

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19th March 2019

Present: Councillors G Roberts (Chairman); R Gill; B O'Kane; J Rayson;
C Walmsley

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V Gorley, Trainee Assistant Town Clerk

The Chairman stated that there were no missing items on the Agenda and that item 6 and 7 would be taken as items 3 and 4.

1239/19 Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hayes, Councillor Maudling, Councillor Forster and Councillor Poland

1240/19 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

1241/19 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

1242/19 Office Accommodation

The Clerk gave a report on the present position with regards to the purchase of the former Whitehaven News building. There had been an issue the previous week with planning permission being required for a change of use from Class B1 to a mixed use of Class B1 and D1. The application for planning permission would cost £462 and would take 6-8 weeks to determine which would delay exchange of contracts and completion. CBC's Planning Manager had indicated that planning permission was very likely to be granted as the Council would be bringing a town centre building back into use and that the use of the building would be compatible use in the town centre.

Advice received from the Council's solicitor stated that he would strongly advise against proceeding without planning permission and advised that the Council should proceed to exchange of contracts and pay a 10% deposit subject to an acceptable planning permission being granted and if no such permission is

granted then the contract would be cancelled and the deposit refunded with interest. The solicitor said that there was a qualified planner in his practice who was able to complete the application for planning permission at a cost of £500.00 (excluding the fee of £462).

However the seller had, the afternoon of the Council meeting, agreed to proceed with the sale subject to planning permission for the change of use with the suggestion that the planning application is lodged and validated within 4 weeks and then the usual 8 week determination period after that.

Following a discussion the following proposals and resolutions were made:-

- i. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O'Kane as required by Standing Order 23a that a resolution be made to authorise the execution of all legal deeds in connection with the purchase of the former Whitehaven News building.

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Standing Order 23a that the execution of all legal deeds in connection with the purchase of the former Whitehaven News building be authorised.

- ii. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that in accordance with Standing Order 23b that the 2 Councillor to sign the legal deeds be Councillor Roberts and Councillor O'Kane with the proviso that should one not be available then Councillor Gill be a signatory

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Standing Order 23b that the 2 Councillors to sign the legal deeds be Councillor Roberts and Councillor O'Kane with the proviso that should one not be available then Councillor Gill be a signatory.

- iii. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that the Clerk be authorised to send the 10% deposit money (if required) to the Council's solicitor on exchange of contracts and thereafter to send the completion monies to the Council's solicitor.

RESOLVED – That the Clerk be authorised to send the 10% deposit money (if required) to the Council's solicitor on exchange of contracts and thereafter to send the completion monies to the Council's solicitor.

- iv. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the qualified planner from the Council's solicitors practice be asked to complete and submit the application for planning permission for change of use from Class B1 to mixed Class B1 and D1 use for the former Whitehaven News building at a total cost of £962.



RESOLVED – That the qualified planner from the Council’s solicitors practice be requested to complete and submit the application for planning permission for change of use from Class B1 to mixed Class B1 and D1 at a total cost of £962.

The Meeting closed at 6.30

Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Williams', written over a horizontal line.