

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 27th August 2026

Present: Councillor R Gill (Chairman); Councillor C Hayes; Councillor J Carr; Councillor E Dinsdale; Councillor B O’Kane; Councillor G Roberts; Councillor R White

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Press

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and introduced himself and asked all Councillors present to introduce themselves. He said there was no scheduled testing of the fire alarm and that if the fire alarm went off people should go out in an orderly fashion down the way they had come in. He said toilets were right outside the door. For any member of the public wishing to speak he would take names at the start of the public participation item and members of the public were allowed 3 minutes to speak and the time allowed for public participation was 15 minutes in total. Members of the public were not allowed to speak while the normal business of the Meeting was going on

3088/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received as follows:-

Councillor A Spedding	Holiday
Councillor R Redmond	Holiday
Councillor A Pearson	Holiday
Councillor G Dinsdale	Maternity

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Carr that the apologies for absence be accepted and noted. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal, and 1 Councillor voted against. It was

RESOLVED - That the apologies for absence be accepted and noted

3089/26 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gill declared that he was a member of Whitehaven Heritage Action Group and had been appointed by St James Church to sit on a Committee to look at the viability at turning the South Gallery into a museum

Councillor Hayes declared that he was a Trustee of the Whitehaven in Need Relief Committee

3090/26 Public Participation

There was no public participation

3091/26 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th July 2026

The Clerk reported that she had made a typing error on the first page and had named Councillor E Dinsdale as Councillor E Dinsdale Gill and said that she would amend that before the Minutes were signed

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th July 2026 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th July 2026 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3092/26 Report from Cumberland Council

The Clerk Reported that Councillor J Ghayouba from Cumberland Council had sent an email giving details of an update relating to his Ward
The Clerk read out the email as follows:

1. The playpark tender has now closed and an order has been placed for the first playpark to go on Bransty field next to the community garden. I expect the build will be starting imminently
2. A pedestrian crossing for residents will be built on New Road this financial year with discussions ongoing with national highways to deliver one at the same time on the Loop Road side of the pelican garage.
3. Earls Road has been resurfaced but some residents have expressed concern about the work so I'm going to have a look for myself
4. Bransty Road is due a full repair but the work has been rescheduled I do not know the revised date yet.
5. Whitehaven Masterplan has been approved by Executive now. We are going to look at pushing the quick wins through.
6. Enforcement activity is picking up too with empty shops and Cllr Williamson and I are meeting enforcement bi-weekly to keep the pressure up.

He said if Councillors had any questions he was happy to try and address them.

Councillor Carr asked how they did that and the Clerk replied through her.

The Chairman accepted Councillor Ghayouba's report with the Council's thanks for the information. Councillor O'Kane asked to go back to where the Council

had been several times. He said he did not understand why how we as a Council can function without updates from the County Council and suggested putting forward a request to Councillor Fryer to make sure that Whitehaven Town Council has regular updates every month pertaining to the Council's area and of the issues that affect it which would help Town Councillors fulfil their roles and play an active part alongside the County Council. The Clerk asked Councillor O'Kane to clarify his request and said he had asked for a letter to be sent to Councillor Fryer to make sure Whitehaven Town Council had details but of what Councillor O'Kane said of issues that affect Whitehaven Town and surrounding areas so that we may play our active part alongside the County. This was a proposal by Councillor O'Kane and it was seconded by Councillor Carr. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That a letter be sent to Councillor M Fryer to make sure that Whitehaven Town Council receives regular updates every month pertaining to the Council's area and of the issues that affect Whitehaven Town and surrounding areas so that the Council may fulfil their roles and play an active part alongside Cumberland

3093/26 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1
It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor White that following consideration of the Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1 that Cumberland Council be informed that the Council had no representations/comments to make. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That following consideration of the Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1 that Cumberland Council be informed that the Council had no representations/comments to make.

3094/26 Finance Report

The Council considered the Finance report

- i. Appendix 1 – The Council considered a list of invoices at Appendix 1 plus 2 additional invoices below:-

Beacon Fire Protection Ltd	£306 for annual fire and intruder Alarm service
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Cumbria Media	£321 for web site maintenance
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- ii Appendices 2 (Appendix 1) and the Income and Expenditure (Appendix 3) be approved and noted

- i It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the invoices shown at Appendix 1 plus the additional 2 invoices be approved and authorised for payment. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the invoices shown on Appendix 1 plus the additional invoice be approved and authorised for payment

- ii It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Cashbook (Appendix 2) and the Income and Expenditure (Appendix 3) be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Cashbook (Appendix 2) and the Income and Expenditure (Appendix 3) be approved and noted.

3095/26 Allotment Update Report

- 1.1 Further to Minute 3071/26 The Council considered an Allotment Update Report giving details of the position with regards to the Council's Allotment sites. The Clerk informed the Council that :-

- Cartgate Allotment Site – there was 1 vacancy
- Crow Park Allotment Site – There were 3 vacant plots
- Midgey Allotment Site – There were 2 vacant plots plus a plot specifically adapted for people with disabilities
- Sneckyeat Allotment Site – No vacancies

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Carr that paragraph 1.1 of the Report be noted and approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That paragraph 1.1 of the Report be noted and approved

3096/26 Quotes received for Maintenance of Allotments and Pigeon Lofts

The Council considered a report on quotes received for the maintenance of Allotments and pigeon Lofts for 2027/28. Three quotes were sought and one quote was received. One contractor declined to quote and one Contractor did not reply.

The Council considered the quote received at a total annual cost of £7,438.00. and it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts the quote received be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the quote of £7,438.00 for maintenance of Allotments and Pigeon Lofts be accepted

3097/26 Quotes received for Grass Cutting in St Nicholas Gardens 2027/28

The Council considered a report on quotes received for grass and hedge cutting and regular spraying and weed removal from paths and paved areas and under seats etc in St Nicholas Gardens for 2027/28. Three quotes were sought and one Contractor submitted a quote, one Contractor declined to quote and one Contractor did not reply.

The Council considered the quote received and it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote be accepted on the figures in the report and on the basis that the grass be cut and collected.

A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That quote be accepted on the figures in the report and on the basis that the grass be cut and collected.

3098/26 Quotes received for the provision of Skips on Allotment Sites

The Council considered quotes for the provision of 1 12yd open skip on each of the 4 Allotment Sites twice a year in April May 2027 and October 2027.

Three quotes had been sought and 2 quotes were received:

Contractor A quoted £330.00 per 12yd skip

Contractor B quoted £400.00 per 12yd skip

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Carr that the quote received from Contractor A of £330.00 per 12yd skip be accepted for the supply of skips to the Council Allotment Sites in 2027. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the quote received from Contractor A of £330.00 per 12yd skip be accepted for the supply of skips to the Council Allotment Sites in 2027.

3099/26 Request to take over Rotary Garden in St Nicholas Gardens

The Council considered a letter received from the Rotary Club of Whitehaven asking if the Council would take over and maintain the Rotary Garden in St Nicholas Gardens as members of the Whitehaven Rotary Club were no longer able to maintain it. They wished the Rotary Garden to be brought back to the high standard already seen and enjoyed in the rest of St Nicholas gardens. They had one request – that the sandstone font and its plaque in the middle of the Rotary Garden remains in place as the Garden was originally built and placed there in memory of an eminent past Rotarian of the Town. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Council takes over and maintains the Rotary Garden subject to the sandstone font and the plaque in the middle of the Rotary Garden remaining in place. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Council takes over and maintains the Rotary Garden subject to the sandstone font and the plaque in the middle of the Rotary Garden remaining in place.

3100/26 **Quotes received for Firework Display 2027**

For the past few years the Council has held a 10 minute Firework Display on the Harbour at 5.00pm following the Christmas Market which is usually held on the first Friday in December.

The Council were requested to decide whether or not they wished to have a Firework display in 2027 and if so to then decide on the quote received from UK Fireworks Company for a Firework Display in 2027 as follows:

- 10 minute display £7,500.00+VAT (same as last 3 years)
 - 15 minute display £10,000.00+VAT
 - 20 minute display £12,500.00+VAT
- (i) It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a Firework display be held in 2027. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That a Firework Display be held in 2027

- (ii) It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Carr that a 15 minute Firework display be held in 2027 at a cost of £10,000. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That a 15 minute Firework Display be held in 2027 at a cost of £10,000

3101/26 Courtesy Toilet Scheme – Clerk to give a report

The Clerk reported that 5 premises had now signed up to the Courtesy Toilet Scheme for Whitehaven .They were:

The Edge

The Courtyard Café

Café West

The Strand

Bar Otorva

She said this was a good spread around the Town and that the next step would be to officially launch and publicise the scheme and hand out the stickers to be put in the windows of the participating premises. The providers of the stickers said that he could give the Council a quote for a map (A5 size) showing details of where the courtesy toilets were so that these could be distributed in shops. The Council were requested to decide whether or not to get a quote for the production of a map. It was proposed by Councillor Carr and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Council gets a quote for the production of a Map showing the location of the courtesy toilets. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Council gets a quote for the production of a Map showing the location of the courtesy toilets.

3102/26 Commemorative Coin Medals

The Council considered a quote received from a company who produced commemorative coins to hand out to visiting dignitaries etc to the Town. Quotes were sought from 2 companies and the first quoted £36 per plaque or £42 if embossed with just the Council's logo on it. However the company experienced logistical problems and all contact ceased. The second company said they could produce a coin type medal as shown at Appendix 1 of the Report. The Mould would be retained by the Company for future use should the Council require a repeat order. There were various costings depending on materials used and the company suggested a 115 zinc alloy injection, 4mm thickness, gold plated up to 5 enamel colours, no fixing and polybagged. At a unit cost for 10 pieces of £30 each with £23 extra if a leatherette box was required. The mould cost was £200 making a total for 10 medals of £500 with no box or £730 if box included. The Council would have to submit a design which would then be made up and sent to the Council for approval and delivery would be four to five weeks following the placing of the order

The Chairman said as Mayor he had been embarrassed when ships came in to have to give them a bottle of wine when all around the cabin were plaques from the towns they had visited. Councillor Gill proposed that we purchase 10 plaques with the box making a cost of £53 each and if at some future date the Council needed anymore a decision could be made at that point. This was seconded

by Councillor Roberts. A vote was held and it unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Council purchases 10 plaques with the box making a cost of £53 each (plus the £200 mould) and if at some future date the Council needed anymore a decision could be made at that point.

3103/26 Quotes received for renewal of Contracts for the Supply of Gas and Electricity to Council Buildings

The Council considered a report on quotes received by for supply of gas and electricity to Council Buildings for when the Council Contracts expired in early 2027. One of the quotes had only arrived that afternoon and both were from firms who contact energy suppliers to get quotes off them. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that we hold a meeting of the Policy and Resources and Finance Committee Group and put it to them to make a recommendation to Council. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That we hold meeting of the Policy and Resources and Finance Committee and put it to them to make a recommendation to Council.

3104/26 Pay Settlement 2026

The Clerk informed the Council that information had been received from NALC to advise the Council on the NJC 2026/27 National Salary Scales which had been agreed.

The pay award represented an increase of approximately 3.3% to the value of each SCP. Councils were asked to apply the new salary scales accordingly and make the necessary backdated payment to 1st April 2026.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that following consideration that the new salary scales be agreed and implemented. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That following consideration that the new salary scales be agreed and implemented.

3105/26 WCSSG

Councillor Dinsdale said he had attended 2 meetings over the last month. The first one was a site stakeholders at Cleator Moor where he raised an issue about Pioneer Park and had done some brief research about Data Centres in general and about how they work and on some occasions the noise that comes off them is compared to an airport. There was one proposed in Leeds and there was a 26,000 petition against it. He had raised this with the NDA and BEC about the noise issue and Andrew Clark agreed to come back with a response.

He said his concern around all this that we had nearly £1,000,000 worth of socio economic money that had been poured into this project and within the response that he had got was that it would go through the standard planning arrangements for any sort of project but his concern was that by the time we get to that point and if there was real concerns about noise that he had used the point that if people walking around in Beckermest they would have to wear ear defenders and it just wasn't going to happen. He said we would be better off knowing at the beginning. He said this was new information that came back from what he regarded as a very poor response. He said they hadn't outruled it at all. He said that he was looking at the data centre and this one particular issue about noise and he was thinking is this the same thing – if there was a real genuine reason why this shouldn't go ahead and nobody had said to him not to worry that the noise wouldn't be an issue. In fact they had said the opposite. He was concerned that we had already poured in nearly £1,000,000 of socio economic money and that we could pour more in and end up with literally nothing. He said the site was on the Beckermest side where they were looking now to build 2 or 3 small modular reactors and have a data centre but he didn't think that that was going to get off the ground

The second meeting he attended was a Sellafield Working Group at Cleator Moor on 18th August and this meeting was dedicated to the socio economic part of what the nuclear industry does. There were presentations from the NDA (Jamie Reid) ,from the supply chain, contract side of the Sellafield arm and also from Sellafield Ltd (Tracy West). He had asked Jamie to confirm that the nuclear money that was put into west Cumbria was it over and above what you would term as normal government funding. Jamie said it was. He then asked him how do you determine that the money we get through the socio economic nuclear side of things isn't replacing normal Government funding and the example he gave was St Benedicts and Mayfield School. He said he had real concerns that ultimately all we had was a system that puts into our community 11, 12, 13, 14 million pounds and his concern was that if this was replacing standard government funding then what was the point. Jamie did agree to come back and for the NDA to do some work on this. Jamie did the second part of the presentation and he had gone in at the end gave figures currently on the Cumberland Council about national Government funding for certain projects and he read them out. He said we knew why the Government was putting money into Barrow because we need it for submarines but without the fruits of the labour of this area and Whitehaven as a town has got more nuclear workers and more retired nuclear workers than anywhere in the United Kingdom and this was acknowledged.

He said he had then gone on to what Whitehaven was currently receiving according to the Cumberland Council website through national funding and it amounts to £450,000. He said Jamie had agreed to come back with some stats around supporting his own response that he believed that the nuclear money brings in more money through matched funding and he said that happened with The Edge, the Bus Station. He said the overall bigger picture when you create

comparators there is no two ways about it he thought there was strong evidence that suggests that we were being left behind. He thought there was also strong evidence to suggest that the nuclear money wasn't over and above like Jamie had said. He said he thought that that was just replacing what would be normal funding that would come back from national Government. In schemes like the high street scheme and the town deal he was coming back and he had agreed to that meeting he agreed to do some work on this but Cllr Dinsdale thought the Town Council needed to put a bit of pressure on and just put a letter in and ask them for a timescale around this current work that they were doing and he thought that that was important that the Council should stand up for the town and the people it represented and keep the pressure on. Councillor Dinsdale asked if the Council agreed that a letter be sent to the Lead of NDA with Jamie Reid ccd and requesting a timescale for the work that was going to take place around looking at is the nuclear money that is poured into socio economic and was there any evidence to suggest that this was replacing direct national Funding. The Chairman said this was a proposal. The clerk said Councillor Dinsdale knew a lot about this subject and asked if he could draft the letter and he confirmed he could. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Carr . A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Council agreed that Councillor E Dinsdale draft a letter a letter to be sent to the Lead of NDA with Jamie Reid ccd in and requesting a timescale for the work that was going to take place around looking at is the nuclear money that is poured into socio economic and was there any evidence to suggest that this was replacing direct national Funding.

Following this the Chairman said he wished to raise something that he had raised at a recent Whitehaven Heritage Action Group about the Town Scheme the High Street Scheme. He said when he was on Copeland Borough Council he represented them on the Industrial Communities Alliance which used to be called the coal face alliance and it was cross party. The Secretariat was headed up by a professor from a university and he advised Government on the way forward and he had come forward with the Town Scheme and the High Street Scheme. He had gone to the Industrial Alliance Communities Alliance and said that was going through in the next month. He said there was a blueprint on front of them of what was going to happen and were ahead of all other Councils in the country. He said he came back and sat down with a CBC officer for a very long session to go through it because the criteria was very strict on the process. When CBC put in a quote it was rejected because it didn't meet the criteria and so we didn't get it and it was substantial amounts of money.

Councillor Gill again thanked Councillor Dinsdale for his vigilance.

Councillor Dinsdale then referred to the supply chain and the contract side of what Sellafield does. He said the firms most likely to come in were global firms with a clear objective to give as least away as possible – what is spent and what comes back into the economy. He gave an example of food and vending

machines that came from Leeds. Millions were spent manufacturing boxes in Cambridgeshire and Stockton. He said Jamie had said that socio economic had been a problem for years.

Councillor Dinsdale referred to a recent Newsnight programme where Nick Watt was talking about what was going on in Russia and the places that would become potential targets and one of the top targets was Sellafield and if a plane was flown into the point around it it would be uninhabitable for 1000 years. He said he would be attending the EPM on 14th September 2026 and would be asking what about the evacuation plan for Whitehaven. NW put emphasis on the need for something to be there and what is to be considered is shield defence systems. NW was highlighting that if Sellafield was hit the ground would be uninhabitable for 1000 years and with the Council's support he could take this to the meeting on 14th September. The Chairman confirmed this and thanked Councillor Dinsdale

3106/26 Report from Clerk

The Clerk reported on the following:

- The Temporary Banking Hub appeared to be working well. Santander closed that weekend and there had been no official notification yet of where the permanent Banking Hub would be
- The Beatrix Potter Exhibition in the Council Offices had been very well received and had finished that day. There would be an exhibition of art starting the following week and the week after that
- The flower and vegetable show would be taking place on Saturday 5th September 2026 and open to the public from 10.00am to 4.00pm. During the day there would be entertainment from the Flower Pot Men and Peat and Ged Moss. There would also be a Tombola with proceeds going to the Mayor's Charity. If anyone had any tombola prizes could they hand them into the Offices. And thanks to Councillor Hayes, Councillor O'Kane and Councillor Gill for all the tombola prizes that they had already donated. There would also be food stalls on site.

3107/26 Councillor Ward Matters

- (i) Referred to Councillor Hayes said the Coal Mining Museum was doing well and people were going in and speaking very highly about it. They had cleaned the area and it looked amazing and was really worth a visit
- (ii) Councillor O'Kane referred to Ladypit Terrace and Marine Terrace etc and how we can pursue it. He said the letter was from a lady up there where the parking situation understandably was incredibly difficult because the roads up there were a problem in terms of where the residents leave their cars and it was highlighted recently when the Police decided to blitz the infant school and the junior school area and that extended right the way up to the pub which all came about because of the planning issues and instead of the Police appearing at times when they are actually needed

ie Sundays etc they decided they would blitz the area and on Marine tenants they ticketed a number of the residents who were parked on the pavement area and the pavement area is the only place they can park because the road itself was incredibly narrow. So the lady sent a letter to Councillor Ghayouba to ask please can something be done with respect to the parking issue there and said he had no idea how to handle this one and the lady had said she had had no response at all and he said he would relay the reminder to Joseph to ask how things were progressing

- (iii) Councillor O’Kane referred to the Whitehaven Plan and said we had been this way many times before and Councillor Gill said it was laid down by Government that we have to do it and he said he hoped it would be successful.
- (iv) Councillor O’Kane referred to the hedge at Victoria Road and asked the Clerk to write to Cumberland Council to ask them to cut the hedge
- (v) Councillor O’Kane referred to Victoria Road and asked what to do when there was a caravan parked permanently on the road and was told to report it to the Police
- (vi) Councillor O’Kane said he was delighted that Councillor Ghayouba gave the idea of a crossing on Loop Road.
- (vii) Councillor O’Kane said he had taken the Chairman’s advice and he was out of this and that he had mentioned this in the past and they had had a bit of a chat over it and asked for guidance on how the Chairman would like the request from Lee Butterworth who was his son in law so he was out of this and didn’t want any involvement any voting or any discussion he wanted to be out of it but the request from Lee was could the Council meet the folk who were trying to change the rugby club over particularly because they were trying like Workington to enter into a community incorporated organisation or similar and to pass the rugby ball to the Council to see how the Council would like to make progress. The Chairman said he was quite happy but it should come through the Club Secretary. He said if the Club Secretary sent a letter to the Clerk asking for a meeting he would be happy to go along to a meeting to discuss things
- (viii) Councillor Carr said it was nice to have someone from Home Group coming as it was over 12 months since we had anyone and again from Cumberland Council and the reason for Cumberland was that he had one or two people on behalf of Borrowdale and Derwentwater residents. He said Meadow Road was going to be closed for 18 months and this was going to cause a lot of grief for residents of Derwentwater and Borrowdale. He said residents were wanting to have a full meeting to see what was going on because this was 18 months and cars were getting damaged. He said a simple thing could be traffic lights or you turn it into a one way system but they have just been left with its going to be closed for 18 months and it’s a rat run and cars were getting damaged. So something seriously needed looking into.

Councillor Carr said he would drop Councillor Minshaw an email about this.

- (ix) Councillor Carr referred to Home Housing and said he knew he had brought it up the last 2 meetings regarding anti social neighbours. He said he had not pushed it because the Police had got involved. But while he had been out the previous weekend he met the people on Meadow road who had the flooding issues and nothing had been done by Home Housing. He said Home Housing this was now 4 different couples who had private next to them. One couldn't build a wall due to neglect from Home Housing Residents. Two neighbours on each side of a Home Housing resident with anti social behaviour and these have all been approached by himself and also by the home owners and nothing. The Chairman said it had been a while since Home Housing had attended a Council Meeting and asked if it would be agreeable for the Clerk to write to Home Housing to ask them to attend the next Council Meeting and Councillors said it was. Councillor O'Kane said he had been dealing with an officer from Home Housing. It was agreed that Councillor O'Kane would give the Clerk details of the appropriate officer to contact
- (x) Councillor Gill referred to bus shelters and referred to the one at the bottom of Lincoln Road which had no panels in whatsoever. He said his wife had leaned on it and had gone right through it and injured her face. He said he had reported it and it had been like that for 10 years and he had raised this with Councillor Hawkins and had been told that they were putting a new shelter up but it still wasn't there. He said it was in a very dangerous state
- (xi) Councillor O'Kane said years ago we tried to clean several of the key roads in town and we had all kinds of arguments against this but we got it done. He said our Town was now in a mess and asked how we got Cumberland Council to do a deep clean of the Town. The Chairman said a letter should be sent to Councillor Ghayouba asking him to intervene on our behalf and clean the town up

3108/26 Date and Time of Next meeting

The date of the next meeting was Thursday 24th September 2026 at 6.00pm at the Council Offices, 148 Queen Street, Whitehaven

The Meeting closed a 7.20



Chairman