

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on the Zoom Platform on 27th

August 2020

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V. Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public

1591/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor C Walmsley and Councillor L Walmsley

1592/20 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Roberts declared an interest in Item 10

Councillor Roberts declared that he was a member of Cumbria County Council

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

Councillor O’Kane declared that he was a member of CBC’s Planning Panel

1593/20 Public Participation

There was no public participation

The Chairman referred to the recent sad death of Kenny Kinsella and recognised his contribution to the town and its growth and expressed the Council’s condolences to his family.

1594/20 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th July 2020

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th July 2020 be approved and

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Invoices at Appendix 1 including the 3 additional payments be approved, and paid

RESOLVED – That the Invoices shown at Appendix 1 including the 3 additional payments be approved and paid and that the Cashbook and Income and Expenditure at Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted

(ii) Appendices 2 and 3 the Cashbook and Income and Expenditure for approval and noting. The Council considered Appendices 2 and 3 and it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that these be approved and noted. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for and 3 Councillors abstained.

RESOLVED – That Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted.

1599/20 **Local Government Reorganisation**

The Council considered a report containing a letter and an Interim Position Statement on Local Government received from CALC. During a discussion the following points were made:

- Point 9a needs to be enshrined
- Point 9b and 16 – we tend to get the facilities, land and services that cost the principal authorities money.
- Very vague need to ensure that in future it is firmed up and spelled out and written in stronger language.
- Point 9c would be a useful tool for the Town Council but it must be written in stone that there is a power to scrutinise.
- This is a work in progress and the Council must keep an eye on it for the future

It was proposed by Councillor Gill that the report be noted but that the Council keep a close eye on it for the future and awaits any development in the future. This was seconded by Councillor O’Kane. It was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and that Council keep a close eye on it for the future and await any development in the future

1600/20 **Planning For The Future**

The Council considered a report containing a letter and White Paper entitled Planning For The Future received from NALC. During a discussion the following points were made:

- That CBC were attempting to clarify the position and give details to Councillors
- That the £20 billion Moorside investment was not now going to take place
- Who was going to buy all these houses
- We need a plan in place for our future
- This is a work in progress and the Council needed to look at it when something more substantial comes forward
- All authorities should have a clear dialogue on this
- The Town Council received planning applications and all responses were read out at CBC Planning Panel meetings

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the Council keeps an eye on this and takes action at the appropriate time. It was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Council notes the report and keeps an eye on this and takes action at the appropriate time

1601/20 **Events Advisory Group**

The Council considered a report from the Events Advisory Group which contained recommendations to Council.

It was proposed Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the Following recommendations be approved:

- To host a Traders Event on 20/11/20 and to have the Christmas Lights switched on on the same day
- To note that the Council is working on a plan for the outdoor market during covid-19 and will be following Government advice/guidelines and also advice from local authorities that are currently operating outdoor markets
- That the Herlid Vikings because of current guidelines surrounding events would have to reschedule the event originally planned for June 2020 to sometime in 2021/22

It was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the following recommendations of the Events Advisory Group be approved:

- To host a Traders Event on 20/11/20 and to have the Christmas Lights switched on on the same day
- To note that the Council is working on a plan for the outdoor market during covid-19 and will be following Government advice/guidelines and also advice from local authorities that are currently operating outdoor markets

- That the Herlid Vikings because of current guidelines surrounding events would have to reschedule the event originally planned for June 2020 to sometime in 2021/22

1602/20 Catenary Wire For Christmas Lights and Erection, Maintenance and Dismantling of Christmas Lights

The Council considered a report on the replacement of the catenary wire for the Christmas lights and the erection, maintenance, dismantling and repair of the Christmas lights and considered whether or not to suspend Financial Regulations to allow CCC to carry out the works.

- (i) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council make a resolution suspend Financial Regulations to allow CCC to remove the damaged catenary wire, purchase new catenary wire and install the new catenary wire and that this resolution be referred back to the next Council Meeting where reasons for the suspension will be discussed and recorded and an assessment of the risks considered. It was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Council suspends Financial Regulations to allow CCC to remove the damaged catenary wire, purchase new catenary wire and install the new catenary wire and that this resolution be referred back to the next Council Meeting where reasons for the suspension will be discussed and recorded and an assessment of the risks considered.

- (ii) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council makes a resolution to suspend Financial Regulations to allow CCC to erect, maintain, dismantle and repair the Christmas lights and that this resolution will be referred to the next Council Meeting where the reasons for the suspension will be discussed and recorded and an assessment of the risks considered. It was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Council suspends Financial Regulations to allow CCC to erect, maintain, dismantle and repair the Christmas lights and that this resolution will be referred to the next Council Meeting where the reasons for the suspension will be discussed and recorded and an assessment of the risks considered.

1603/20 Consultation on Removal of BT Public Payphones

The Council considered a consultation email received from CBC on the removal of BT public payphones at 4 locations in Whitehaven's area. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that CBC be informed that the Council has no comment on the removal of the boxes but request that BT consider an alternative use for the boxes. It was unanimously

RESOLVED - That CBC be informed that The Council has no comment on the removal of the boxes but that BT be requested to consider an alternative use for the boxes.

1604/20 **Request For Financial Support from the Chase Arts for Public Spaces for Miners Memorial**

The Council considered a report on a request received from the Chase Arts for Public Spaces for financial support to build a National Miners memorial at the National Arboretum in Alrewas Staffordshire

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the report be noted and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

1605/20 **Councillor Matters**

- i. Councillor E Dinsdale raised concerns about the drains at Garlieston Court and said that the developers Reed Graham still needed to install adequate drains and skim the road. The Clerk said that owners should check their documents/planning permissions/deeds to see what the developer should have done and then go back to the developer and ask them to complete any outstanding works.
- ii. Councillor G Dinsdale referred to a carparking report in the Whitehaven News and said that this was the first she had heard of it. She said a car park was being put forward in Corkickle and asked who was leading this and who best to contact. Councillor O’Kane said that comments should be passed on this when the planning application comes before the Council.
- iii. Councillor G Dinsdale said that recycling was not being picked up and CBC were not giving the information to residents.
- iv. Councillor Rayson said that the bins were not collected at Highfield Court last Friday and that she had rung CBC about this several times. The Chairman said that an email should be sent to the Clerk with all the details and it would then be forwarded to CBC expressing the Council’s concerns.
- v. Councillor Gill said the refuse operatives were working very hard, long hours in difficult circumstances and said that the Council should pay tribute to these staff. He said if anyone was at fault it was at management level. Councillor Maudling said the best person to contact about this was Councillor Steve Morgan who was on CBC Executive.
- vi. Councillor Gill commented on the state of the roads in his Ward and about the junction at Sneckyeat Road and said it was a waste of time having double yellow lines if they were not policed.

- vii. Councillor Hayes said there was a big problem in Kells with youths causing problem. He said there was to be a zoom meeting with Emma Williamson, Police and the Fire Service about this.
- viii. Councillor Hayes said that he had been involved in an ITV Border interview for the Mine which went really well.
- ix. Councillor Hayes said that the people of Kells have taken on the litter problem themselves.
- x. Councillor Roberts said that the problem with weeds at Harras Moor had now been sorted and a litter bin had been requested.
- xi. Councillor Rayson said that the bin men had been working really hard all hours and also at weekends.
- xii. Councillor Rayson said that there was a big issue with seagulls at Red Lonning and that a meeting had been arranged with a resident who had raised the concern together with a representative from CBC Environmental Health Department and the Chairman.
- xiii. Councillor Rayson thanked Councillor G Dinsdale for getting back to her about the steps at Tower Hill and it was mainly the bottom 3 steps that were really bad.
- xiv. Councillor Maudling referred to the stop and start County Council roadworks around the bus station. He said there were no traffic lights coming down Bransty Hill and all this was not helping businesses at all. Councillor O'Kane said that the Council should contact CCC and ask them the dates for completion.
- xv. Councillor O'Kane said he was pleased that CCC had agreed to put a pelican crossing at the Pelican junction in the next 6 months.

1606/20 **Date of next Meeting**

The date of the next Council Meeting be on Thursday 24th September 2020 at 6.00pm

The Meeting closed at 7.10pm



Chairman