

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2nd December 2021

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V Gorley. Assistant Clerk

Member of the Public

1909/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received as follows

Councillor C Arrighi	
Councillor C Walmsley	Work Commitment
Councillor J Carr	Work Commitment
Councillor G Dinsdale	Ill

It was agreed that the apologies be noted and accepted.

1910/21 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor J Rayson declared an interest in Item 11 relating to the Allotments and Pigeon Loft Contract and in Item 16 relating to the purchase of black liner as she was an allotment holder

1911/21 Public Participation

There was no public participation

1912/21 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th November 2021

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th November 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 4th November 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1913/21 Planning Applications

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

Councillor Rayson referred to developments on Cleator Moor Road and was concerned about the traffic around that area as it was right opposite the school junction and also the infrastructure and asked that this be noted.

Councillor O'Kane expressed concern by saying that what we have here is more developments up that end of town. He said he had no objections to the developments anywhere near the top of Hensingham or Harras but what concerned him was that these developments were going on on a piecemeal basis and the developments were underpinned by possible 300 houses going up around the two main school areas which is already under severe pressure and his concern was how is it we get joined up thinking between the planners who are talking about these houses, the roads in that area and the services in that area. How is it that we are going to see quite a large-scale development in that area and all these applications are coming in on a piecemeal basis and before you know it all these potential 1000 houses will be developed and the infrastructure will not be adequate at all. The Cleator Moor Road is one of the busiest in the area and there will be 70 houses on Hensingham, 370 on the top of Harras Moor, 110 opposite that and the potential down the bottom of Harras for another 50-100 houses and potentially in Moresby there is going to be another 100 applied for.

He said that end of Whitehaven was under siege for development and something has to be done to look at the services relating to those development and that the Council should be looking after the area up there to make sure that the area is built up correctly and sufficiently for the people who live there.

Following a discussion on this it was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that:-

1. A letter be sent to Chris Hoban expressing the Council's concern about this; asking for an assurance that adequate services will be provided; asking what the plan for that area is in detail as there are numerous applications in the pipeline for the future and
2. Ask CCC's Local Committee to meet with representatives of the Town Council to discuss developments in Whitehaven's area.

A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for the proposals and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED – That 1. A letter be sent to Chris Hoban expressing the Council’s concern about this; asking for an assurance that adequate services will be provided; asking what the plan for that area is in detail as there are numerous applications in the pipeline for the future and 2. Ask CCC’s Local Committee to meet with representatives of the Town Council to discuss developments in Whitehaven’s area.

1914/21 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance report.

- i. Appendix 1 – The Clerk reported that there were 2 extra invoices to be considered namely:

3 Lions Security	Overnight Security at Christmas Traders Market- £300.00 excl. VAT
CCC	Emergency repairs to Christmas lights and catina wires following storm damage - £2356.49 excl. VAT

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 together with the 2 invoices above be approved and paid. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Invoices shown on Appendix 1 together with the 2 invoices above be approved and paid.

- ii. Appendices 2 and 3 – It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes 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.

1915/21 Internal Auditors Report

The Council considered the Internal Auditors Report following an Audit carried out on 16th November 2021. The report confirmed that the Council’s finances are very well administered and the financial documentation is well organised with clear audit trails for income and expenditure. Three recommendations were made relating to budgetary provision and administration around the office refurbishment which are already in progress. Councillor Gill thanked the staff for all the excellent work they had done. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Internal Auditors Report be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Internal Auditors Report be approved and noted

1916/21 Quotes received for Internal Audit Provision

The Council considered a report on the quotes received for the appointment of an Internal Auditor for 2022. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote of £500.00 for 2 internal audits in 2022 be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the quote of £500.00 for 2 internal audits in 2022 be accepted

1917/21 Quotes for Council Insurance Cover

The Council considered a report on the contract with Zurich Municipal Insurers which expired in May 2022. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council seeks quotes from insurance companies experienced in providing insurance cover for local authorities on a 1, 3 and 5 year basis and that quotes received be reported back to the Council for decision. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Council seeks quotes from insurance companies experienced in providing insurance cover for local authorities on a 1, 3 and 5 year basis and that quotes received be reported back to the Council for decision.

1918/21 Grass Cutting Contract 2022/23

Further to Minute 1883/21 the Council considered a report on quotes received for the Grass Cutting Contract for 2022/23. It was reported that only one quote had been received in the sum of £20,455.08 excluding VAT. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote received in the sum of £20,455.08 excluding VAT be accepted and the contract entered into. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That that the quote received in the sum of £20,455.08 be accepted and the contract entered into.

1919/21 Maintenance of Allotment and Pigeon Loft Sites Contract 2022/23

Further to Minute 1884/21 the Council considered a report on the quotes received for the Maintenance of Allotment and Pigeon Loft Sites Contract for 2022/23. It was reported that only one quote had been received in the sum of £7,208.02 excluding VAT. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote of £7,208.02 excluding VAT be accepted and the contract entered into. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED - That the quote of £7,208.02 excluding VAT be accepted and the contract entered into.

1920/21 **Quotes for Security at Council Events**

Further to Minute 1900/21 when the Council approved events for 2022 a report was considered giving details of quotes received from local security firms for the provision of security at the events in 2022. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote from security firm A at the rate of £18.00 per hour including VAT per security guard per hour be accepted and the contract entered into for the provision of security at Council events in 2022. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the quote from security firm A at the rate of £18.00 per hour including VAT per security guard per hour be accepted and the contract entered into for the provision of security at Council events in 2022.

1921/21 **Sponsorship of Charity**

The Council considered a report on a request for sponsorship received from North Cumbria Hospitals NHS Charity for a Winter Festival Event. The Mayor had said that he wished to sponsor a Christmas Tree for £250.00 to be put up outside West Cumberland Hospital out of his Mayors Allowance. Following a discussion it was

- (i) Proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Mayors request be noted, approved and actioned. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Mayor's request be noted, approved and actioned.

- (ii) Proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Council looks at this from January onwards and see if we have the powers to give money and that the Charity be informed that they can apply to the Council for a grant of up to £1000. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Council looks at this from January onwards to see if we have the powers to give money and that the Charity be informed that they can apply to the Council for a grant of up to £1000.

1922/21 Recommendations of Steering Group on Office Accommodation

The Council considered a report containing recommendations made by the Steering Group on Office Accommodation. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that recommendations i to iv contained in the Report be approved and actioned. A vote was held and 7 Councillor voted for and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED - That recommendations i to iv contained in the Report be approved and actioned.

1923/21 Quote for advertising in the Cumbria Guide

The Council considered a quote received from the Cumbria Guide for advertising in the Cumbria Guide in 2022/23. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the quote of £3,690.00 plus VAT for 6 full page adverts including artwork and design be accepted and actioned. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the quote of £3,690.00 plus VAT for 6 full page adverts including artwork and design be accepted and actioned.

1924/21 Purchase of Black Liner for Vacant Allotments

The Council considered a report on a recommendation from the Allotment Advisory Group to purchase 5 4.5mtr x 100mtr rolls of black liner (weed membrane) to use on vacant allotment plots to keep the weeds down and make the plots more attractive to potential tenants. Three quotes had been received for the supply of 5 4.5mtr x 100mtr rolls of black liner and the Council considered these. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council purchases 5 4.5mtr x 100mtr rolls of black liner at the quote of £216.98 plus VAT. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED - That the Council purchases 5 4.5mtr x 100mtr rolls of black liner at the quote of £216.98 plus VAT.

1925/21 Repairs to Bus Shelter at Greenbank

The Council considered a report on repairs necessary to the bus shelter on Woodhouse Road, Greenbank following two incidents of vandalism. The Council's insurers had said that the repairs would be covered under the insurance policy but that there would be an excess payable of £100 for each

incident. The cost of replacement panels for the bus shelter was £480.00 inc.VAT. Councillor Arrighi had asked if she could use her Councillor Ward Grant to pay for this damage. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a claim be made through the Council's insurers for the loss caused by the damage. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Council makes a claim through its insurers for the loss caused by this damage.

1926/21 Johnson House Defibrillator

The Council considered a report on a request from Johnson House to re-route the wiring for the defibrillator that the Council installed on their property which used the electricity supply via a plug socket in a room located directly behind the defibrillator. However it was discovered that the defibrillator had been disconnected from the electricity supply due to the plug being disconnected. Quotes had been sought from local electricians but none had been received. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Rayson that the information in the report be noted and that the remedial works be approved and that the Council decides which electrical contractor to appoint when quotes have been received. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the information in the report be noted and that the remedial works be approved and that the Council decides which electrical contractor to appoint when quotes have been received.

1927/21 Councillor Ward Matters

- i. Councillor Redmond referred to standing and running water from the new garage at Hensingham and said standing water was sitting in a pool at the corner of the former Richmond pub.
- ii. Councillor Maudling said youths were running about Whitehaven and that it was all happening in King Street and Lowther Street and the CCC had put new street lights in on Catherine Street outside the Council Offices and people were congregating in the recess there. He said that people living in Barracks Mill were frightened.
- iii. Councillor Rayson said the lights were not working in the Market Place again. She said she had been told that last week there had been a few incidents one at the top of the market and attempted break ins and thefts and things like that. She said there were CCTVs on some properties but because it was so dark the perpetrators could not be identified. She said she was not getting any response from Copeland but some of the traders were getting frustrated by it
- iv. Councillor Rayson said the former Richmond Pub was falling to bits and said she didn't know what we could do about what was happening with it.

- The Clerk said that if it was a dilapidated building or a dangerous building then CBCs Building Control Dept should be contacted about it.
- v. Councillor Roberts referred to speeding on Harras Moor but said he was dealing with this with CCC.
 - vi. Councillor O’Kane asked if Clinton Boyce could be chased up regarding the bus shelter at Bransty
 - vii. Councillor O’Kane said in his area there was so much anger towards the lack of dialogue with the Planning Panel with regards to one planning application that had been allowed to die off to the extent where individuals by-passed the planning permission and went straight to the Planning Inspectorate and that that had caused absolute hell with the residents and had set a dangerous precedent. The Planning Department hadn’t got to grips with what was there because of various reasons so the individual concerned bypassed the Planning Panel and went straight to the Inspector for a review of the application and that that set a dangerous precedent to everyone in the area
 - viii. Councillor O’Kane referred to Hillcrest Community Centre and said it appeared that the decision on this had gone to the CBC Executive about 5-6 weeks ago and other than that nothing had been done. He said that at a recent meeting a number of residents said they could get together on this but again CBC was dragging their feet and that was sad.
 - ix. Councillor Gill said he had met with the Highways people because people were just parking on both sides of the road where he lived and the CCC had said that they were looking at a Road Traffic Order in April/May 2022 and it would be looked at then. He had asked if they could have residents parking permits for residents only
 - x. Councillor Hayes said they had similar problems on Kells outside the school with people parking on pavements. He said there had been problems with anti- social behaviour but that it seemed to have calmed down which could have been due to the fact that they now had a PCSO patrolling the area.. He said there was dog muck everywhere especially at night time.
 - xi. Councillor Hayes said there had recently been a big fire right in the middle of the bandstand in Castle Park at 8.30 to 9.45 at night. The police arrived in 5 minutes and said some plastic had been set alight.. The police dispersed 2—30 kids and he thought that 2 may have been arrested. He said he knew that that there was a move to put CCTV in the park and that worried him because that would not stop the kids from going there. He said that money could be spent in better ways than putting CCTV in the Park.
 - xii. Councillor Maudling said he had written to the Police and Crime Commissioner about CCTV and said that we had paid years ago for CCTV to be installed in the Town Centre and that we needed the CCTV to be working again in the Town Centre as windows were being smashed.
 - xiii. Councillor E Dinsdale said he had been contacted by a resident about the lighting on Blackbeck roundabout and had found an app called fix my

- street so he had submitted a complaint on 10/11/21 and on 11/11/21 he received an update with a case number from Highways England and on 18/11/21 the lights were back on
- xiv. Councillor E Dinsdale raised concerns about parking around Corkickle which he said was mostly by Sellafield employees parking up and then catching the train. He said Park Drive Midgey had been highlighted so he had sent an email to Sellafield Limited about this and asking for a company notice to be sent out and that he would come back to the Council with an update

1928/21 Date and Time and Venue of Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting would be on 27th January 2022 at 6.00pm at the Beacon Portal.

IN PRIVATE

1929/21 That prior to the following items 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 or press be instructed to withdraw from the meeting.

Councillor E Dinsdale left the Meeting and did not return

1930/21 Councillor Ward Grant – HAG

The Council considered a report on a Councillor Ward Grant application by HAG as the power to award the grant was under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 which requires a resolution to say that

- (i) There is a direct benefit to the area or part of the area or to some or all of the inhabitants of the area and
- (ii) That the direct benefit accruing to its area or residents is commensurate with the expenditure incurred

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the Council pass a resolution that the Ward Grant application complies with the provisions of s 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 given in (i) and (ii) above and that the Council Ward Grant be granted. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED - That the Ward Grant application complies with the provisions of s 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 given in (i) and (ii) above and that the Council Ward Grant to HAG be granted.

Councillor Rayson left the Meeting and did not return

1931/21 Staff Incremental Pay Increase

The Council considered a report on a staff incremental pay increase. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that

1. That the annual increment be paid
2. That it be noted that there was likely to be a backdated payment to staff for the annual percentage increase to payscales for 2021/22 when it has been agreed by the Trades Unions and Employer and
3. That it be noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services will also be negotiating an increase in salary payscales for 2022/23

A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That

1. That the annual increment be paid
2. That it be noted that there is likely to be a backdated payment to staff for the annual percentage increase to payscales for 2021/22 when it has been agreed by the Trades Unions and Employer and
3. That it be noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services will also be negotiating an increase in salary payscales for 2022/23

The Meeting closed at 7.45



Chairman