

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th December 2017

Present: Councillors B O’Kane (Chairman); J. Forster; R Gill; J. Kane; J Laine; T. Lowrey; C Maudling; G. Roberts
M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

859/17 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

860/17 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Maudling declared that he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel.

861/17 Public Participation

No members of the public attended.

RESOLVED – That this be noted.

862/17 Planning Applications

RESOLVED – That no representations be made in respect of the planning applications listed on Appendix 1 and that CBC Planning Department be informed accordingly.

863/17 Council Budget and Precept for 2018/2019

The Council considered a draft budget and precept for 2018/2019. The Clerk said that the formula for the calculation of the precept was based on last year’s figures and that CBC would be forwarding the up to date formula when the figures for Council Tax had been received from CCC at the end of December 2017.

Following a discussion on the budget lines it was:-

RESOLVED – (i) That the proposed budget for the core activities be agreed

(ii) Office Accommodation – That £250,000.00 for the provision of office accommodation be taken out of the general reserves.

(iii) Britain in Bloom – That this be increased from £12,000.00 to £18,000.00 and be renamed Whitehaven in Bloom.

(iv) Allotments – That this be reduced from £35,000.00 to £15,000.00 on the basis that the administrative/managerial/legal work for allotments be carried out by Town Council Staff and that quotes be sought for the maintenance of the communal areas of the allotments.

(v) Community Plan -That £8,000.00 be included for the preparation of a community Plan.

(vi) Public Realm contribution – That £1,000.00 be included for Public Realm Contribution.

(vii) Other Environmental Improvements – That this be reduced from the proposed £40,000.00 to £15,000.00

(viii) Bus Shelters Bins and Seats – That this be reduced from the proposed £95,000.00 to £40,000.00.

(ix) Ranger (Lengthsman Scheme) – That this be included in the budget in the sum of £26,800.00 as previously agreed by Council.

(x) Grants – That this be reduced from £30,000 to £15,000.00 with no grant awarded being higher than £1,000.00

(xi) That because of a return of unused grant monies the sum of £5,192.96 be returned to this year's grant budget and applications for grants be invited by mid January 2018 to be determined in private at the Full Council Meeting between 6.00pm and 6.30pm on 25th January 2018 and with the normal public part of the Council business following after that

(xii) That Councillors make efforts to spend their Ward Grants each year

(xiii) Grounds Maintenance – that this be reduced from the proposed £15,000.00 to £12,500.00

(xiv) That the budget be set out as agreed above and when the precept has been calculated that the budget and precept be reported back to the Council for approval and CBC informed accordingly.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Kae' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Chairman