

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Extraordinary Council Meeting held on the Zoom Platform on 9th March 2021

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Jenny Brumby, Copeland Borough Council

John Baker, CEO Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners

Members of the Public

1705/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Walmsley, Councillor L Walmsley, Councillor R Redmond, Councillor G Dinsdale

1706/21 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Arrighi declared an interest in the private items in regards to VC as she had previously been a trustee but was not any more.

Councillor O’Kane declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of the 3 school grants and needed to declare a non-pecuniary interest in SJIS as he was a Governor, his daughter worked there and his grand-daughter attended there.

1707/21 Public Participation

There was no public participation

1708/21 Presentation by Jenny Brumby

A presentation was given by Jenny Brumby, CBC’s Buy Local Scheme Organiser which was an update of what was being done in Whitehaven. She made the following points:

- It was a very stressful time for businesses at Christmas and then we hit lockdown so again it was a difficult time for the businesses but many have done well with click and collect and asked that if anyone was struggling to let her know
- She was working with businesses to make sure they get grants etc
- She was working on a 12 month project for this year but it was difficult
- She was hoping to launch The Young Entrepreneurs market in May and it would be held once a month and building up from that and asked that if anyone knew of any young entrepreneurs who were setting up their own business and who like any advice or a free stall on a Saturday to link in with her
- There were a lot of exciting projects coming for Whitehaven and she would be able to give more details next month
- The loading bays in Whitehaven were waiting to be signed off by CCC

Questions were asked as follows:

Councillor Gill – We don't seem to be getting any meaningful consultation from CBC and didn't think that CBC takes WTC seriously

Answer – Jenny Brumby said she would feed this back but that this was one of the reasons that she was at the Meeting so that the Council would have someone to liaise with. She said she was there to get the Council's input.

Councillor Maudling – For the free market stalls can we make sure that the Young Entrepreneurs are given first choice.

Answer – Yes.

Councillor Rayson asked if there would be free parking in Whitehaven when the shops re-open and asked if there was anything that CBC and the HC could do about parking areas being free even for a short time.

Answer – That's something that I'm discussing at the moment but there has been no agreement but it was something she was pushing for.

Councillor Maudling said last year there were 3 towns namely Middlesbrough, Mansfield and St Helens that did free parking after 3pm and the retail business increased by 37%.

Councillor O'Kane asked if there was still an intention to work as a partnership to clean up the rest of the Town. Is it still under consideration?

Answer – Yes I had talks with Shirley and it is definitely something we wanted to do after Christmas and it should be in partnership with WTC, CCC and HC as it is more cost effective to work like that.

The Chairman thanked Jenny Brumby for coming to the Meeting.

The Chairman introduced John Baker the Chief Executive Officer of the Harbour Commissioners

John Baker said he was attending the meeting to explain the background on what they were trying to achieve at the moment and the challenges they were facing and then open the floor to any questions or suggestions

He made the following points:

- They were a non-profit organisation and every penny they made goes back into the Harbour infrastructure as it was a big estate to look after as there was 24 acres of Harbour which had to be cleaned and maintained every day and that was a big challenge
- They had 5 car parks across town, the Rum Story tourist attraction, the harbour facilities and the Rum Story shop. He said car parking generated the most income but due to covid the car parking revenue was down and also the Rum Story and Rum Story shop had been closed during lockdown
- That the passion of the local people about the Harbour is strong
- He said the Commissioners were not paid and worked on a voluntary basis and had a passion for the Harbour and Whitehaven
- Their vision was to conserve and promote the harbour
- There was a very small team of local people with a tremendous commitment to the harbour.
- Some of the ways the assets have been looked after is not good enough and there needed to be a gold standard of maintenance for the Harbour
- The Harbour was for everybody and he wanted to work in partnership with people
- They were looking at setting up a Harbour Users Group comprising people who use the Harbour and would like a representative from the Council and also a member of the public to sit on the User Group
- He said they were trying to be more active on social media to tell people what they were doing and would like representatives from the Town Council on this and also a member of the public
- He said the Harbour was very much part of the town and hoped that they could be included in things going on in the town
- The Lighthouses, the Crows Nest and the Wave all needed to be addressed and they had a lot of work to do.
- John said they were looking to maximise all opportunities and were open and trying to push things forward
- John said the Clerk had his contact details if any Councillor wanted to contact him or wanted to have a walk around the Harbour with him

Councillors asked the following questions:

Councillor Rayson – I would be looking to taking up your offer to have a walk

around and talk in depth, She said she had been to the Harbour recently and could see that improvements had been made already and asked John what his top 3 priorities were that he would like to address

Answer – The Crows Nest which was already being addressed

The Wave lit up and back to its best

The Lighthouses – the whole project itself to get them back to where they should be is over £200k

Get an events programme up and running so that there is an event every weekend

Councillor Rayson – Do you ever see the return of the Maritime Festival in some form

Answer – I wouldn't say we would do another Maritime Festival and wouldn't want to replicate that.

Councillor Maudling – Said he would love to have a walk around the Harbour and talk about several things. One of the biggest things was dog fouling and asked John if he could prosecute people for this

Answer – John said they were introducing new dog bins to replace the old dog bins and doubling the amount of dog bins around the Harbour. He said they were also going to provide plastic bags for people to use.

Councillor Gill welcomed John to the beautiful town of Whitehaven. He said he welcomed the idea of a user group and the more people who can have an input the better and it was nice to see some positive comments on social media.

Councillor Hayes – he said he had been working closely with John for the last couple of weeks trying to tidy up the lighthouses and get something done.

Councillor Roberts – Said there was mention of an activities centre to be built on the Harbour and asked if that idea had fallen through.

Answer – John said they were going through the final process of getting funding and the plan is that they hope to start work this June with a 12 month design and build to be ready for summer 2022.

The Chairman thanked John Baker for attending the Meeting

1710/21 Telephone Contract

The Council considered a report on the Contract for the Council's integrated telephone system which was due to expire on 27th May 2021 and which it was not proposed to renew. It was reported that at the end of the Contract the phones remained in the ownership of the Contractor but that the contractor had said that they could be purchased for £50.00. A Check on the internet had revealed that the phones retailed between £30 -£50 each. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor E Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor Maudling that

the phones be purchased from the contractor at a price of £50.00 and if anything goes wrong with them that they are repaired or replaced. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the phones be purchased from the Contractor at a price of £50.00 and that if anything goes wrong with them that they be repaired or Replaced.

1711/21 Photocopier Contract

The Council considered a report on the maintenance contract for a Sharp printer which the Council had purchased from Midshire in February 2016 and which had expired. The company had provided a quote to purchase a new multi functional machine at a cost of £1900 plus VAT and had advised that a Click Cost contract for 5 years be entered into for 5 years for service and maintenance of the machine. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote of £1,900.00 for a new machine be accepted and that the Click Cost Contract for service and maintenance paying 0.25p for each mono copy and 2.5p for each colour copy be entered into for 5 years. A vote was taken and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the quote of £1,900.00 be accepted for a new photocopier and that the Click Cost Contract for service and maintenance paying 0.25p per for each mono copy and 2.5p for each colour copy be entered into for 5 years.

IN PRIVATE

1712/21 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 seconded the proposal moved by the Chairman and following a vote 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 zoom platform. All members of the public and press then left the Meeting.

The Chairman asked that order of the grant applications be reversed and the Ward Grant Applications for the schools be taken first and this was agreed.

1713/21 **Application for Councillor Ward Grant – BSPTA**

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Councillor Ward Grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to BSPTA. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for and 1 Councillor abstained.

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

1714/21 **Application for Councillor Ward Grant – SJPSPTA**

Councillor Hayes declared an interest in this item as he was a Governor of SJPS

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the Councillor Ward Grant of £500.00 be awarded to SJPSPTA. A vote was taken and 6 Councillors voted for and 2 Councillors abstained.

RESOLVED – That the Councillor Ward Grant of £500.000 be awarded to SJPSPTA

1715/21 **Application for Councillor Ward Grant – SJISPTA**

The Council considered an application for a Ward Grant from SJISPTA. It was noted that SJISPTA had applied for their own bank account and were waiting for it to be set up and in the meanwhile any monies would have to be paid into the school bank account.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the Councillor Ward Grant of £500.00 be awarded. A vote was taken and 6 Councillors voted for and 2 Councillors abstained.

RESOLVED – That the Councillor Ward Grant of £500.00 be awarded to SJISPTA

1716/21 **Application for Councillor Ward Grant – VC**

The Council considered an application for a Councillor Ward Grant because the application was not in accordance with the Guidelines and it was s137 expenditure. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Maudling that the request be denied but that Councillor Arrighi be urged to contact the charity to ask them as a matter of urgency to put an application in off the Council's website for a grant from the Council's normal grants system and hopefully that would be looked favourably upon. A vote was taken and 7 Councillors voted for, 1 Councillor voted against and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED – That the request be denied but that Councillor

Arrighi be urged to contact the charity to ask them as a matter of urgency to put an application in off the Council's website for a grant from the Council's normal grants system and hopefully that would be looked favourably upon.

The Meeting closed at 8.25pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Key', written in a cursive style.

Chairman

