

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 30th March 2023

Present: Councillor E Dinsdale (Deputy Mayor in the Chair); Councillor J Carr; Councillor R Gill; Councillor C Hayes; Councillor B O’Kane; Councillor R Redmond;

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public

2217/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor C Maudling	Attendance at Event
Councillor G Dinsdale	On holiday
Councillor J Rayson	Work commitments
Councillor G Roberts	ill

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Carr 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

2218/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

2219/23 Public Participation

A member of the public (FC) said she lived in Queen Street near the Doctors surgery and was a member of the Whitehaven Tidy Town Committee and that they were trying to raise some money for that area and were going out on Sunday to tidy up and wondered if the Town Council would be able to support them with any help for that area and asked what the proposals were for the Council’s own building as regards the outside as they were trying to get the area all tidied up. She said she knew the Council had planning permission for the building. She

said she was decorating her own property at the moment and a Councillor had been to have a look at the empty property next door to her and they were just wondering if the Town Council could do anything to help them clean the area especially as it was close to the Council Offices.

Councillor Gill said if they went to the Office they could fill in a form for a grant up to £1,000 or the form could be downloaded from the Council's website. The Clerk asked if the organisation was properly constituted – if it had a Secretary, Chairman and Bank Account and it was confirmed that it did. Councillor Gill said another option was to see their Town Councillor as each Town Councillor had £2,000 to spend on worthwhile causes in their Ward. (FC) said it might be just help that they needed rather than money and asked about when the other old buildings were going to be decorated and tidied up in the Town. The Clerk said the Council's building would be renovated inside and outside and would be painted a marine colour.

Councillor O'Kane gave some advice and said that if in the meantime they suddenly found they did need some help the Council met on a monthly basis and so they had a month to contact Councillor Maudling and then approach the Clerk.

2220/23 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23rd February 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23rd February 2023 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 Council Meeting held on 23rd February 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2221/23 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 9th March 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 9th March 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 9th March 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2222/23 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor E Dinsdale that following consideration of the planning applications on Appendix 1 that CBC be informed that the Council had no representations to make on these. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That following consideration of the planning applications on Appendix 1 that CBC be informed that the Council had no representations to make on these.

2223/23 **Finance Report**

The Council considered a Finance Report.

- i. Appendix 1 – The Assistant Clerk reported that there were 3 extra invoices to consider on Appendix 1 namely:-

Cumbria Media	£104.00 for uploading onto website
Glasdons	£847.65 for Coronation Seat
V Gorley	£24.70 for tea and coffee for APM

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the invoices on Appendix 1 plus the 3 additional invoices listed above be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the invoices shown at Appendix 1 plus the 3 additional invoices 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 O’Kane that these be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

2224/23 **Tall Ship Visits**

The Council considered a report on a booking for a Tall Ship, La Malouine from 18th to 21st August 2023. The Council had previously approved visits by two Tall ships in 2022 but no costings were agreed. (Minute 2110/22 refers).

The Captain of La Malouine has not given any costings for the visit but it is suggested that a figure of £800.00 plus VAT would cover this plus 3 nights security at a cost of £945.00 plus VAT. The same amount of funding would be required if a visit of a second Tall Ship could be arranged. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the Council approves the costings for the visit of the Tall Ship La Malouine in August 2023 and approves similar costings if it is possible to book a second Tall Ship. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That that the Council approves the costings for the visit of the Tall Ship La Malouine in August 2023 and approves similar costings if it is possible to book a second Tall Ship.

2225/23 **Coronation Lamp Post Signs**

The Council considered a report on Lamp Post signs for the coronation. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that 100 Coronation Lamp Post signs be purchased at a cost of £399.00 plus £10.99 delivery charge. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That 100 Coronation Lamp Post signs be purchased at a cost of £399.00 plus £10.99 delivery charge.

2226/23 **WCSSG**

Councillor Dinsdale gave a report on this. He said he had listened to a playback of the video of the meeting on 7th March and attached a brief note of that meeting. He said he had also attended a meeting of the Emergency Planning Working Group on Thursday 13th March 2023. He had been promised that the Minutes of that meeting would be forwarded to him in time for this meeting but that had not happened and so he was going to wait until the Minutes arrived and bring it back to the Council and give the Council some bullet points. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the report be noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

2227/23 **Councillor Ward Matters**

- i. Councillor E Dinsdale said there were a few issues in Corkickle Ward. One was potholes. These potholes were on a speed hump just as you come out of Valley Park and you turn left to go down Whinlatter Road. The problem was that when a car was parked up there was no option for motorists other than to go over them so that had been submitted via CCC. A resident also said that the road markings on the give way part of Calder Avenue were worn away and as soon as he had been made aware of this he had submitted a complaint to CCC and they had acknowledged it and they gave a reply to say that the work had been put out to the maintenance team.

Councillor Dinsdale said there were issues on Maple Grove where himself and Councillor Carr had been trying to work through this on social media. Councillor Dinsdale said that if all previous reports that had been sent to CCC were forwarded to him that he would try and progress these. He said that out of all the stakeholders that the Council had that he had found the reporting system at CCC to be the best and effective.

Councillor Carr said that he had been speaking to one of his neighbours yesterday and they had re-submitted a report yet again and it had come up as a crack in the road so he said the automatic system wasn't 100%. He said there is no one to speak to and you need to use that system.

Councillor E Dinsdale said that you did get a response and an update and you can go on the system and track the report. Councillor Carr said his neighbour had put a report in in December and that he had put a report in in January and it was just basically sitting there and that he would forward this report to Councillor Dinsdale the next day.

- ii. Councillor O’Kane said he echoed everything Councillor Dinsdale had said about potholes and that 50% of what he was aware of were in the middle of the road. He said there was only one day left for Copeland and the Open Spaces Department no matter how many times they had been asked had still not cut the Bleach Green Hedge and that there would be compensation claims being put in due to scratches on cars.
- iii. Councillor O’Kane said we need to do something about Home Group. He said that Home Group to him seemed adept at side-stepping priorities and more recently it had become difficult to work with Home Group and residents. He said that about 3 years ago when Home Group had attended a Council Meeting they told the Council how good they were and how they listened to residents and he just wished that was true and he was sure that this was the same in all the Wards and didn’t know how or even if it was possible to call Home Group to account. Councillor Hayes said Home Group had attended a meeting with residents on Kells and they had answered every question. Councillor Hayes said he had asked Home Group how to get in touch with them and they said by email. Councillor O’Kane said he had spent the day before trying to phone Home Group and after 45 minutes he was still 6th in the queue. Councillor E Dinsdale referred to the Boxing Club when Home Group had given them Notice. The Clerk said Home Group would be invited to attend a Council Meeting. Councillor O’Kane said he found it sad that CBC Overview and Scrutiny had the power to call in social landlords and had done nothing for the past few years
- iv. Councillor Carr said the potholes on the 09 side and the roads were in a bad state of repair. He referred to the lighting between the 09 Mirehouse fairy path to Greenbank and said 4 out of 5 of the lights were out and said it was an accident waiting to happen. He said information was coming back from CCC to say they were aware of it. Councillor Carr said it was Copeland who owned the land who fixed the lights. The Clerk said CCC had to be authorised by Copeland in order to repair the lights.
- v. Councillor Hayes said there had been a meeting at Kells and the County Councillor was there and she said they couldn’t afford to repair and resurface every road and what they had to do was patch and move on. He said they would concentrate on the main roads and the B roads and everything else would be a slow second
- vi. Councillor Hayes said there had been a few issues with vandalism and kids running over the top of metal containers so the Rugby Club had put some anti slip paint on them and that the next solution would be to move the containers away from the gardens so the kids couldn’t easily get upon them.

- vii. Councillor Gill said that Cumberland Road had been resurfaced after 8 years of complaining. He said that he had had numerous meetings with Home Group when he was on Copeland and since then he had had meetings in the Community Centre at Hensingham and things had been agreed and then nothing had been done. He said people were up in arms where he lived as Home Group had doubled the ground maintenance charge for grass cutting from £12 to £24 per year and that he had no faith in Home Group at all. Councillor Gill thanked Councillor Mike Hawkins for getting the roads done.
- viii. Councillor Gill referred to the fact that John Baker was leaving and asked that a letter be sent to him to thank him for all the work he had done during his time as CEO of the Harbour Commissioners and for working in partnership with the Council.

2228/23 Date and Time of next Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting will be on 27th April 2023 at 6.00pm.

Before the Meeting closed the Clerk referred to an urgent matter that had recently arisen and the Chairman gave permission for the matter to be discussed.

2229/23 Increase in Rate for Security Provision

The Clerk informed the Meeting that an urgent matter had arisen that afternoon and the Chairman agreed that it could be dealt with. A letter had been received from the Council's security provider to say that in previous years their hourly rate per operative had been the same at £17.50 plus VAT. However due to the increase in the national minimum wage from 1st April 2023 they would need to increase the hourly rate per operative to £19.50 plus VAT and asked for the Council's agreement to this. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Carr that the increase in the hourly rate per operative from £17.50 plus VAT to £19.50 plus VAT be approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That that the increase in the hourly rate per operative from £17.50 plus VAT to £19.50 plus VAT be approved.

The Meeting closed at 6.35pm

Chairman

