

# **WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

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

M. Jewell, Interim Clerk to the Council

Members of the Public

Member of the Press

### **104/15 Apologies For Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **105/15 Minutes of Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 were amended as follows:-

- Minute 90/15 be amended to read Councillor Hawkins;
- Minute 98/15 be amended to record that Councillor Gill voted for the resolution

and then signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **106/15 Declarations of Interest**

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

### **107/15 Public Participation**

No issues were raised under the public participation item.

**108/15**      **Planning Applications**

The Council considered the following applications for planning permission :-

CH4/15/2380/OF1	New build landscaped spray concrete skatepark land between Rosebank Recreation ground and Overend Road Hensingham
CH4/15/2388/OF1	Installation of TV arial on property 24 King Street Whitehaven
H4/15/2391/OT1	Prior notification of proposed development by telecommunications for replacement monopole supporting 6 antenna; transmission dish; 2 replacement equipment cabinets and ancilliary development mast on and at Pottery Road off Coach Road Whitehaven
CH4/15/2397/TPO	Crown reduction of two trees situated within a conservation area courtyard at rear of Queen Street/Duke Street Whitehaven
CH4/15/2399/OL1	Revised location of kitchenette to previously approved scheme; revised layout of shop into social space 44 Irish Street Whitehaven
CH4/15/2400/OF1	Erection of workshop extension McGrady Engineering Red Lonning Industrial Estate
CH4/15/2409/OF1	Two storey extension to provide play room utility room, bedroom and en suite 39 Tomlin Avenue Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2411/OF1	Single storey rear extension and garage Conversion to habitable space 101

Whinlatter Road Whitehaven

CH4/15/2412/TPO	Reduction of six beech trees protected by a tree preservation order Alder House The Groves Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2419/OE1	Application for a lawful development certificate for an existing use Land Head Gardens Sandwith
CH/4/15/2425/OA1	New drive through signage McDonalds Restaurant
CH/4/15/2426/OF1	Reconfiguration of car park and drive through to facilitate the installation of a side by side drive through lane: removal of 11 no parking spaces and a new egress of the drive through lane; reconfigured kerb lines and relocation of an existing drive through booth McDonalds Restaurant

**RESOLVED** - (i) That concern be expressed that 11 car parking spaces were being lost as a result of the McDonald's application; (ii) Councillor Gill declared an interest in the extra planning application relating to Ginns car park and as a result the Council made no decision regarding the application; and (iii) that no comments be made on the remainder of the planning applications and the Interim Clerk inform the Planning Authority of this resolution.

**109/15**      **Presentation on the Lengthsman Scheme**

A presentation on the Lengthsman Scheme was given by Sarah Moss Luffram (CBC) and Lorraine Irving (Works 4 you). The following information was given:-

- There were copies of plans for each ward in Whitehaven showing what the Lengthsman looks after but that the work was not limited to this.
- A copy of the Lengthsman proposal had been circulated to the Council which showed works in progress and what the Lengthsman Scheme could do. A significant task was grass

cutting and it was reported that there were still areas not being dealt with by anyone.

- If the Town Council were to take the programme forward the Town Council could dictate what works it wanted the Lengthsman Scheme to do. If grass cutting was one of these it would mean that the Town Council could decide what grass it wanted to be cut and not have to engage a contractor to do this.
- The Lengthsman has currently identified several jobs in Whitehaven Town Centre that need to be done and was also looking at ways of removing chewing gum from the pavements.
- That if the Town Council required any work to be carried out at the present time then details of this should be forwarded to the Lengthsman.

Following a discussion on this and about the work that was being carried out in Whitehaven Town Centre it was

**RESOLVED** – (i) That a budget of £200.00 be made to the Lengthsman Scheme to help cover the costs of any materials needed to carry out painting and any other works in Whitehaven Town Centre and (ii) That the Finance Committee meet to look at the entire Lengthsman Scheme.

#### **110/16      Handrail at Hillcrest**

Councillor Hawkins attended the Council Meeting and said that a quote of £700.00 for the provision of a handrail running from Hillcrest to Beck Bottom had been received from John Davis (CBC) but that insurance was required and he was asking the Town Council to insure it.

Councillor Gill moved a resolution that the Town Council buy the handrail and that Councillor Hawkins gives the Town Council the money to buy it and the Town Council insure it. Councillor O’Kane seconded this and a vote followed which recorded 7 Councillors for the resolution and 4 Councillors against it.

**RESOLVED** - That Councillor Hawkins give the Town Council the money to buy the handrail and the Town Council will then own it and will insure it.

111//15

**Presentation on a Proposal for a St Bees to Whitehaven Cycle Track Link**

A presentation was given by Harry Strong of St Bee Parish Council. He said there had been a feasibility study for a 3.3km cycle track link between St Bees and Whitehaven which would run from St Bees School down the valley close to railway lines and would join the cycle track somewhere in the Mirehouse area.

He said the proposal had great potential for locals and visitors and would also be good for walkers and people with disabilities. He said a project team had been set up which was limited to St Bees Parish Council at the moment but that they would like the Town Council to join the project team and work in partnership as the proposed cycle track link was one third in Whitehaven and two thirds in St Bees.

Landowners had been contacted to say that the cycle link scheme was being reinstated at an estimated cost of half a million pounds.

Mr Strong said they had approached NuGen and the mining community and that they would like:-

- A member (or more if possible) of Whitehaven Town Council to join the project team
- They were trying to get Sustrans to do a feasibility study and a costed scheme and get it in the budget for next year and they would welcome Whitehaven Town Council joining in on this.

**RESOLVED** – That the following Councillors be appointed to the Project Team:-

- Councillor Williams
- Councillor Arrighi
- Councillor Laine

112/15

**Pow Beck Scheme**

Mr T Todd the Chairman of the Whitehaven RLFC was unable to Attend to give a presentation on this.

**RESOLVED** – That this be noted.

## 113/15 Christmas Lights/Events

Councillor Laine gave a report on the Christmas lights and events and said the following had been organised:-

- Ice rink
- Christmas trees donated
- Reindeers and sleigh
- Golden ticket
- Batmobile
- Firefighters abseiling down St Nicholas tower
- Husky dogs
- Mistletoe under Suttons clock

Councillor Laine said the Task Group had met with Britain's Energy Coast for the ice rink opposite Wetherspoons and said the rink would be surrounded by 20-30 huts and that it would be covered by a marquee. Councillor Laine said the existing Christmas lights were grossly inadequate with only 55 fittings in working order. She said the Town Council needed a set of lights as there were no lights available for half of Duke Street and that James Street had been vandalised. She said the Task Force were negotiating with Blackpool Borough Council to see if they could lend/donate some lights to the Town Council as they had two warehouses full of surplus lights. She said she was going to Blackpool on 5<sup>th</sup> November to see what could be purchased and because of these difficulties she said she had to ask for a budget of a further £12,000 to purchase additional lights for this year and passed round a budget spreadsheet showing an underspend.

Councillor Roberts proposed that a budget of £12,000 be allocated which was seconded by Councillor Forster.

There was a vote on this proposal and 10 Councillors voted for the proposal and one Councillor abstained.

**RESOLVED** - That a budget of £12,000 be allocated for the provision of additional Christmas lights

## 114/15 Appointment of Councillor to the Core Group of the Whitehaven Locality Partnership

It was reported that a councillor had resigned from the Core Group and that a replacement was required. The Chairman said there was a

question around whether the Town Council was already a Locality as other locality groups were administered by the Town Council or the Parish Council. Councillor Gill said it was a useful forum but the question of who should administer it needed to be discussed.

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Kane be appointed to the Core Group of the Whitehaven Locality Partnership.

**115/16**     **Whitehaven Road Sign Loan Agreement**

The Cumbria County Council Archives Department had provided a loan agreement for the Town Council to sign in respect of the cast iron “Whitehaven“ road sign.

**RESOLVED** – That the Chairman sign the loan agreement and that the Interim Clerk arrange for insurance cover for the road sign in the sum of £500.00.

**116/15**     **Daffodil Bulbs**

It was reported that John Davies had four spare bags of daffodil bulbs which he was offering to the Council at a cost of £80 plus VAT and which needed to be planted within the following two weeks. Councillor O’Kane moved that the bulbs be purchased and that they could be planted in individual Councillors’ wards or be given to schools or other organisations.

**RESOLVED** – That the daffodil bulbs be purchased and that Councillors contact John Davies direct if they wanted any bulbs.

**117/15**     **Progress Reports**

**(i)     Accommodation for the Town Council**

The Chairman stated that a Task Group should be set up to look at securing permanent accommodation for the Town Council and in particular to look at acquiring a building that would suit the Council’s needs. Councillor O’Kane said a Town hall was not a priority at this time. The Chairman said it would be a lot of work but that it needed to be taken forward. Councillor Laine said the Town Council should ask the Borough Council about an asset transfer of the Whitehaven Civic Hall. Councillor Gill said the

Council needed to find someone that would help the Town Council with this project and mentioned the former bus station offices which had offices on the ground floor and a boardroom on the first floor.

**RESOLVED** – That a task Group be set up to explore the availability of suitable accommodation for the Town Council comprising:-

- Councillor Forster
- Councillor Gill
- Councillor Guest
- Councillor McKew

**(ii) Bank Account**

The Interim Clerk reported that not all Councillors had signed the bank mandate/provided identification but that this would be completed in the next few days.

**RESOLVED** – That this be noted

**(iii) Website**

Councillor McKew reported that there would be a soft launch on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015 followed by the hard launch on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015. He said he also need to get all Councillors' profiles

**RESOLVED** - That this be noted and the Councillor McKew be thanked for all his work on this.

**(iv) Allotments**

The Task Group reported that no-one from the Allotment sites had attended the meeting before the full Council Meeting and therefore had nothing to report.

**(v) Town Council Notice Board**

Councillor Laine said it would be better to wait until the new year to discuss this further. She said the digital notice board would pay for itself in the first year and generate income in future years.



**RESOLVED** – That the matter be deferred until the new year.

**(vi) Microphones**

Councillor Laine stated that she had spoken to Lyndsay Thomlinson and it was not clear as to whether the Copeland Borough Council microphones would in fact be available.

**RESOLVED** – That this be noted.

**(vii) Civic Regalia**

The Interim Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to the Borough Council on 11th September 2015 asking that the chain, mace and robes be transferred to Whitehaven Town Council and that the matter was to be discussed at the Borough Council's full Council meeting on 3rd December 2015.

**RESOLVED** – That this report be noted.

**118/15 Financial Report**

The Interim Clerk reported that there had been the following expenditure in October:-

- |                                       |                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Hire of United Reformed Church Hall | £67.50             |
| • Grass cutting                       | £473.40 (inc. VAT) |
| • Batmobile                           | £1800              |

**RESOLVED** – That this expenditure be approved

**119/15 Appointment of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council**

Councillor O'Kane the Chairman of the Staffing Committee reported that the Committee would be meeting in the next week to compile a shortlist of candidates for interview. He said interviews would be held at the end of November and the decision made referred to full Council for ratification.

**RESOLVED** – That the position be noted

**120/15 Public Consultation**

The Interim Clerk read out a list of public responses which were attached to the Agenda regarding the reporting of unsightly areas in Whitehaven and any action that had been taken.

**RESOLVED:-** That the report be noted

**121/15 Draft Media Communications Policy**

The Chairman asked that Councillors give any feedback they have on this policy to the Interim Clerk before the November meeting.

**122/15 Expenditure for the PA system for Remembrance Sunday**

The Interim Clerk reported on expenditure for Remembrance Sunday that had been forwarded by Copeland Borough Council who had organised the event as the Town Council only came into being in May 2015. The expenditure was as follows:-

- PA system                    £195
- Band                            £190-£250
- Refreshments                £50

The Council was not happy with this and felt that the Borough Council Should have provided the information sooner.

**RESOLVED –** That no action be taken at this time.

**123/15 Councillor Matters**

- (i) Councillor Gill said that Stage Coach had informed him that they would look very seriously at putting a bus on to Moor Row.
- (ii) Councillor Gill said that the bus shelter at West Cumberland Hospital was in a bad state of repair.
- (iii) Councillor Gill said that each Councillor should go back to his/her own ward and examine what was needed and that this should be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.
- (iv) Councillor Laine said the rubbish and vandalism at the cattle arch on the cycleway at Mirehouse was cleaned from time to time but was

not being maintained.

- (v) Councillor Kane said Castle Park was in a bad state and that the Town Council needed to get together with Copeland Borough Council and the Police to sort it out.
- (vi) Councillor Forster said at Hensingham Park (near Kie Park) there was a lot of vandalism and groups of youths annoying elderly residents and that CCTV was needed,
- (vii) Councillor O’Kane said he was concerned about the area around St Benedicts and asked if the Town Council could pressurise the County Council to put a crossing control on.
- (viii) Councillor O’Kane said he had received a request from Door Supervisors in Whitehaven who were forced to wear high visibility jackets as it made them a target and they were being treated differently from anyone else in Cumbria

**124/15     Date and venue of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the next meeting of the Town Council will be on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.00pm at the United Reformed Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm



Chairman