

# WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**Present:** Councillors G Roberts (Chairman); Councillor Hayes; Councillor Kane; Councillor O’Kane; Councillor Rayson; Councillor Walmsley

M Jewell Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V Gorley Trainee Assistant Town Clerk

Representatives from St Begh’s Church

Representatives from Whitehaven Academy Action Group

Mr J Crewdson

### **1184/19 Apologies For Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Forster, Councillor Gill, Councillor Lowrey and Councillor Poland

### **1185/19 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Roberts and Councillor O’Kane declared that they were members of Copeland Borough Council

### **1186/19 Public Participation**

- i. Representatives of the Clergy from St Beghs Church attended to talk about the proposed development at Quay Street adjacent to the Chapel of St Gregory and St Patrick. They made the following points which they asked the Council to consider:-
  - The South wall of the Chapel will be exposed leaving a long blank wall without windows
  - There are no plans by the developers to maintain the exposed wall which could become an eyesore with graffiti
  - There is a plan for a public space but it is such a small space that users and those approaching the single storey reception jutting out from the block to the Chapel could be competing for room

- There are plans for landscaping the public space but nothing for the East front to the Chapel and its north side so creating disharmonious public space and access.
- History shows how important the Chapel has been to the educational and social history of Whitehaven
- The new build will conceal the multi storey car park but the Chapel will no longer stand out and will be overshadowed

Several conditions were suggested that could be placed on the developers and incorporated into the planning permission namely:-

- The provision of a window scheme to the south and west walls
- Landscaping and lighting of Chapel grounds
- Building of a porch to the north of the building to allow greater public accessibility
- The prohibition of parking spaces against the Chapel walls

The Council expressed their support and said they would be making a formal decision on the planning application at the Council meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 and informing CBC accordingly.

ii. Representatives of the Whitehaven Academy Action Group attended to put certain things on record about the current situation at Whitehaven Academy:-

- On 1/12/18 CET took over but neither the parents nor the community had had any engagement with them. There was to be a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2109 but this was nearly 2 months after the takeover
- They were particularly concerned because a lot of comparisons could be made with BrightTribe eg
  - a disappearing headmaster -
  - Implications for children
  - Lack of transparency
  - No of community engagement
  - For the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 questions had to be submitted in advance and this was not going to be genuinely responsive as CET had been talking to solicitors and PR people. The salary for a Deputy Head recently appointed had also increased
  - There is no local advisory board so there is no current governance structure in place
  - Finances were another concern – the CEO of CET has had a salary increase. They can set the figure themselves and that salary comes out of the education pot
  - There is a lack of improvement under CET
  - Mr Turner did improve things significantly while he was there

*AK.*

- Don't want what has happened in the past to happen again
- It took a long time for parents to be heard and parent did not need another 2 years of this

Councillor O'Kane said that this was a serious situation as it was the future of the kids in our town and a meeting should be asked for between the Education Authority the Town Council and the Borough Council and suggested waiting a month to have a review meeting to ask a range of people (MP, CET, CCC) to attend to answer questions.

- iii. A member of the public (JC) attended and said he was a supporter of Whitehaven Town Council. He said he had attended a meeting of the Council 2 or three years ago about the cleaning of the town and said it was not good enough and that the cleaning of the town was not to a good standard. He said he knew that this was CBC's responsibility. He made a request for a man to go round the town with a barrow to sweep up. He said the bus stop outside Wilkinsons was a mess. He said what it needed was a man with a brush and shovel as there had been in the past. He said it was also bad outside betting shops and pubs in the town and asked if the Council could support a man with a barrow to go round the town. He said a dirty town centre has an adverse effect on the town. Councillor Roberts said that this would be looked into.

#### **1187/19 Appointment of Internal Auditor**

The Council considered a report on the appointment of the internal auditor for 2019/20.

It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that Mrs Julie Hartley be appointed as internal auditor for 2019/20

**RESOLVED** – That Mrs Julie Hartley be appointed as the Council's internal auditor for 2019/20.

#### **1188/19 Grass Cutting Contract**

The Council considered a report on quotations that had been received for cutting areas of grass shown at Appendix 1 to the report. The lowest quotation was from Copeland Borough Council in the sum of £10,562.49. This did not include removal of the grass cuttings. The Council considered that where possible grass cuttings should be removed but accepted that it would not be possible to do this in all cases.

It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Kane that the quote received from CBC in the sum of £10, 562.49 for cutting the grass on the areas shown at Schedule 1 from April to September 2019 be accepted subject to an extra amount being paid to the contractor for removal of grass from areas where this was possible.

**RESOLVED** – That the quote received from CBC in the sum of £10, 562.49 for cutting the grass on the areas shown on Schedule 1 from April to September 2019 be accepted subject to an extra amount being paid to the contractor for removal of grass from areas where this was possible.

**1189/19**      **Allotments Maintenance Contract**

The Council considered a report and quotations received for the maintenance of Council allotments for the period 2019/2020.

It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Walmsley that the quote from CBC in the sum of £ 6569.29 (ex. VAT) for the maintenance of Council allotments be accepted

**RESOLVED** – That the quote received from CBC in the sum of £6569.29 (ex VAT) for maintenance of Council allotments for 2019/2020 be accepted

**1190/19**      **Whitehaven in Bloom**

The Council considered a report on Whitehaven in Bloom relating to quotations received for the stripping and repainting of 12 cast iron tubs.

It was proposed by Councillor Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quotation from CBC in the sum of £1000 be accepted

**RESOLVED** – That the quotation received from CBC in the sum of £1000 for stripping down and repainting of 12 cast iron tubs be accepted.

**1191/19**      **Defibrillators**

The Council considered a report on defibrillators and the following Recommendations:-

- i. That the Council works with Doosan Babcock to have the defibrillators installed and that should this not go ahead then then the Council consider quotations received.
- ii That the Council pay the annual electricity cost of each defibrillator should the premises owners not wish to do so.
- iii That the Council having made a resolution, having heard reasons for suspension and having considered an assessment of risks agree to Financial Regulation 11 being suspended to allow the Council to purchase the defibrillator units including the cabinets from Cardio Cabinets
- iv That the Council considers meeting the ongoing costs of the

defibrillators:-

- a. The defibrillator pads have to be replaced after every use or after 2 years if not used at a cost of £20-£35
- b. The defibrillator battery lasts for approximately 5 years and the replacement cost is £150-£180

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Rayson that recommendations i to iv above be approved.

**RESOLVED** - That recommendations i to iv above be approved.

**1192/18**      **Budget for 2019/2020**

Following an informal meeting of the Council on 20th December 2018 to discuss the Council's proposed budget for 2019/2020 the Council considered a budget report which included a proposed budget for 2019/2020 drawn up as a result of these discussions. It was reported that a calculation of the precept based on the proposed budget showed an 8.89% increase which broken down meant an increase of

- £5.42 per annum on a Band D property (11p per week)
- £3.62 per annum on a Band A property (7p per week)

Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the proposed budget for 2019/2020 shown at Appendix 1 be recommended to full Council for approval and that CBC be informed

**RESOLVED** – That it be recommended to full Council that the proposed budget for 2019/2020 shown at Appendix 1 be recommended for approval and that CBC be informed.

The Meeting closed at 7.15

Chairman

