

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 28th July 2022

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Office

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Member of the Public

Member of the Press

2056/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor J Rayson	Prior Engagement
Councillor G Dinsdale	Prior Engagement
Councillor C Hayes	Ill

It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the apologies for absence be accepted and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the apologies for absence be accepted and noted

2057/22 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Roberts declared an interest that he was a member of CCC

2058/22 Public Participation

PT said he had written to Councillor Stevens regarding the seat in the village at Sandwith and asked Councillor Stevens for a report on this. Councillor Stevens said her understanding was that the land and the bench were owned by St Bees School. She said she had made separate enquiries as to whether we could get the bench replaced and perhaps get a cheaper bench. The Chairman said the Council

should take advice from the Clerk on this and the Clerk gave the following advice-

- The Council would need written permission from the land owner to go onto the land and permission to replace the seat
- The Clerk said she would not advise getting the cheapest seat and referred to the enviropol seats that the Council had installed in the centre of Whitehaven
- That Councillor Stevens as the Ward Councillor for that area could give money out of her Ward Grant to the group in Sandwith who look after that area. Councillor Gill said the group was called the Sandwith Village Committee. Councillor Gill also said that the Committee could apply for a normal grant direct from the Council without touching the Councillor Ward Grant.

Councillor Stevens asked who on the Committee she should be talking to and PT named one person AD. It was mentioned that the Headmaster at St Bees School would be the person to contact in the first instance.

2059/22 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th June 2022

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th June 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th June 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

2060/22 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications received from CBC and shown at Appendix 1.

- i. Councillor Roberts referred to Planning Application 4/22/2135/0F1 relating to 23 dwellings at Harras Road, Harras Park, Whitehaven and said he had put objections in as a Councillor of WTC and CCC relating to
 - Drainage
 - Access
 - Overcrowding and
 - had asked to speak at CBC's next Planning Panel about this

Councillor Gill said the Council had objected in the past and believed that to be consistent we as a Council should oppose this

Councillor O'Kane asked if there could be clarification of what was going on up there in terms of development and asked Councillor Roberts if he had had a chance to look at them and Councillor Roberts said he had looked at all

the plans; all the reports; all the drainage reports; all the access reports; and the architectural layout of the schemes. Councillor Roberts said that there was no way the road system would handle these developments because Caldbeck Road can't handle it nor can Harras Moor Road. He said the drainage was inconsistent because it used to be a quagmire up there and it would need an attenuation pond and we had had attenuation pond difficulties elsewhere. He said that the whole thing leads to overcrowding.

Councillor O'Kane asked where did the 23 houses fit in with the rest as he had been unable to pick that up. Councillor Roberts said he didn't really know but from what he understood it was just an add on and was to cram in as many houses as possible to get the new homes bonus.

Councillor E Dinsdale said the Town was going to become The Whitehaven Housing Estate and Councillor Roberts said that if the Council approved this it would be building up mayhem for the future.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Walmsley that the Council writes to CBC strongly opposing the development. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED –That the Council writes to CBC strongly opposing the development.

- ii. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Walmsley that CBC be informed that following consideration of the remainder of the Planning Applications on Schedule 1 there were no further representations. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED - That CBC be informed that following consideration of the remainder of the Planning Applications on Schedule 1 there were no further representations.

2061/22 **Finance Report**

The Council considered a Finance Report.

- i. Appendix 1 – The Assistant Clerk reported that there was 1 extra invoice to consider namely:

Fluid Productions	£993.24 for tech support for Science Show
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It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 1 additional invoice listed above be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 1 additional invoice listed above be approved and paid.

- ii. Appendices 2 and 3 – the Council considered Appendices 2 and 3 and it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Carr that these be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

2062/22 **Asbestos on Midgey Allotments**

The Council considered a report on asbestos on Midgey Allotments and that a recent site visit with a new tenant had revealed that a number of fence panels could contain asbestos. As a result of this the Council's Rangers had been asked to conduct a survey of all the plots on the Midgey, Crow Park and Sneckyeat allotment sites. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that quotes for the removal of any asbestos identified on the Allotment Sites be sought from specialist companies who deal with the safe disposal of asbestos waste. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That quotes for the removal of any asbestos identified on the Allotment Sites be sought from specialist companies who deal with the safe disposal of asbestos waste.

2063/22 **Office Accommodation Quotes for Fire Engineering Review**

The Council considered a report on quotes for a Fire Engineering Review of the Council's offices which would entail a full assessment of the building in accordance with current Building Regulations to ensure the finished premise is both operationally functional to end users and offers suitable safety protection for its occupants and users. The Council's Architect was actively seeking quotes although this was proving a little difficult. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that in the event of an urgent decision being required in respect of a quote and if there was no time to take it to full Council for decision that this decision be delegated to the Clerk (Proper Officer) in consultation with Councillors and thereafter ratified by full Council. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That in the event of an urgent decision being required in respect of a quote and if there was no time to take it to full Council for decision that this decision be delegated to the Clerk (Proper Officer) in consultation with Councillors and thereafter ratified by full Council.

2064/22 **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan**

Councillor Roberts declared that he was a member of CCC so would not speak or Vote

The Council considered a report on the Local Cycling and Infrastructure Plan. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan be Noted. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1

Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED - That the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan be noted.

2065/22 **Council Representative at Strategic Energy Board and Other Nuclear Groups**

Further to Minute 2046/22vi it was reported that it was not possible to have a Council representative on the Strategic Nuclear Energy Board as this was a Committee of CBC and there was no provision for any members of outside bodies to be appointed but that there was a West Cumbria Strategic Sites Group (WCSSG) that a representative of the Council could attend.

Councillor E Dinsdale gave a presentation on the need for there to be a Council representative on the WCSSG which included the following

- As a Town Council we represent over 23,000 people
- Our Town is reliant on the nuclear industry for jobs and funding and we regard Whitehaven Town Council as a key nuclear stakeholder
- It is important that Whitehaven Town Council plays a part in how the nuclear industry moves from a strategic point of view
- It is also important this strategy is delivering for the residents and the Town of Whitehaven
- That the Council should have a nuclear representative role and that the Council representative should attend nuclear stakeholder meetings and events on behalf of the Town Council and report back to the Town Council with all the key points from the meetings attended.

It was:-

1. Proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Chairman be the nominated person to attend the West Cumbria Strategic Sites Group meetings
2. Proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Walmsley that Councillor E Dinsdale be the nominated person to attend the West Cumbria Strategic Sites Group meetings

A vote was held for the second proposal and 3 Councillors voted for the proposal, 4 Councillors voted against and 2 Councillors abstained

A vote was held on the first substantive proposal and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 3 Councillors voted against.

RESOLVED – That the Chairman, Councillor Maudling be the nominated person to attend the West Cumbria Strategic Sites Group meetings.

- i. Councillor O’Kane asked that CBC be contacted to get the hedge cut on Victoria Road.
- ii. Councillor Gill referred to the estate roads on Hensingham and said that the road had been patched but only about 10 holes. He said he had a meeting this week with CCC who had been trying to get the matter resolved.
- iii. Councillor E Dinsdale had requested an item on the Agenda regarding Gypsy and Traveller Sites but the Agenda had already been sent out so it was agreed that he could refer to the issue of Gypsy and Traveller sites in Councillor Ward Matters. Councillor E Dinsdale said:-
 - We as a Council objected to both the sites at Greenbank and Sneckyeat and that we should also be objecting to the Sneckyeat one with the grounds for the objection being
 - It used to be a landfill tip
 - CBC have admitted that previous tests on the old landfill site have discovered methane gas and the hazard can’t be ignored and the impact on human life with gas could be devastating. One discarded cigarette could result in disaster for a travelling family
 - There could also be issues around subsidence – landfill sites have a history of subsidence and how do you go about developing one of these sites
 - Issues on contaminated soil where there is heavy metal content previously found in samples taken
 - Asbestos – at the time when this was a landfill site there were no special waste permissions for asbestos
 - For a local authority to allow people to live in those sorts of conditions is not acceptable and safety must be paramount

Councillor Redmond left the Meeting at this point and did not return

Councillor Gill said that under the law CBC had to provide a gypsy and traveller site and Councillor O’Kane said that people could still object and then it would be passed to the Inspector. Councillor E Dinsdale thought it was important that Councillors were made aware that if we go to the position where this land is the preferred site this could attract national grants which would be taxpayers money.

Councillor Stevens said Elders would visit the proposed site to see if it was acceptable.

Councillor Dinsdale said that sites had to be provided that were deliverable and developable and this site wasn’t and that we should object on the grounds raised.

Councillor Walmsley declared an interest at this point as he was a member of CBC’s Local Development Framework Panel

Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that no action be taken at this point until detailed planning permission is submitted to CBC. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted for the proposal, 1 Councillor voted against and 2 Councillors abstained. It was RESOLVED that no action be taken at this point until detailed planning permission is submitted to CBC.

- iv. Councillor Roberts referred to the Brackenthwaite site and said the trees were being looked at as last Saturday night one of the trees fell down and the road had had to be closed. He said he had asked for a site meeting with Karl Melville and a tree specialist to take down any other trees that might be dangerous because we can’t have that happening again. He referred to the environmental impact that the demolition was going to have and said the whole site would have to be looked at and CBC had said that there must not be any dust fly or nuisance to neighbours. He said he had called for a site meeting to look at it to see how safely we can take the trees down and demolish the building safely, carefully and properly.
- v. Councillor Carr said he was concerned about the new houses built next to the cemetery where there was also a large speed bump. He said the properties were open plan with no fences and there would be new families with small children and that if you looked at any other houses on the Mirehouse estate they have fences but these houses have open-plan driveways and a child could run out into the road. Councillor Gill said the properties had been advertised for the over 55s but both Councillor Walmsley and Councillor Carr said that there were families in the properties.
- vi. Councillor Carr said he wanted to congratulate CBC on purchasing 2 road sweepers as he had recently walked along the footpath from Corkickle which comes out at Home Bargains and there had been a big difference and that we needed this around the town.
- vii. Councillor Walmsley agreed with Councillor Carr about the houses and said he would get in touch with Home Group regarding the new houses built and their concerns.
- viii. Councillor O’Kane asked that the monthly meetings with Mayor Starkie be restarted and that the Council receives a report on this.

2067/22 Date Time and Place of next Meeting

The next Council Meeting would be on 25th August 2022 at 6.00pm at the Beacon Portal, Whitehaven.

IN PRIVATE

2068/22 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 press be instructed to withdraw from the Meeting. All members of the public and press then left the Meeting.

2069/22 **Grant Application** - WTG

The Council considered a Grant Application from WTG for a Grant of £1,000.00. Members were informed that a Grant for £1,000.00 had been awarded to WTG at the last Council Meeting but that WTG had subsequently informed the Council that this was no longer required as funding had been obtained from elsewhere and they then submitted a new Grant Application for consideration. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Walmsley that a Grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to WTG. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor voted against.

RESOLVED – That a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to WTG

2070/22 With the Chairman's permission the Clerk mentioned the following:-

- i. Information - Most of the shops in Whitehaven including our offices had received a poster and 10 free tickets for the circus. However the tickets were free for two people provided that a programme costing £8.95 was purchased. The Clerk said if anyone wanted a ticket they were available from the office.
- ii. Information - The Council Offices – the opening up work had been completed that week and the results passed to our Architects
- iii. Information - The asbestos survey had been completed and had revealed nothing of any significance
- iv. Decision - Gerard Richardson had said that he had been contacted by the FA who said they had an inflatable football pitch for hire which could be put on St Nicholas Gardens and the Vicar had said he had no objections to this. The cost was not known but the Clerk was asking for the Council's permission to spend up to £500.00 to hire an inflatable (whether it be a football pitch or other inflatable) during the school holidays and preferably as an addition to our Traders Market on 26th August 2022.
It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that approval be given to hire an inflatable football pitch or if not available another suitable inflatable as an addition to the Traders Market on 26th

August 2022. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained

RESOLVED – That approval be given to hire an inflatable football pitch or if not available another suitable inflatable as an addition to the Traders Market on 26th August 2022.

The Meeting closed at 7.30pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chairman