

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31st May 2018

Present: Councillors G Roberts (Chairman); B O’Kane ; J Forster; R Gill; J Kane; C Maudling; J Laine; J Rayson;

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley Trainee Assistant Town Clerk

Members of the Public

Police

Press

991/18

Councillor O’Kane opened the meeting and informed the Council that Michael Guest had ceased to be a Councillor under section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 due to non attendance. The Clerk gave a statement outlining the situation. Following heated exchanges Councillor O’Kane invoked Standing Order No.2 (Disorderly Conduct at Meetings) and proposed that in accordance with the Standing Order that Councillor Laine be removed from the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Gill A recorded vote was held and the results were as follows:-

Councillor O’Kane	For
Councillor Roberts	For
Councillor Gill	For
Councillor Forster	For
Councillor Kane	For
Councillor Maudling	Against
Councillor Rayson	Against
Councillor Laine	Against

Councillor O’Kane asked Councillor Laine to leave the meeting. She refused and the Police were then called and Councillor Laine was escorted from the room.

Mr Guest refused to leave or move into the public gallery but was not allowed to take part in in any discussions or votes.

Councillor Rayson left the meeting after the vote and did not return. Councillor Roberts also left the meeting but returned before consideration of the following items.

992/18 **Appointment of Mayor (Chairman)**

Councillor Gill nominated Councillor Roberts as Mayor and this was seconded by Councillor Maudling. No other nominations were received and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That Councillor Roberts be elected Mayor for the ensuing year. Councillor Roberts then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor O’Kane then thanked everyone for their support in the last year and wished Councillor Roberts all the best for the ensuing year.

993/18 **Appointment of Deputy Mayor (Deputy Chairman)**

Councillor Forster nominated Councillor Gill as Deputy Mayor and this was seconded by Councillor Roberts.

Councillor Kane nominated Councillor Maudling and this was seconded by Councillor O’Kane. Councillor Gill then said he would stand down and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That Councillor Maudling be elected Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year. Councillor Maudling then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Laine was then allowed to come back into the meeting.

994/18 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lowrey and Councillor Poland

995/18 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th April 2018**

Councillor Gill moved that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Roberts
Councillor Laine wished her vote to be recorded and voted to abstain.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

996/18 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Maudling said he was a member of CBC Planning Panel
Councillor O’Kane said he was a member of CBC Planning Panel
Councillor Roberts said he was a member of CCC

997/18 **Public Participation**

There was no public participation

998/18 **Mayor/Chairman's Allowance**

The Council considered a report on the Mayor/Chairman Allowance. Councillor Laine proposed that the report and its recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Maudling.

RESOLVED – (i) That the Report be approved and the expenses of the office of Mayor be defined as in paragraph 1.7 of the report and
(ii) That the Mayor's Allowance continues to be administered in the office and the Mayor is reimbursed on production of a receipt for the expenditure incurred provided that it is expenditure specified in 1.7 of the report.

999/18 **Planning Applications**

The Council considered a report on planning applications received and shown at Appendix 1.

RESOLVED – (i) That CBC be asked to supply background reports from officers relating to the conservation and environmental factors on the planning applications referred to the Town Council
(ii) That the Clerk inform the Planning Department that the Council had no representations to make on the planning applications shown at Appendix 1

1000/18 **Financial Report**

The Council considered a Financial Report. Councillor O'Kane proposed that the invoices shown at Appendix 1 be approved and paid. This was seconded by Councillor Gill

RESOLVED – (i) That the invoices shown at Appendix 1 be approved and paid

RESOLVED – (ii) That the Cash Book and Income and Expenditure shown at appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted

1001/18 **Annual Return for Approval**

The Council considered a report on the Annual Return and The Clerk reported that the Annual Governance and Accountability Forms package for 2017/2018



which included the Annual Internal Audit Report had been received from the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn and had been completed pending approval by the Council as shown at Appendix 1 to the report ready for public inspection and submission to PKF Littlejohn.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill that Section 1 be approved and this was seconded by Councillor O’Kane
Councillor Laine wished it to be recorded that she voted against this

RESOLVED – (i) That Section 1 – The Annual Governance Statement 2017/2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk

It was proposed by Councillor Gill that Section 2 be approved and this was seconded by Councillor O’Kane.
Councillor Laine wished it to be recorded that she voted against this

RESOLVED – (ii) That Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2017/2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman and the responsible Financial Officer

For the procedural matters in (iii) and (iv) below Councillor Laine wished it to be recorded that she votes for these and it was:-

RESOLVED –(iii) That the Annual Return be advertised for public inspection to comply with the timescales and that Councillors be sent a copy of the Notice

RESOLVED – (iv) That the Annual Return be submitted to PKF Littlejohn by 11th June 2018.

1002/18 Report of Staffing Committee

In the absence of a Chair Councillor O’Kane said he was making a report in the absence of a chair and apologised because an Agenda had been issued with last year’s members on it and that the Staffing Committee had met to discuss that Agenda. He apologised for this and said it was an admin error. However that Agenda had no recommendations on it and when the error was pointed out Councillor O’Kane had said that a Staffing Committee would be held with the appropriate attendees. Councillor O’Kane said there had been a Staffing Committee meeting scheduled for tonight before the Council meeting but that it had not taken place as it was not quorate. He proposed that the items to be discussed be retained and kept for the first Staffing Committee meeting.

RESOLVED – That this be noted



1003/18 **Appointment to Policy and Resources and Finance Committee and Appointment to Staffing Committee and Appointment of Chairman and Deputy Chairman**

(i) The Council considered the appointment to The Policy and Resources and Finance Committee and it was :-

RESOLVED - That Councillor Roberts; Councillor Maudling; Councillor Forster; Councillor Laine and Councillor O’Kane be appointed to the Policy and Resources and Finance Committee for the ensuing year

(ii) The Council considered the appointment to the Staffing Committee and it was:-

RESOLVED – That Councillor Roberts; Councillor Maudling; Councillor Forster; Councillor Kane and Councillor Laine be appointed to the Staffing Committee for the ensuing year.

1004/18 **Appointment to Advisory Groups for Christmas Festivities, Whitehaven in Bloom and Allotments**

The Council considered a report on the appointment of Councillors to Advisory Groups and it was :-

RESOLVED - (i) That the Christmas Festivities Advisory Group be renamed the Events Advisory Group and that Councillor Maudling; Councillor O’Kane; Councillor Forster; Councillor Kane and Councillor Laine be appointed to the Events Advisory Group for the ensuing year

Councillor Gill proposed that the Whitehaven in Bloom Advisory Group remain as a separate Advisory Group and this was seconded by Councillor Forster. It was

RESOLVED – (ii) That Whitehaven in Bloom remain as a separate Advisory Group and

(iii) That Councillor Forster; Councillor Laine; Councillor O’Kane and Councillor Maudling be appointed to the Whitehaven in Bloom Advisory Group for the ensuing year

RESOLVED - (iv) That Councillor Forster; Councillor Laine and Councillor Gill be appointed to the Allotments Advisory Group for the ensuing year.

1005/18 **Report on the General Data Protection Regulations**

The Council considered a report on the General Data Protection Regulations and their impact on the Council.

The Clerk outlined the main provisions of the Regulations.

Councillor Gill proposed that the report and the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Kane and it was:-

RESOLVED - That the Council approve the report and the recommendations contained therein.

1006/18 **Report of Allotments Advisory Group**

The Council considered a report on discussions at Allotment Advisory Group Meetings together with recommendations/requests made by the Group.

Councillor Gill proposed that the report and the recommendations contained therein be approved and this was seconded by Councillor O'Kane

RESOLVED – That the report and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

1007/18 **Report of Whitehaven in Bloom**

The Council considered a report from a meeting of the Whitehaven in Bloom Advisory Group and recommendations contained therein.

Councillor O'Kane said that Gen 2 had been requested to make two metal ships for flowers for next year.

Councillor O'Kane thanked Ian Latter and Stan Sanczuk for all their help.

Councillor Gill proposed that the report and the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Maudling.

RESOLVED – That the report and the recommendations contained in paragraphs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the report be approved

1008/18 **Corruption in Copeland**

Mr Guest asked if he could make a statement about this and the Council agreed to this. He said:-

“ The only way this matter can properly be discussed is by case examples.

A number of complaints are presently before the Borough Council under the Code of Conduct which I understand concerns unlawful and possibly criminal conduct. It would be inappropriate to discuss such matters in public. It would

be best for the Town Council to let matters run their course. Does Whitehaven Town Council really wish to discuss individuals in a public meeting without their consent at a time when I understand the Information Commissioner is already investigating this Council over alleged unlawful downloading of personal data”.

1009/18 Calendar of dates and times of Council Meetings, Committee and Advisory Group meetings for approval

The Council considered a report on a calendar of dates and times for 2018/2019 for Council Meetings, Committee and Advisory Group Meetings for approval. The Clerk said the meeting dates were not set in stone and that it may be necessary to have additional meetings

RESOLVED – That the calendar of dates and times of Council Meetings, Committee and Advisory Group meetings for 2018/2019 be approved subject to the last date for Community Plan Workshops/Training being amended to read 13.03.19.

1010/18 Councillor Ward Matters

- (i) Councillor Kane said there was still an issue with Castle Park and that it was only cleaned officially on a Monday and a Friday and that the bins were overflowing every day. He said he would be bringing this up with CBC.
- (ii) Councillor Forster said there was to be a fun day on 23rd June just outside Kie Park with bouncy castles etc and that they could do with the Ranger as the grass was overtaking the park. The Clerk said that if an email could be sent detailing exactly where it was the Ranger would be sent up.
- (iii) Councillor Gill referred to the playing field next to Greenbank P & M Club and said that he had telephoned the office and that it had been very efficient and the grass had been cut the next day by the Ranger
- (iv) Councillor Gill referred to the graffiti on the Castle Park bandstand and said there was a swastika on it and asked that this be brought to CBC’s attention. Councillor Kane said there was always going to be a problem unless we had Enforcement.
- (v) Councillor O’Kane said he had received a request to ask if there was anything we could do as a Council for Bleach Green and was trying to arrange a meeting with parents to get their ideas. He said the play area had disappeared long ago.
- (vi) Councillor Maudling said that CBC Enforcement were now going to Castle Park two night a week at 8.30pm

- (vii) Councillor Maudling said that the traffic lights on Inkerman Terrace and Mirehouse were having an adverse effect on all businesses in the town centre. Councillor Kane said it also effected the residents of Midgey. Councillor Maudling said he had been contacted by residents of the valley, Irt Avenue, Esk Avenue etc who had complained about parking and that they couldn't get outside their own homes. Councillor Gill said the traffic going up Inkerman Terrace was backed back as far as McDonalds and that he had spoken to CCC Mike Hawkins who had said it was not CCC but Highways England and they had said that it was in their programme of work. Councillor Maudling asked if it could be brought to the attention of the MP. The Chairman and said he would contact the MP.
- (viii) Councillor Laine said she was surprised that Councillor Gill, seeing as it was in his Ward, had not mentioned the fires at Sandwith and Kells that had happened over the weekend. She said she had spoken to residents at Mirehouse who had also been concerned. Councillor Laine asked if the Council could bring it up with the Fire Service and ask them to do some talks in schools for pupils in the 15/16 age group.
- (vix) Councillor Laine referred to Mirehouse pigeon lofts – the CBC wagon had tipped out all the rubbish it had picked up and that she had spoken to Janice Carrol and James Hunter at CBC who had accepted that it had been a problem.
- (vx) Councillor Laine referred to the potholes on Mirehouse and wanted to know when the work was going to start as it had been promised and was in the budget.
- (xi) Councillor Laine said she had asked CCC for speed bumps outside Valley School and asked Councillor Roberts if he would take it up and he said there would have to be a business case. Councillor Laine said there wasn't a business case and said it was a risk factor that a child was going to die and that something needed to be done. She said it would be helpful if she could meet on site with someone from Highways. The Chairman said he would flag this up with Chris.
- (xii) Councillor O'Kane said he thought all schools needed this
- (xiii) Councillor Laine said she had dealt with a few vulnerable people in the past months and Councillors could do with some training on how they hand over safeguarding cases. She said the Council needed information on what to do.
- (xiv) Councillor Laine referred to the ramp access at St Bees Beach which was used by people on the parish and said it was eroding. She had been in touch with

CBC and they were going out next week to have a look at it and assess it and hopefully have it resurfaced.

- (xv) Councillor Kane referred to the fires and said that 5 people had been arrested for setting fire to Morrisons. Councillor Laine said that there was still a lot of intelligence coming in on the fires and she had been giving out the email address for 101 so that people could report the incidents.
- (xv) Councillor Kane said he had received complaints that the play area on Hillcrest at the bottom of The Crest and known as The Grange was overgrown.

1011/18 Date of next Council Meeting

RESOLVED - The date of the next meeting be 28th June 2016 at 6.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

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

Chairman