

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on the Zoom Platform on 29th

April 2021

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Jenny Brumby, CBC Buy Local Scheme Co-ordinator

Members of the Public

1754/21 Apologies for Absence

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

1755/21 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Rayson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 12 as she had an allotment

Councillor Roberts declared an interest in Items 7 and 13 as he was a member of CCC

Councillor Maudling declared an interest in Item 7 as he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel

Councillor O’Kane declared an interest in Item 7 as he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel

1756/21 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th March 2021

Councillor E Dinsdale referred to Minute 1718/21 and said in his declaration of interest he has also included Whitehaven Rugby League and asked for this to be included. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th March 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to an

amendment being made to Minute 1718/21 to include Whitehaven Rugby League. A vote was taken and 6 Councillors voted for, and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th March 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to an amendment being made to Minute 1718/21 to include Whitehaven Rugby League.

1757/21 **Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 1st April 2021**

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 1st April 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was taken and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 1st April 2021 be approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record

1758/21 **Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 22nd April 2021**

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting on 22nd April 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 22nd April 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

1759/21 **Public Participation**

A member of the public wished to speak but had problems connecting to zoom at the appropriate time and came in after the Planning Application Item and it was agreed that she be allowed to speak as part of Public Participation
A member of the Public (GS) representing the newly formed Whitehaven Womblers wished to speak about the long standing litter around the whole area of Whitehaven and the challenge of litter.

She said that litter doesn't magically appear. It is 99.9% dropped by people with a habit of dropping litter namely:

- their bus ticket on the bus
- their cigarette end after a smoke
- their sweet wrapper after a "treat"
- their drinks can/bottle after their drink
- their dog's poo bag after picking it up"
- their scratch card after losing, again.

These habits are endemic around here, as they are in many parts of the country. They are the signs of a community who have given up on themselves. Habits that have never been properly challenged. Habits which badly let down this town and our country as a whole.

So Whitehaven Womblers are going to do something about it. We are meeting the Shop-Local Coordinator next week to look at ways we can influence the cleanliness of our High Streets.

We are already working with local big businesses and supermarkets to ensure their immediate areas are clean and tidy.

We are identifying litter black spots and will be cleaning them up and keeping them clean.

We will be pushing for Street Litter Wardens for every street.

We will be starting an “Hearts and Minds” campaign to encourage every householder and every business to keep the area outside their property litter free.

We will be working with Clean Up Britain to push for Copeland to come down hard on those found to be Fly Tipping. And we will push for the Enforcement Officers to be effective in their roles.

We will be asking WTC to site litter and dog bins in suitable locations, right across the Whitehaven area. Starting with one litter bin at every working Bus Stop and one dog bin on every major road and/footpath.

GS informed the Council that Whitehaven is a Gem, or will be, once this blight has been removed from our area. It is time to clean up our acts – Whitehaven Womblers are here.

The Chairman thanked GS for attending and said the Town Council would like to help out wherever we can but could not promise anything.

1760/21 Planning Applications

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

Councillor Rayson referred to application 4/18/2287/001 and said she opposed the development at Harras Moor because of

- lack of/poor infrastructure and the Chairman and Councillor Walmsley had again commented in the Whitehaven News about the traffic at St Benedict’s School but that it was not just St Benedict’s it was all around and the roads were not adequate. Councillor Rayson said that residents had attended Council Meetings in the past speaking about surveys that had been carried out at inappropriate times when it was in the school holidays and that she didn’t think the surveys had been real.
- If the development goes ahead the number of children who could be living on that estate would probably be going to school in the catchment area of schools that are already oversubscribed which means they would be travelling further afield with more traffic on the road spilling out even further to schools further down the road.

Councillor Roberts concurred with Councillor Rayson's objections and said there were absolutely severe issues with traffic. He said nothing had been solved as yet and there were drainage problems that had to be solved and until these matters had been resolved especially with the schools at the top and the access at the bottom down under the Sunnyhill bridge with large lorries etc which could use the road – constructional traffic – he objected to the proposal. Councillor E Dinsdale supported the comments of Councillor Rayson and Councillor Roberts and wanted to add to this as Councillor for Corkickle Ward as what concerned him was the fact that the traffic is directed from Harras Moor through Hensingham and would eventually go through Inkerman Terrace and through Corkickle and that was a big concern for him.

Councillor Hayes said he totally agreed with this.

Councillor Maudling pointed out that this was an outline application and that the infrastructure would not be material on this one. It was proposed by Councillor Rayson and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the comments/objections raised above be forwarded to Copeland Borough Council Planning Department. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained.

RESOLVED – That CBC be informed that following consideration of the Planning Applications on Appendix 1 the Council had made the above comments/objections on Planning Application 4/18/2287/001

1761/21 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance Report.

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

1. V Gorley £21.51 postage for Agendas

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes 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 Hayes and seconded by Councillor Rayson that these be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted

1762/21 Street Name and Numbering

The Council considered a report received from Copeland Borough Council consulting the Council on street name and numbering on the continuation of the

residential development on Edgehill Park in Whitehaven which had been submitted by the developer. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Maudling that CBC be informed that there were no objections to the proposed street names for properties on Edgehill Park, Whitehaven. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That CBC be informed that there were no objections to the proposed street names for properties on Edgehill Park, Whitehaven.

1763/21 Photocopier Contract

The Council considered a report following Minute 1724/21 when it was agreed that the Council would obtain quotes from contractors for the provision of a photocopier with the same specification as the present photocopier and report back to the Council. Shown at Appendix 1 was a list of quotes received and following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote from the current supplier for the purchase of a New Sharpe MX2651N costing £2,700.00 with a price per copy maintenance contract at 0.0025p for each mono copy and 0.025p for each colour copy be accepted and the machine purchased. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the quote from the current supplier for the purchase of a new Sharpe MX2651N costing £2,700.00 with a price per copy maintenance contract at 0.0025p for each mono copy and 0.025p for each colour copy be accepted and the machine purchased.

1764/21 Remote Access for Home Working

The Council considered a report for making provision for staff to have remote access to the Council’s server when working from home. The Council’s IT provider recommended using Microsoft One Drive to store data so that it could be accessed remotely. The cost for this work was £180.00 with additional ongoing charges of £11.40 per month for 3 x Office 365 Licences. It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Council’s IT Provider be authorised to carry out the necessary work to enable staff to access Council data remotely at a cost of £180.00 plus £11.40 per month for 3 x Office 365 Licences. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Council’s IT Provider be authorised to carry out the necessary work to enable staff to access Council data remotely at a cost of £180.00 plus £11.40 per month for 3 x Office 365 Licences.

1765/21 Allotments

The Council considered a report on Allotments which gave an update on the

current position. A request had been received for the erection of a polytunnel on an Allotment and the Allotment Advisory Group had recommended approval of this. A recommendation was also made to provide a 12 cubic yard skip on each Allotment site in October 2021 and March 2022. 4 quotes had been sought for this but only 1 skip company had replied and had given a quote of £240.00 plus Vat per skip. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor E Dinsdale that (i) the request to erect the polytunnel on the allotment be approved and (ii) that the quote of £240.00 plus VAT per skip be accepted and that a 12 cubic yard skip be provided on each Allotment site in October 2021 and March 2022. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That (i) the request to erect the polytunnel on the allotment be approved and (ii) that the quote of £240.00 plus VAT per skip be accepted and that a 12 cubic yard skip be provided on each Allotment site in October 2021 and March 2022.

1766/21 West Cumbria Mining

The Chairman gave an update report on West Cumbria Mining. He said it was primarily about what the Council had agreed to put together . Following the request for people to sign a Council petition there had been a letter in the Whitehaven News which had asked the Council to apologise for the petition and the result of that had been to make a few more people sign the petition. The Chairman said the Council’s petition currently had had 10,000 views, 475 shares and 711 signatures which wasn’t too bad considering there was another petition that had been organised elsewhere.

The Chairman said the Council had said it would write a letter and Councillor Rayson confirmed the last day for submissions was 7th May 2021.

The Chairman asked if that included the petition. The Clerk said the petition should be submitted on or before that date and then if any more signatures were received they could be forwarded on.

The Chairman said the Council needed to find out how to submit the petition and how we do it.

This report was for information only and no decisions were made

1767/21 Welcome Back Fund

The Chairman said Whitehaven had been allocated £30,000.00 from the Welcome Back Fund of which £27,000.00 was to be spent in the Town.

£3,000.00 was possibly designated towards the Harbour

£27,000.00 was to be spent by CBC in consultation with the Town Council

Councillor Hayes said although there was £30,000.00 wasn’t there £75,000.00 in the Public Realm money already. The Chairman confirmed there was but suggested that this aspect be left for the moment and come back to it later.

The Chairman listed some ideas for the Welcome Back Fund and asked that Councillors comment on them:-

- Extra waste collections in summer in the Town centre.
- Extra covid signs and banners
- Possibility of putting seats in the Green Market for people to sit there
- The small helmet in the Green Market to be repainted
- Shop wraparounds for the empty shops in King Street
- Request for bunting in King Street. The Chairman said that the Council had bought a lot of bunting for VE day last year and thought that this could be used.
- St Nicholas Gardens – suggested that a professional painter be employed to paint the front gates to St Nicholas Gardens in black and gold
- Possibly putting covid remembrance seats into St Nicholas Gardens and if the Town Council could work with this fund we could buy 4 seats and ask the fund to cover another 4.
- Castle park – how do we repaint the bandstand – can it still carry on or can any part of it be done on a voluntary basis. CBC still want the bandstand repainted.
- The building near the bandstand to be reopened for public use with public toilet facilities and a local retailer taking it on to sell ice cream
- This would require benches to be put into Castle park for people to sit of a type similar to those proposed for the Green Market
- Possibly some money might be used to improve areas of the play area in Castle park.
- Adjustments to the play area particularly with reference to small children could possibly be funded out of the public realm money mentioned earlier.

Councillor Hayes said that some local professionals had offered to repaint the bandstand 3 years ago for free but they could not do it now as the pandemic had severely affected their businesses and in any event if they were not going to be used to paint the small helmet why would they paint the bandstand for free.

Councillor Rayson said the bandstand had been an eyesore for a long time and that on a Saturday afternoon if the bandstand was repainted we would need bands and we needed kids doing displays.

Councillor Maudling agreed and said bands would be keen to get on there and the same with dance schools and asked that once the bandstand was in use if there could be fixed seating installed in front of the bandstand.

Councillor Hayes thought it would be wrecked within a week unless it was policed properly and if it was not all the graffiti would be back in a matter of days. He also said the rubbish in the park was a disgrace.

Councillor O’Kane agreed and said enforcement was a real issue for a whole range of things and that the Council should express its concern about enforcement in Town.

Councillor Rayson asked if there was any scope for CCTV. The Chairman said that CCTV only has a use if someone is monitoring it.

Councillor Hayes said the shop wraparounds were urgent and should be done now.

Councillor Maudling referred to the old Victorian lampstands in King Street and said that they were only painted half way up and asked if they could be repainted at the same time as the repainting of the bollards.

Councillor O’Kane referred to the lights in the Market Place and said after working with CBC 9 of the 15 were working and they were looking into how to repair the remaining 6.

Councillor O’Kane proposed that the Council make a recommendation that CBC support some of the changes in Castle Park by using part of the Public Realm money and this was seconded by Councillor Hayes. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the recommendation that CBC support some of the changes in Castle Park by using part of the Public Realm money be approved.

Jenny Brumby then said

- Castle park is a great space and she would like to work with the Town Council to upgrade it and also to upgrade the children’s part and getting the funding for it
- That Councillor E Dinsdale had spoken to her about entertainment in the park and sports events that could be shown. For all the different events they would have to make sure the park was fit for purpose
- That she wanted to see visual enforcement in Whitehaven and particularly in places like Castle Park
- She said the Welcome Back Fund was heavy on campaigns ie
 - Working on getting waste emptied
 - Provision of more bins
 - Taking more responsibility as adults for our actions
 - Need re-education around this
 - Media campaigns
 - Events programme through the summer

Jenny said if Councillors had any more ideas to get in touch with her over the next week and also for any projects that they would like to develop.

The Chairman thanked Jenny Brumby for attending.

1768/21 Councillor Ward Matters

- i. Councillor Hayes said there had been a lot of fly tipping up at the old mine at Kells. They had had a local person going out and sorting it out and Copeland were very quick to pick the bags up
- ii. Councillor Maudling said it was nesting time and obviously a lot of seagulls and as well as the seagulls there was a lot of litter in town. He said the seagulls took the moss off the roofs and it was on the pavements all over town.

Councillor Maudling said there was a quite a problem with the scooters that were for hire outside the Civic Hall zooming up and down and speeding up King Street when people were coming out of shop doors which caused problems and thought that maybe the \police could help with this, Councillor Maudling said he would contact the Police himself about this,

iii. Councillor E Dinsdale asked the Clerk if Mr T Todd had dropped off the price list for the advertising. The Clerk said he hadn't but that no doubt Mr Todd had been very busy. Councillor Dinsdale said he would chase it up with Mr Todd

iv. Councillor Rayson said the Ward was looking nice around the area and a lot of people were going out and about. She said some residents had been going out and picking rubbish up.

Councillor Rayson said they had had a problem at the end of Caldbeck Road with the turning circle with ASB, The PCSO had been going on their rounds regularly and they had said there had been no activity for a while.

Councillor Rayson referred to the seagull problem at Red Lonning and said she and the Chairman met with residents last year up at Red Lonning. There was nesting on the pond at the bottom of the campus, Walkmill Gardens, The Gables and on surrounding properties. Some properties had spikes on but this was not deterring the seagulls. The noise was bad particularly at Red Lonning. She said this was a CCC problem but the CC Councillor Wonnacott had not responded to residents' emails and asked if CBC Environment Health could be asked to have a look at this. Councillor Rayson said she knew it was not the Town Council's responsibility and that the Town Council had done all it could. The Chairman asked Councillor Roberts if CCC had an Environmental Health Department and Councillor Roberts said not exactly but was sure he could access somebody at County Hall to have a look at this for us.

v. Councillor O'Kane said there was a large pool area at the bottom of St Benedict's which was an overspill water area and this had been put through CCC planning and they had put this water area in without realising it was a major magnet for seagulls and that he had been told by CCC that this was now St Benedict's problem as it was on their land.

Councillor O'Kane raised 3 matters:

1. Vandalism on Bleach Green. He said football posts had been put up and were well used but 2-3weeks ago somebody decided to take some bits out.
2. Traffic concern complaints around the schools. He asked if Councillors felt that the Council should be putting pressure on CCC to review the traffic issues of all the schools in their wards
3. There had been recycling issues in terms of stuff not being picked up. However Councillor Morgan had assured CBC Councillors that the recycling issue was going to be addressed very quickly and extra staff being taken on to handle recycling.

1769/21 **Date of next Meeting**

The date of the next full Council Meeting will be the Annual Meeting on 27th May 2021 at 6.30pm.

The Clerk informed the Council that this would be a face to face meeting as remote Council Meetings could not take place after 6th May 2021

IN PRIVATE

1770/21 That prior to the following item 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 zoom platform.

Councillor Hayes proposed this and Councillor Roberts seconded it. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That in view of the special of 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 zoom platform. All members of the public and press then left the Meeting.

IN PRIVATE

1771/21 **Grant Application - WHC**

The Council considered an application for a grant of £1,000.00 from WHC It was proposed by Councillor Maudling and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to WHC. A vote was taken and 6 Councillors voted for 1 Councillor voted against

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

1772/21 **Ward Grant Awarded to The Copeland Veterans Group**

The Chairman referred to a Councillor Ward Grant recently awarded to the Copeland Veterans Group and gave a verbal report on this. It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that this item be placed on the next Council Agenda to allow Mr Forster and Councillor Arrighi to attend to clarify the situation in full with all details provided. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained

RESOLVED – That this item be placed on the next Council Agenda to allow

Mr Forster and Councillor Arrighi to attend to clarify the situation in full with all details provided

The Meeting closed at 7.40

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Arrighi', written in a cursive style.

Chairman