix 1. These were ex rental stock from a reputable supplier and heavily discounted. All lights are tested before delivery to ensure they are in full working order and a 12 months warranty is given.

The lights would be located at Market Place, King Street and Tangier Street. The cost of the 22 lighting displays was £3,294.00 plus VAT plus an additional £150.00 delivery charge.

In order to purchase the lights from this supplier the Council would have to consider making a resolution to suspend Financial Regulation 11. In order to

suspend Financial Regulation 11, Financial Regulation 18 says that the Council may by resolution of the Council duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of the Council suspend any part of these Financial Regulations provided that the reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been drawn up and presented in advance to Members of the Council. The Council considered this and the reasons for the suspension and the assessment of the risks and it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Financial Regulation 11 be suspended to permit the Council to purchase the ex-rental stock in the sum of £3,294.00 plus VAT plus delivery charge of £150 and that the reasons for the suspension be recorded and following an assessment and consideration of the risks. A vote was held on this and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That Financial Regulation 11 be suspended to permit the Council to purchase the ex-rental stock in the sum of £3,294.00 plus VAT plus delivery charge of £150 and that the reasons for the suspension be recorded and following an assessment and consideration of the risks

1656/20 **Voucher Scheme Ideas**

Further to Minute 1646/20 (Item 6) the item was being referred back for Councillor G Dinsdale to put forward proposals or items on a range of things for consideration. Councillor G Dinsdale asked the Clerk for guidance on this and asked if it was lawful for her to set up a Working Group to deal with this. The Clerk said a Working Group could be set up to report back to a Council Meeting but that there was already an Events Advisory Group which could be used and which Councillor G Dinsdale was on.

Councillor G Dinsdale proposed that a meeting of the Events Advisory Group be set up on Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 4.30 pm and this was seconded by Councillor E Dinsdale. It was unanimously

RESOLVED – That a meeting of the Events Advisory Group be set up on Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 4.30pm.

1657/20 **Hensingham Cemetery**

The Clerk gave a verbal report on Hensingham Cemetery and made the following points

- That the old part of Hensingham cemetery was a closed cemetery
- Investigations revealed references to St John's Old Churchyard
- Also, a CBC pamphlet on cemeteries stated it was a closed churchyard
- CBC were responsible for the closed churchyard and they cut the grass twice per year trim the bushes and do topple testing of the gravestones for safety reasons

- Section 215 of the LGA 1972 says that a council with a responsibility for a closed churchyard must maintain the closed churchyard by keeping it in decent order
- The Clerk said she had asked CBC for a plan showing the boundaries of the closed churchyard but had not received it as yet

There was no formal proposal/resolution on this but Councillor Gill asked that it be reported to the next Council meeting when further information would be available and the Clerk confirmed that this would be done.

1658/20 Copeland Local Plan

The Chairman said that many of the Council had received the Local Plan from Chris Hoban of CBC. He said that Chris Hoban had formally asked the Council to produce a few points to reflect Whitehaven Town Council's views on the Local Plan itself.

The Chairman asked Councillors to put a few ideas down and give these to the Clerk so that they could be put together as a response to Chris Hoban. The Clerk said comments were required by Monday 30th November 2020.

Councillors agreed to this and it was noted.

1659/20 Request to Rent Former Editors Room in the Council Offices

The Council considered a request that had been received from Newsquest to rent the former Editors office on the first floor of the Council Offices to be used as a drop in base for reporters who are working in the area to prepare and file their reports. Following a discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that in principle the Council agrees to this request subject to satisfactory negotiations referred to in paragraph 1.4 of the report being concluded and reported back to the Council for approval. It was unanimously

RESOLVED - That in principle the Council agrees to this request subject to satisfactory negotiations referred to in paragraph 1.4 of the report being concluded and reported back to the Council for approval.

1660/20 Councillor Ward Matters

- Councillor O'Kane said he had conversation that day with CCC regarding a bush shelter at the top of Bransty
- Councillor Arrighi said she had had no response about her hampers and time was marching on
- Councillor E Dinsdale requested it to be minuted that the meeting that had taken place last month about the toilets that at no time did WTC agree that £50,000.00 or any amount of money be released for a feasibility study

- iv. Councillor G Dinsdale said the main problem was communication (not with WTC) but with CCC.
- v. Councillor Gill thanked the Council for all the kind comments he received when he and his wife were very ill with coronavirus.
Councillor Gill said that in March 2020 a meeting was to have been held between himself, the CC Councillor and the highways about the roads in Hensingham which were getting worse day by day. This didn't happen because of coronavirus and said that a meeting must be arranged where this could be discussed with highways. Councillor O'Kane said that he had spoken to Craig McCarron that day and asked if there was anyway the Council could help and suggested that Councillors send emails with their concerns into the Council every week or every fortnight and those would be passed onto Craig who could report back to Council rather than to individual Councillors. Councillor Gill said CCC were under pressure and understaffed but that something had to be done about the roads as with winter coming things were going to get worse. Councillor O'Kane asked that a weekly report be set up that goes off every Friday to Craig with comments from Councillors so that we can have a record of when the Council has requested action.
- vi. Councillor Hayes said there had been graffiti on premises – the shop and the chemist and he and some volunteers had been removing the graffiti which was quite disgusting for children to read on their way to school. He had organised a Christmas lights competition for the best house, the best garden and the best street and people were very enthusiastic. On Christmas Day himself County Councillor Emma Williamson and volunteers would be delivering 58 hot meals to people on their own. They had also delivered hampers to people on Kells, Greenbank and Woodhouse and was worried that they would be doubling up on this and we needed to keep in touch with each other and let people know who was on the list of people who were getting hampers so that we didn't end up giving people double food.
- vii. Councillor Maudling referred to the Bus Station and the CCC. He said it was beyond a joke and they were playing with people's livelihoods. He said the traders were sick of it and the public were sick of it and it was way beyond its finish date
- viii. Councillor Roberts said as a County Councillor he had been talking about the Bransty Project that day and would have a word with someone about this. Councillor Roberts said that there were likely to be some contentious matters regarding Harras Moor in the future which he would report on.
- ix. Councillor C Walmsley said he was going to say something that slightly contradicted what had been said before. He said he had a lot a lot of issues relating to Home Group, CBC and the Police and all of them had been fantastic and he wanted to put their quick responses on record. He said he had a good relationship with them and that they will help you.

1661/20 **Date of next Meeting**

The date of the next Council Meeting to be on Thursday 28th January 2021 at 6.00pm.

IN PRIVATE

1662/20 That prior to the following items of business the Chairman will move 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 zoom platform.

1663/20 **Quotes received from the Grass Cutting Contract**

Further to Minute 1631/30 the Council considered a report on the Grass Cutting Contract and it was reported that quotes had been sought from 4 Contractors for the Grass Cutting Contract for 2021/2022 and 1 quote had been received in the sum £19,956.24 plus VAT. Following a discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the quote of £19,956.24 plus VAT for the Grass Cutting Contract for 2021/2022 be accepted and the Contractor be appointed. It was unanimously
RESOLVED – That the quote for £19,956.24 plus VAT for the Grass Cutting Contract for 2021/2022 be accepted and the Contractor be appointed.

1664/20 **Quotes received for The Maintenance of Allotment and Pigeon Loft Sites Contract**

Further to Minute 1632/20 the Council considered a report on the Maintenance of Allotment and Pigeon Loft Sites Contract and it was reported that quotes had been sought from 4 Contractors for the Maintenance of Allotments and Pigeon Loft Sites Contract for 2021/22 and 1 quote had been received in the sum of £7174.14 plus VAT. Following a discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the quote of £7174.14 plus VAT for the Maintenance of Allotments and Pigeon Loft Sites Contract for 2021/22 be accepted and the Contractor appointed. It was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the quote of £7174.14 plus VAT for the Maintenance of Allotments and Pigeon Loft Sites Contract for 2021/22 be accepted and the

Contractor appointed.

1665/20 **Councillor Wards Grants**

The Chairman reported that there were Councillor Ward Grant applications which were urgent and which were before the Council because the payments would have to be made under s 137 which needed Council approval. The Clerk read out s 137 so Councillors would be reminded of its provisions

1. Application submitted by Whitehaven South Ward Councillor for £1,000 for 20 hampers at £50.00 each for Woodhouse and Greenbank. Application made by a community organisation.
Following a discussion on this and in particular about Councillor Ward Grant applications the Clerk said the Application did state that the hampers were for people in Woodhouse and Greenbank.
2. Applications submitted by Mirehouse East Ward and Mirehouse West Ward Councillors for £250.00 each for providing hot meals during half term from the Cod and Co to provide 250 hot meals for children in Mirehouse.
Applications made by a community organisation.

The Clerk read out s 137 again and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Council approve the s 137 expenditure for the Councillor Ward Grants mentioned above

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk left the Meeting prior to the discussion of the following Item and did not return.

1666/20 **Staff Pay Increase Report**

The Council considered a report on the annual incremental increases within the salary grades of the Clerk and Assistant Clerk. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that an annual increment within their respective salary grades be approved for the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.

A Vote took place and 7 Councillors voted for and 4 Councillors voted against

RESOLVED – That an annual increment within their respective salary grades be approved for the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.

The Meeting closed at 8.15

Chairman

