

# WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Virtual Extraordinary Council Meeting held on the Zoom Platform on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public

### **1745/21 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Arrighi, Councillor G Dinsdale, Councillor R Gill and Councillor L Walmsley

### **1746/21 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor J Rayson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No. 5  
Councillor G Roberts declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 5 as he was a member of CCC

### **1747/21 Public Participation**

There was no public participation

### **1748/21 Purchase of Litter Picking Equipment**

Following an item being raised by Councillor Hayes in Councillor Ward matters at the Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 the Council considered a report on the purchase of litter picking equipment for use by the public, community and other groups for organised litter picking in the Parish. Members were informed of the cost of litter picking equipment from various quotes received including one for a children’s pack (including hi viz jacket) for £9.95 and it was agreed that 10 of these should be purchased. It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that an amount of £400.00 be allocated towards

buying 10 children's packs plus adult litter pickers and hoops. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That an amount of £400.00 be allocated towards purchasing 10 children's packs, plus adult litter pickers and hoops.

**1749/21 West Cumbria Mining**

At the Council Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 it was agreed that an Extraordinary Council Meeting be arranged for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to formulate ideas for a full schedule of action with respect to West Cumbria Mining. Councillor Dinsdale opened the discussion and said there should be a campaign name and a campaign logo. There was a long discussion on how to progress things and the following main comments were made:

- Cllr E Dinsdale – There should be an open letter to community leaders within Copeland and Allerdale and to all groups to include sporting, charities and parish Councils
- Councillor O'Kane – We should put together a shopping list of what we want to do and that this was going to take a little bit of time and thought
- Councillor E Dinsdale said the environment aspect was absolutely key so if we were to campaign for “green jobs for green steel” how would that fit?
- Councillor E Dinsdale said the first priority was to get the letter out as quickly as possible and secondly was a locally based petition which should be postcode related asking people to get behind us and sign the petition
- Councillor O'Kane – Replying to a question from the Clerk said they were doing this as Whitehaven Town Council
- Councillor O'Kane – Referred to the possibility of using young people to support the campaign and Councillor E Dinsdale said that the GMB had done this in one of their campaigns
- Councillor Rayson said the Company had been working with Lakes College for a number of years and it might be worth approaching them
- Councillor E Dinsdale said he would not personally be looking to push this into the national spotlight and thought it should be kept as a locally based campaign and build up on our strengths. He said he was reluctant for a petition to go on change.org and would be looking at some sort of technology where it was only people with a locally based postcode who could actually submit their name on it in support
- Councillor J Rayson said someone had already started a petition on facebook
- Councillor E Dinsdale said he would be looking to own the word “green” as the chances were that this was going to fall down to the environmental aspects
- Councillor O'Kane said it was no use just having meeting after meeting and asked where do we go from here

- Councillor E Dinsdale said the key stakeholders should be notified of what the Council was doing and what was being planned
- Councillor Maudling suggested holding an informal meeting of Councillors on next Tuesday at 6.00pm to sort things out

It was proposed by Councillor E Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor Maudling that an informal group be formed of Councillors to meet regularly to progress this matter. A vote was taken and 6 Councillors voted for and 1 Councillor abstained

**RESOLVED** - That that an informal group be formed of Councillors to meet regularly to progress this matter.

A further discussion then took place which was not formally minuted but it was stated that the matters to be determined at the informal meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April were:

- Logo
- Name
- Open Letter
- Locally based petition

Also Councillors agreed to take the following actions:

- Councillor O'Kane to touch base with Trudy Harrison MP and Mayor Starkie about the Council's actions
- Councillor Rayson to touch base with the Company
- Councillor O'Kane to ask Mayor Starkie to cascade to CBC Councillors

The Meeting closed at 6.50pm



Chairman