

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th December 2017

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Trainee Assistant Town Clerk

Members of the Public

840/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Forster
Councillor Gearing; Councillor Lowrey and Councillor Roberts

841/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th October 2017

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

842/17 Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 13th November 2017

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

843/17 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Rayson declared an interest in Item 17 as she was a member
of the Whitehaven Academy Action Group.

Councillor Maudling declared that he was a member of CBC’s Planning
Panel.

844/17 Public Participation

No member of the public wished to speak.

RESOLVED – That this be noted

845/17 **Planning Applications**

RESOLVED – That consideration of the planning applications be deferred to the next Council meeting.

846/17 **Change of order of Agenda Items**

The Chairman moved that Item 17 (Whitehaven Academy) be taken first and asked that Councillor Rayson give an update on the position and said that the community owed Julie Rayson and the Whitehaven Academy Action Group a debt of gratitude.

RESOLVED – That Item 17 be dealt with as the next item with Councillor Rayson giving an update on the position.

847/17 **The Whitehaven Academy**

Councillor Rayson gave an update on Whitehaven Academy following the previous week's public meeting and made the following points:-

- That it had been a team effort with support from the staff and the community
- That they were going to engage with the National Schools Commissioner Sir David Carter. Trudy Harrison had spoken at the Education Select Committee and put her concerns over
- The parents had had a lot of frustration
- No one from the Regional Schools Commissioners office attended the meeting
- Since the meeting the Action Group had met with Mr Turner to put proposals together and Trudy Harrison had met with Justine Greening
- There was going to be sponsorship
- There had been a declaration of interest from one multi academy trust
- They were hoping to meet with the Regional Schools Commissioner next week and there might be an announcement before Christmas
- The Chairman asked how the government would support the students and Councillor Rayson said it was still an issue as the

existing trust would still be there until Easter and the buildings would still be in the same state. She said they were trying to see if there were any high quality teachers who could come in and help. The Action Group were still actively fundraising and had got a grant from the Cumberland Building Society for sewing machines.

RESOLVED – That this be noted and that the Education Authority be asked to come to the next Council meeting to ask them what they are doing about Whitehaven Academy.

848/17 **Financial Report**

The Council considered a Financial Report containing invoices to be authorised for payment shown at Appendix 1 (the Clerk also asked that a further invoice be included in respect of the payment for the CFM stage at the switch on totalling £2,700 including VAT and this was agreed); and income and expenditure reports shown at Appendices 2 and 3. A vote was held on payment of the invoices and 4 voted to authorise payment and Councillor Laine wished it to be noted that she voted against as she did not agree with the market.

RESOLVED – (i) That the invoices shown at Appendix 1 together with the extra invoice mentioned above be authorised for payment.

(ii) That the cashbook and income and expenditure reports at appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

849/17 **Whitehaven Town Council Audit for year ending 31/3/2017**

The Council the Annual Return received from BDO, the Council's External Auditors and the issues arising from the Annual Return.

RESOLVED – That the Annual Return including the Certificate for the year 2016/2017 be approved by the Council and that the Annual Return including the Certificate and the Conclusion of Audit be published on the Council's website for at least 14 days.

850/17 **Appointment of Internal Auditor**

The Council considered a report on the appointment of an Internal Auditor.

RESOLVED – That 3 quotes be obtained from competent and experience people for the provision of an internal audit service to the Council based on 2 internal audits in 2018/19.

851/17 **Grass Cutting**

The council considered a report that Copeland Borough Council had submitted a quote to cut areas of grass in 2018/2019 that they had cut in previous years and which had been paid for by the Town Council.

RESOLVED – (i) That by the end of December 2017 Councillors be asked to submit to the Clerk any additional areas in their Wards to be included in a grass cutting programme for 2018/2019.

(ii) That in January 2018 3 quotes be sought for the grass cutting of these areas for consideration by the Council.

852/17 **Health and Safety Consultants**

Further to Minute 811/17 a report was considered on the appointment of Health and Safety Consultants to the Council.

It was reported that Kim Allen Health and Safety Consultants had provided a contract (shown at Appendix 1) for the Council's consideration.

RESOLVED – That 3 quotes be obtained for the provision of a health and safety service to the Council and that these be referred to the Council for decision

853/17 **Street Light on Unadopted Road**

The Council considered a report about a street lighting column on the unadopted part of Caldbeck Road which had been cut down by Copeland Borough Council for safety reasons. CBC stated that they had a policy that stated that when any street columns that they had erected came to the end of their life they would not be replaced Following a complaint by a resident CBC had referred it to the Town Council to ask if it would consider replacing the lighting column. It was reported that because the lighting column was on an unadopted road it would not be

maintainable at public expense and the replacement would cost in the region of £2,000 plus ongoing maintenance and electricity costs.

RESOLVED - That this be deferred to the next meeting and that a letter be sent to Copeland Borough Council asking for a copy of their policy and when the policy was agreed.

854/17 **Office Opening Hours**

RESOLVED – That the Town Council Offices be closed from 4.00pm on Friday 22nd December 2017 to Tuesday 2nd January 2018

855/17 **Corruption in Copeland**

RESOLVED – That consideration of this be adjourned until Councillor Guest attends

856/17 **Audit and Governance Report**

The Chairman reported that he had been asked by Copeland Borough Council to include an item on the Agenda to read out and Audit and Governance Report. However he had not received the Report.

RESOLVED – That this be noted.

857/17 **Councillor Matters**

(i) Councillor Rayson said she had been round the estate with residents and referred to the following:-

- The path at the top of Highfields by Rascals and that nothing could be done to stop it flooding but something could be done to stop it overgrowing.
- Opposite Jericho Park there is a triangular piece of land quite overgrown and there is something like a brick built raised bed all overgrown with weeds. She said she was hoping to arrange a get together with some residents to carry out works to tidy it up.

- Councillor Rayson said she had called in a Johnstone House and there was a need for a defibrillator down that end of the estate; also one outside Jericho School and one outside the fire station
- The keep clear yellow road markings on Highfields have disappeared. CCC had said that they would be done in 10 weeks and Cllr Rayson had told them that this was not acceptable and in any event 10 weeks had now passed. She said she had emailed the CCC but had had no reply.
- Councillor Rayson said that she wished to pass a massive thank you to the Town Council on behalf of the Whitehaven Academy Action Group for arranging the public meeting the previous week.

(ii) Councillor Laine referred to the following:-

- The cycle path where it goes through Home Bargains to Mirehouse and especially Burnmoor Avenue. There are no lights and it is CCC responsibility. Children are walking up and down the path at 6-7pm each night and we need to look to see what we as a Town Council can do.
- Dog poo and litter bins on Mirehouse. It was agreed that litter bins be put on the next Agenda.
- There are needles and litter everywhere.
- The Oval outside the Mirehouse shops is an eyesore and it is Home Group's responsibility.
- Councillor Laine said she had been in touch with CBC Environmental Health Department regarding Home Group because of the accommodation above one of the Mirehouse shops which had been leaking water. The family had 6 children and have now been rehoused but they could have fallen through the ceiling and that Councillor Holiday had said at a recent CBC Council meeting that he was satisfied with health and safety in the Borough
- The Town Council needs to be asking CBC Enforcement officers to do things.
- The zig zag lines and the pedestrian crossing at the Valley School can't be seen and it was agreed that Craig McCarron would be invited to the next Council meeting.

(iii) Councillor Gill said there was a need for defibrillators as follows:-

- 1 on Hensingham Square
- 1 in Sandwith Village

- 1 outside the Red Lion at Woodhouse
- (iv) Councillor O’Kane said a defibrillator could be put outside the Pelican Garage and referred to the need for new dog bins and for estimates for smaller bins for the estates to go on the next Agenda and also the cost of emptying the bins.
 - (v) Councillor Maudling referred to Home Group and the Queen Street problem area. He said the archway bins were always overflowing although they were regularly cleaned once a week by CBC. He said he would like to know what the policy is because all the people with problems with drugs seemed to have been moved into that area.
 - (vi) Councillor Gill said there were no fire alarms in Queen Street where there are fires and it was agreed that because of a range of health and safety issues that CBC Mayor, Executive and Directors be invited to the next Council meeting to go through a range of Environmental and health and safety issues.

858/17

Councillor Group Recommendations

The Council considered recommendations made by a Councillor Group who met to discuss various contracts and the budget and precept.

RESOLVED – (i) That the Terms of Reference of the Policy and Resources and Finance Committee be referred to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources and Finance Committee for consideration and amendment and then referred to full Council for ratification.

(ii) That Councillor Maudling be appointed to the Policy and Resources and Finance Committee.

(iii) That the contracts with Online Systems, Corporate Finance and Midshire be continued until they expire.

(iv) That the Lexmark photocopier be sold subject to the response from Midshire

(v) That a letter be sent to Janice Carroll and Mike Starkie re the cost of erecting and dismantling the market stalls on 19th November 2017 and that only the original quote be paid.

(vi) Councillor Roberts had said that he would like to be the bus shelter champion and it was resolved that Councillor Roberts be appointed bus shelter champion and that if possible he arrange for two bus shelters to be erected at the Pelican garage and Greenbank before the end of the financial year

(vii) That the budget and setting of the precept be

further discussed at an Extraordinary Council meeting on 14th December 2017 at 6.00pm at Whitehaven Golf Club with a time limit of 2 hours.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. J. G. C.', written in a cursive style.

Approved subject to an amendment detailed in Minute 874/18