

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th September 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

87/15 Apologies For Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor G McKew.

88/15 Minutes of Meeting held on 27th August 2015

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 27th August 2015 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

89/15 Declarations of Interest

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

90/15 Public Participation

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

- (i) Joe Crewdson asked if the walk around Whitehaven by the Town Council had taken place. The Chairman confirmed that it had and said that there were buildings falling into decay and that it would take a lot of work to revitalise the town. Councillor Gill said that the litter problem in some parts of the town was appalling and all Councillors agreed that the town needed to engage with

shopkeepers to try and keep areas clean and with the owners of dilapidated buildings with a view to improving them. Councillor Gill said they walked through the Market Place, Queen Street and Trinity Gardens and there was a bad litter problem.

- (ii) John Trevaskis from Sneckyeat Allotment Site asked the Town Council to provide two skips on the allotment site each year. He also said that locks were required on the main gates to the allotment site.
- (iii) Billy Marston made a request for an extra polytunnel on his allotment because the allotment site was overrun with rabbits and the polytunnel was rabbit proof.
- (iv) Councillor Kirkbride spoke about the handrail to be installed from Hillcrest to Beck Bottom and said the costings had not yet been received.

91/15 Planning Applications

The Council considered the following applications for planning permission :-

Application No.	Details
CH/4/15/ 2362/0F1	Formation of temporary car park for four years for use by trust staff during refurbishment of the hospital (184) spaces and contractors car park (60) spaces; retention of existing temporary construction site offices for the same period car park West Cumberland Hospital
CH/4/15/ 2363/0F1	Subdivision of ground floor commercial accommodation into two units, change of use of first and second floors to two residential units and external alterations (resubmission) 48-50 Market Place Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2368/0F1	Erection of a two storey extension and a raised

	1 Hillcrest Avenue, Hillcrest, Whitehaven
4/15/2334/OF1	Single storey kitchen extension to rear with a level terrace 21 Lincoln Road, Hensingham
CH/4/15/2370/OF1	Demolition of garage and erection of side extension (utility and storage) 13 Oakbank Avenue, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2371/OL1	Variation of condition 2 of planning approval 4/15/2091/OL1 regarding revision of drawings Market Hall, Market Place, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2372/OF1	Replace existing flat garage and utility roof with a peaked/hipped roof 14 Ruskin Drive Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2374/OF1	Change of use from doctors surgery (ClassD1) to residential (3 no flats) The Surgery, Catherine Street, Whitehaven.

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

92/15 Presentation on the Lengthsman Scheme

A presentation on the Lengthsman Scheme was made by Lorraine Irving, Mike Hawkins and Wendy Skillicorn. It was stated that the Lengthsman Scheme had been in operation for 18 months and had made a significant difference to Whitehaven and the surrounding area. The work carried out by the Lengthsman Scheme included:-

- Litter picking
- Footpath maintenance
- Hedge trimming
- Cutting back overhanging branches
- Community area management
- Grass cutting/pruning/planting

The Council heard that the Lengthsman Scheme was funded by Cumbria County Council, Community grants, Home Group and Whitehaven Locality Partnership and that this funding ends in March 2016. The Representatives of the Lengthsman Scheme asked for help from the Town Council for funding from April 2016. The current cost of the Lengthsman Scheme for the two years ending March 2016 was £68,000. The Scheme has three employees being one supervisor and two apprentices. Following a discussion on this it was:

RESOLVED – That a formal application be submitted to the Town Council on behalf of the Lengthsman Scheme giving details of the Scheme including full costings so that it can be discussed and assessed by the Town Council.

93/16

Help with Community Events

Councillor O’Kane said that an email had been received from Inspector Mark Wear (which was circulated at the meeting) asking for help from the Town Council for West Coast Charity Events. He asked the Town Council to assist in the purchase of:-

- 40-50 pedestrian barriers at a cost of £18-£20 each
- A small PA system at a cost of £400
- Two heavy duty gazebos at a cost of £300 each
- Banners to be erected at each event stating the event is supported by Whitehaven Town Council, with each banner costing £50.

This to be on the proviso that all of this equipment would be the property of Whitehaven Town Council. Inspector Weir said he would arrange for the secure storage of this equipment and would also be responsible for renting it out to other local organisations which would generate income for the Town Council. The total cost of the equipment was estimated to be £2250.

RESOLVED - That a grant of £2250 be made to West Coast Charity Events for the purchase of the above equipment provided that:-

- The equipment is owned by Whitehaven Town Council
- It is securely stored by the Police

94/15

Presentation on Save Our Services

Siobahn Gearing gave a presentation on the Save Our Services Campaign in relation to the West Cumberland Hospital. She said that she had started the campaign in 2014 and had organised many protests and marches. She said the concerns were that services would be moved from the West Cumberland Hospital on an interim basis and then never moved back. Presently interim emergency services at West Cumberland Hospital cease at 8.00pm and then patients are transferred to the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle. She said the services we need are:-

- A 24 hour accident and emergency department
- A consultant led maternity department

And asked for the Town Council's support in this.

- RESOLVED** – (i) That the Town Council gives its full support to this
- (ii) That the Town Council ask the Elected Mayor and the Chairman of Copeland Borough Council if the Town Council can work together with them to organise an evening meeting with the Chief Executive and representatives of the Trust.

95/15

Christmas Lights

The Interim Clerk reported that the lights were due to be switched on on 15th November 2015 and were awaiting an electrical inspection to assess their condition prior to being erected. Councillor Laine reported that she had had discussions about Christmas activities with the Whitehaven Chamber of Trade which included:-

- A lantern procession by local schools perhaps dressed in mining costumes
- Husky dogs
- Disney Princesses for the Christmas lights switch on
- Two 25ft Christmas Trees donated by Iggesund for St Nicholas Gardens which could be switched on on Remembrance Sunday
- Spiderman/Batman abseiling down St Nicholas Tower
- An ice rink

- Use of a gazebo as Santa's Grotto
- A golden ticket for one of the children taking part in the procession to meet a celebrity
- CFM advertising for a full week before and on the day of the switch on of the Christmas lights
- Provision of security

Councillor Laine asked if the Town Council could agree a budget for the provision of Christmas activities in Whitehaven and said that the Chamber of Trade could raise £2,000-£3000 to go alongside this.

RESOLVED – That the Town Council agree a budget of £10,000 for Christmas activities/festivities in Whitehaven.

96/15

Progress Reports

- (i) Accommodation for Town Council

RESOLVED - That it be noted that there is nothing further to report at this time

- (ii) Bank Account

The Interim Clerk reported that not all Councillors had signed the Bank mandate forms/provided identification but that it was expected that this would be completed in the next week

RESOLVED - That each Councillor who has not signed the bank mandate forms/provided identification do so as soon as possible.

- (iii) Website

Councillor McKew could not attend the meeting but had arranged to give Councillors a demonstration of the website during week commencing 28th September 2015.

RESOLVED – That the position be noted.

(iv) Allotments

The Allotments Task Force reported that a meeting had been held with representatives of the Crow Park and Sneckyeat allotment sites prior to the Council meeting. The representatives had requested a skip to be provided on each allotment site twice a year in March and November.

RESOLVED - (i) That the Interim Clerk arrange a meeting with John Davies and Nicky Scott and the Allotments Task Force to discuss management of the allotment sites.

(ii) That the Interim Clerk obtain costings for the provision of a skip twice a year on each allotment site.

(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.

RESOLVED – That the position be noted.

(vi) Microphones

It was reported (Minute 73/15 refers) that Copeland Borough Council had offered their PA system to the Town Council as it was surplus to requirements.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Laine contact Lindsay Tomlinson the Head of Democratic Services about the system and to examine the equipment.

97/15

Financial Report

The Interim Clerk reported that there had been the following Expenditure:-

- Election expenses of £8,814
- Hire of Church Hall on 27/08/15 plus £10 key deposit - £73.75
- Grass cutting on Toll Bar Corner to Pelican verge - £188.28 (including VAT at 20%)
- Grass cutting from Toll Bar to Pelican Garage - £163.61 (including VAT at 20%)
- Grass cutting at Pocket Park Bransty - £121.00 (including VAT at 20%)
- Grass cutting at Sandwith village green - £21.62 excluding VAT

RESOLVED – That this expenditure be approved.

98/15

Appointment of the Clerk to the Council

Councillor O’Kane, the Chairman of the Staffing Committee reported that the Staffing Committee had agreed the terms and conditions for the appointment of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Town Council and that the timetable would be as follows:-

- The post to be advertised in the week commencing 28th September 2015 on the CALC website
- The closing date for applications to be 22nd October 2015
- Shortlisting to take place by 29th October 2015 with interviews being held during the first week in November 2015
- The expected start date of the successful applicant being December 2015

Councillor Gill moved a resolution that the recommendations of the Staffing Committee be approved.

The Chairman said that although he agreed with the timetable he could not support the recommendations from the Staffing Committee on the terms and conditions for the appointment of the Clerk to the Council as supporting papers had not been circulated and following a discussion there was a recorded vote on this as follows:-

Councillor Guest Abstained

Councillor Williams Abstained

Councillor Laine voted For

Councillor Arrighi voted For
Councillor Elliott voted For
Councillor O’Kane voted For
Councillor Forster voted For
Councillor Kane voted For
Councillor Roberts voted Against

RESOLVED – That the resolution be carried and the post of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Whitehaven Town Council be advertised on the terms and conditions recommended by the Staffing Committee in accordance with the timetable.

99/15 **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.

100/15 **Media Communications**

Further to Minute 80/15 a draft Media Communications Policy had been prepared for consideration by the Council. The Interim Clerk read out a letter from the Editor of the Whitehaven News regarding the draft policy. The Chairman stated that it was a draft policy and it was for the Council to decide the content of it.

RESOLVED – The each Councillor considers the draft policy and inform the Interim Clerk of any amendments/comments/additions they wish to make and that these be reported back to the next Council meeting.

101/15 **Laying of Wreaths on Remembrance Sunday**

It was proposed that the Chairman would lay a wreath on behalf of the Town Council in Whitehaven on Remembrance Sunday every year and that the Vice Chairman would lay a wreath at Hensingham every year and that instead of purchasing two wreaths to be laid by two older children (Minute 84/15 refers) that the Town Council would purchase and donate a

wreath to the Harbour Youth Project to be laid on behalf of the Town Council in Whitehaven.

RESOLVED – That these proposals be approved.

102/15 **Councillor Matters**

Councillors raised the following matters:-

- (i) Councillor Gill said the Council should be looking at the Sekers Mill site as he was receiving a lot of complaints. The Interim Clerk was asked to write a letter to Copeland Borough Council to ask what the present position was with the site.
- (ii) Councillor Arrighi said that discussions were taking place about repainting the gazebo in the Market Place and about repairing the lighting.
- (iii) Councillor Williams said that traffic calming measures had been installed at Mirehouse but that the white paint markings had now worn off.
- (iv) Councillor Elliott raised the parking problems at Ginns and said cars were now parking up the Wagon Road and that it was a bad hazard.
- (v) Councillor Forster stated that on the walk around Whitehaven she had noticed that between the Market and the harbour where there used to be a roundabout there were now no road markings.
- (vi) Councillor O’Kane said he agreed that there were parking problems in Whitehaven. He said Asda was having problems getting deliveries to the premises and that it was difficult to park anywhere in Whitehaven.
- (vii) Councillor Roberts said that at the next meeting he wanted to discuss having an annual horse show and gymkhana.
- (viii) Councillor Guest raised the following issues:-
 - Traffic Enforcement Officers. The Interim Clerk said that on street parking was enforced by the County Council and

the Clerk was asked to contact the County Council about the lack of enforcement.

- Temporary lights on Low Road/Preston Street –the Chairman said he would deal with this.
- An area up by Haig Pit called the Coal Depot had a lot of rubbish on it. The Chairman said he would find out who the owner of the land was.

(ix) Councillor Gill said that the Lengthsman Scheme could deal with many of these issues.

(x) Councillor Gill said he had been informed by the Mayor that a firm was prepared to supply hanging baskets for areas of the town. The Interim Clerk was asked to find out the details of this.

103/15 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – That the next Town Council meeting will be on 29th October 2015 at 7.00pm at the United Reformed Church Hall.

The Meeting closed at 9.35pm



Chairman