

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th August 2015

Present: Councillors M Guest (Chairman), C. Arrighi, D. Elliott, J. Forster, R Gill, J. Kane, J. A. Laine, B. O’Kane, G. Roberts, N. Williams

M. Jewell, Interim Clerk to the Council

10 Members of the Public

Members of the Press

Before the meeting started Councillor Guest thanked the Town Council for the sympathy card received on the death of his father.

64/15 Apologies For Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor N Williams but he came into the Meeting during Agenda Item 6

65/15 Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd July 2015

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 30th July 2015 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

66/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by members in respect of Agenda items.

67/15 Public Participation

Two issues were raised under the public participation item namely:-

- (i) Mike Hawkins a Cumbria County Councillor asked if the Council would take on the responsibility for the insurance, repair and maintenance of a hand rail to be installed along a footpath leading from Beck Bottom to Hillcrest. This item to be put on the Agenda for the next Town Council meeting in order that quotes can be obtained.

- (ii) Sean Duffy raised Pow Beck. He said that Whitehaven Rugby League wanted to go it alone and he thought it would be an ideal opportunity for Whitehaven Town Council to contact Whitehaven Rugby League to be involved in this project. The Vice Chairman said he would ask Tom Todd the Chairman of the Whitehaven Rugby League Club to attend the next Town Council meeting to make a presentation on the proposals
- (iii) John Crewdson asked if the Town Council had had a walk around the town yet and was informed that they had not. Mr Crewdson said that there was a lot of down pipes and grids that were not cleaned and had grass growing out of them. The Chairman said that this would be addressed when the Council inspected the town

The Chairman announced that there would be a change in the order of Agenda items and that Item 14 (Seagulls in Whitehaven) would be the next item

68/15 Seagulls in Whitehaven

Councillor Roberts made a statement about seagulls in Whitehaven and recommended that a task force be set up to discuss this topic and then report back to the Council and that this was likely to take some months. The Chairman suspended the meeting at this point as there was a minor disturbance caused by members of the public who were asked to leave. The meeting resumed after they left.

RESOLVED – That a Task Force be set up to discuss seagulls in the Whitehaven area and report back to the Council and the following Councillors were appointed:-

Councillor J Forster
Councillor J Kane
Councillor B O’Kane
Councillor G Roberts

69/15 Planning Applications

The Council considered the following applications for planning permission :-

Application No.	Details
CH/4/15/2324/0A1	Pole mounted site acquired for development advertisement, former bus depot, Bransty Row, Whitehaven.
CH/4/15/2333/0F1	Single storey side extension 17 Wythburn Road, Hensingham, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2329/0F1	Erection of a dwelling house with integral garage Plot 1, Town Head Farm, Sandwith, Whitehaven
4/15/2243	Erection of a single storey extension to provide extended kitchen and lounge area 14 Greenlands Close, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2334/0F1	Single storey kitchen extension to rear 21 Lincoln Road, Hensingham, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2335/0F1	Demolition of former BT depot building and erection of new showroom and warehouse, former BT Depot site, Cart Road, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2349/0F1	Alterations and extensions 32 Highfields, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2350	Retrospective application for temporary change of use of land for the siting of 5 metal storage containers and a waste disposal skip, Whitehaven Golf Club, Red Lonning, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2351/0F1	Erection of Garage Plot 18, Fairview Garage site Bransty Road, Bransty, Whitehaven

CH/4/15/2352/0F1	Erection of rear conservatory (retrospective) 25 The green, Bransty, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2353/0G1	Removal of condition 3 of planning approval 4/94/0027/0 regarding occupation of dwelling, Lane Head Gardens, Sandwith, Whitehaven

RESOLVED - That there were no comments on these applications and that the interim Clerk inform the Planning Authority accordingly.

70/15

Christmas Lights

The Interim Clerk referred to Minute 43/15 of the Council meeting and said that a quote from Cumbria County Council for the erection maintenance and dismantling of the Christmas lights in Whitehaven had been received in the sum of £9520.00 plus VAT with any call outs being charged at cost plus 15% . Following a discussion on this it was:-

- RESOLVED** – (i) That the County Council quote be approved and
(ii) That a task force to co-ordinate the provision of Christmas lights be set up comprising Councillors J Laine, G McKew, J Kane, N Williams, and D Elliott and
(iii) That Councillor Laine co-ordinate the task force and arrange the meetings and then report back to the Council with any recommendations.

71/16

Kie Park

Mr McDowell the Chairman of the Friends of Kie Park attended the Town Council meeting to explain about the Kie Park project. He said that they had secured £230,000 to build the park but had a shortfall of £20,000 and were looking for financial assistance to help them reach the final budget. He said that applications were being made for other grants but there would still be a shortfall. He said the skate park was a new park and the design and scope would attract people from far afield. Councillor Laine said it was a commendable project and Councillor Gill proposed a donation of £10,000 be given to Kie Park.

RESOLVED - That a donation of £10,000 be given to Kie Park.

Progress Reports

(i) Accommodation For Town Council

RESOLVED – That the Chairman sign the Lease.

(ii) Bank Account

The Interim Clerk reported the bank mandate forms had been completed by nearly all Councillors

RESOLVED - That each Councillor who has not signed the bank mandate forms contact the Interim Clerk to make arrangements to sign them.

(iii) Website

Councillor McKew reported that the setup of the website was nearly complete. He said as soon as the profiles had been done the site would be ready for a demonstration at the next Council meeting.

Councillor McKew produced samples of a coat of arms for the Town Council logo and it was

RESOLVED – That the position be noted with regard to the website and the specimen coat of arms be accepted as the Council's logo subject to Councillor McKew investigating the copyright position. The Council thanked Councillor McKew for all his hard work in this matter.

(iv) Allotments

The Allotments Task Force met with representatives of two of the allotment sites (Sneckyeat and Cartgate) before the Council Meeting . It was agreed that representatives of all the sites meet with the Task Force so that the Town Council can work with them to improve the allotment sites and deal with any problems

RESOLVED - That meetings of the Task Force take place at 6.00pm on the day of the Council Meeting and that representatives of all the allotment sites be informed of this and be invited to attend

(v) Town Council Notice Board

Further to Minute 55/15 (v) of the Council Meeting
On 30th July 2015 Councillor Laine reported that she was waiting to receive a video from the company that makes digital notice boards and information on the revenue that a digital notice board could achieve.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Laine collects all the information together and prepares a report for consideration by the Council

73/15

Financial Report

The Interim Clerk reported that there had been expenditure of £105.00 for the hire of the United Reformed Church Hall for Council Meetings.

RESOLVED – That this expenditure be approved.

74/15

Appointment of the Clerk to Council

The Chairman of the Staffing Committee reported that they had discussed and taken advice on the matter with the Cumbria Association of Local Councils. He said that a meeting of the Staffing Committee would take place to finalise the documentation and agree a timetable and then put the recommendations to the full Council meeting on 24th September 2015 for approval. Preliminary thoughts were that the advertisement would be placed after the September Council Meeting for a three week period, then a shortlist would be drawn up, then interviews would be arranged possibly for the end of October 2015 by a panel of three Members with an expected start date for the Clerk to the Council of December 2015. The meeting of the Staffing Committee was arranged for 7th September 2015 at 5.30 at St Benedicts School.

RESOLVED – That this be noted and a decision made on the Staffing Committee's recommendations at the next Council Meeting.

75/15 **Result of Public Consultation**

The Interim Clerk reported that there had been no further comments received from members of the public.

RESOLVED – That this be noted.

76/15 **Whitehaven Locality Partnership**

RESOLVED -That the informal appointment of Councillors C Arrighi; J Forster and B O’Kane to the Core Group of the Whitehaven Locality Partnership be approved.

77/15 **Whitehaven Chaplaincy**

The Reverend Harkison from the United Reformed Church attended the Council Meeting and gave a presentation on a proposed chaplaincy for Whitehaven. He said he was exploring the idea with his ecumenical partners of providing a day time town centre chaplaincy to coincide with the night time chaplaincy (Haven Saints). He said Haven Saints was set up with the backing of the Police and Copeland Borough Council and they work at night between 11.00pm and 3.00am to help people who need first aid or an ambulance and hand out soft drinks, flip flops and space blankets.

Reverend Harkison said he was not looking for volunteers or for money but was seeking the Town Council’s support for the scheme.

RESOLVED – That the Town Council gives its support to a Whitehaven Chaplaincy Scheme.

78/15 **Microphones for Town Council Meetings**

Councillor Laine reported that quite a few people had left Town Council meetings because they could not hear what was being said. She said she had looked at an inexpensive system whereby two councillors could share a microphone. She raised the Disability Discrimination Act and said that there was a voice recognition scheme called Dragon 130 which could be put on six pcs.

Councillor Laine reported that a second hand microphone system could be obtained for approximately £250.

Councillor Gill moved that Councillor Laine in consultation with the Interim Clerk look into the provision of a microphone system and report back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Laine in consultation with the Interim Clerk look into the provision of a microphone system for the Town Council and report back to the next meeting of the Town Council

79/15 **Whitehaven Chain, Mace and Robes**

A discussion was held about the Whitehaven Chain, Mace and Robes. The Council felt that as these had been the property of the former Whitehaven Borough Council and had the Whitehaven Crest on them they should be transferred to Whitehaven Town Council.

RESOLVED – That the Interim Clerk send a letter to Copeland Borough Council asking that the Whitehaven Chain, Mace and Robes be transferred to the Whitehaven Town Council.

80/15 **Media Communications**

The Chairman reported on the importance of having a Media Communications policy and said that a draft policy would be prepared and submitted to the next Council Meeting for consideration and said that in the interim the Town Council should follow a similar policy to that of Cleator Moor Town Council namely “ Members of the public and press are welcome to attend any meeting of Whitehaven Town Council. All enquiries from the press will be dealt with by the Clerk to the Council in consultation with the Chairman. Councillors are permitted to speak to the press as individuals. A request for a comment from Whitehaven Town Council should always be directed to the Clerk to the Council for a response”.

81/15 **Grass cutting at Toll Bar and Bransty Park**

Councillor O’Kane raised this under Councillor Matters at the Council Meeting on 30th July 2015 (Minute 62/15(vii) refers).

RESOLVED – That the work be carried out and expenditure of £390 plus VAT be approved.

82/15 **Path Running down The Brows**

Councillor Kane reported that where Kells Rugby League Clubs runs down the Brows that the Woodland Trust cut their grass but Copeland Borough Council did not cut theirs.

RESOLVED – The Councillor Kane raise this at the next Locality meeting.

83/15 **Cycleway at Mirehouse**

Councillor Laine reported that she had contacted Copeland Borough Council about this and Mike Starkie, the Mayor of Copeland had visited the Site. She said that Copeland Borough Council had been round with sweepers and cleaned it but that it was just getting worse every day. She said there no litter bins as they just get knocked over and set on fire. Following a discussion the Council felt that this could be prevented by education and it was

RESOLVED – The Town Council develop a programme with other partners to go into schools after Christmas and talk to them about the environmental issues with litter, graffiti etc.

84/15 **Laying Wreaths on Remembrance Sunday**

The Chairman proposed that the Town Council lay two wreaths on Remembrance Sunday, one at the Cenotaph in Whitehaven and one at Hensingham.

RESOLVED – That two wreaths be purchased and that some older children from the Town Council's area be asked to lay the wreaths on behalf of the Town Council.

85/15 **Councillor Matters**

Councillors raised the following matters:-

- (i) Councillor Guest referred to the problems with retrospective planning permissions and questioned why someone should be allowed to carry out a development and then apply for planning permission afterwards. He said he would take this up with Copeland Borough Council and its Planning Committee.
- (ii) Councillor Guest said the temporary lights on Ginns /Low Road were causing traffic problems and questioned what the County Council were doing about this.
- (iii) Councillor Guest said he had had a lot of complaints about drugs and anti-social behaviour and he wanted a speaker from the Police or a community organisation to come to the Town Council to talk about this. He said he had received complaints about Queen Street in particular. The Interim Clerk was asked to write to Richard

Rhodes asking him to attend a Council meeting to give a talk on this.

- (iv) Councillor Gill raised the new bus service from Frizington to the West Cumberland Hospital. He said he had concerns about Moor Row as they had no bus service into town. The Interim Clerk was asked to write a letter to stagecoach thanking them for the new bus service and asking them if they could divert it to go through Moor Row.
- (v) Councillor Arrighi said the Gazebo in the Market Place was in a really bad state. There was grass growing out of it and the paint was coming off. This would be looked at when the Councillors had their walk around the town to identify problem areas which was arranged for:-
 - Saturday 12th September 2015 at 10.00am and
 - Sunday 13th September 2015 at 11.00am
- (vi) Councillor Kane raised Ginns car park and double parking. The Chairman said he would contact Bruce Denwood, the Facilities Manager at Sellafield to ask how far forward he was on the provision of parking facilities.
- (vii) Councillor Forster said there was a problem on Richmond with children drinking and taking drugs in the graveyard and with needles being found.
- (viii) Councillor O’Kane said he had had a telephone call from Inspector Mark Weir who was looking for the Town Council’s help next year with community events. He said that Inspector Weir wished to come to a Town Council meeting to talk about this. The Interim Clerk was asked to write to Inspector Weir inviting him to the next Council meeting.
- (ix) Councillor O’Kane said that the condition of Coach Road onto Ginns was becoming unsafe because of the volume of traffic and also there was an issue at the train station which had now been cancelled because of a protected species.
- (x) Councillor Forster said there was a problem with seagulls and rabbits on the Sekers site at Hensingham. The Chairman said that this would be investigated.

86/15 **Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

RESOLVED – That the next Town Council meeting will be on 24th September 2015 at 7.00pm at the United Reformed Church Hall.

The Meeting closed at 9.15

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. J. ...', written over a horizontal line.

Chairman