

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th July 2015

Present: Councillors R. Gill (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), C. Arrighi D. Elliott, J. Forster, J. Kane, J. A. Laine, B. O’Kane, G. Roberts, N. Williams

M. Jewell, Interim Clerk to the Council

10 Members of the Public

One member of the Press

48/15 Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Guest and Councillor G McKew.

49/15 Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd July 2015

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 2nd July 2015 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

50/15 Declarations of Interest

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

51/15 Public Participation

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

- (i) Mrs Nelson said that on the main road up to Kells there were briars overgrowing from a field onto the roadway and that the field was overgrown. She said she had the name and address of the owner of the field and the Chairman said the Interim Clerk would write to the owner about this.

- (ii) Mr P Tyson asked why the public participation was an early item on the Agenda rather than at the end. The Chairman informed Mr Tyson that it was best practice to have public participation as an early item on the Agenda.

52/15

Planning Committee

- (i) The Chairman of the Planning Committee reported that the Planning Committee considered the following planning applications on 10th July 2015 and had no comments to make and that the Planning Authority had been notified accordingly:-

Application No.	Details
CH/4/15/2249/0F1	Relocation of pharmacy to a small extension adjacent to the front entrance at Morrisons Supermarket
CH/4/15/2254/0F1	Erection of two pairs of semi-detached dwellings with off road parking and amenity space railway sidings, either side of Lakeland Avenue, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2256/0F1	Ground floor extension to provide larger kitchen and lounge and single detached garage to replace existing at 97 Loop Road North Whitehaven
CH/ 4/15/2258/0F1	Disabled toilet and new disability access/egress ramps Hensingham Rugby League Club, Cleator Moor Road, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2260/0F1	Erection of detached house with integral garage plot 3 Town Head Farm, Sandwith
CH/4/15/2262/0F1	Two storey rear extension to form Kitchen/dining/living room at Ground floor with master bedroom

	Over at first floor plus internal Re-modelling Ghyllside, Sandwith
CH/4/15/2267/0F1	Erection of withdrawal/classroom Store and access corridor St Mary's RC Primary School High Road Kells
CH/4/15/2268/0F1	Erection of boundary fencing On site to provide security From trespassing land adjacent to Border Yard, Coach Road, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2270/0F1	Conversion to flats 79 Lowther Street, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2271/0L1	Listed building consent for Conversion to flats, 79 Lowther Street, Whitehaven

RESOLVED - That the action taken be approved

- (ii) That a further three members be appointed to the Planning Committee in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED – That following proposals Councillor J Laine, Councillor G Roberts and Councillor J Kane be appointed to the Planning Committee.

53/15

Planning Applications

The Council considered the following applications for planning permission which had been received after the Planning Committee meeting on 10th July 2015:-

Application No.	Details
CH/4/15/2284/0L1	Listed Building Consent for new branding to be installed above recently fitted ATM machine in the form of TSB branding tablets, 59 lowther Street, Whitehaven

CH/4/15/2282/0F1	Conversion of former builders store into a dwelling, builders store, Old Arrowthwaite, Kells, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2280/0F1	Application to renew existing planning permission 4/12/2271/0F1 (change of use 1 st 2 nd and 3 rd floors to self-contained flat New/adapted shop front to 45 Market Place Whitehaven)
CH/4/15/2285/0F1	Erection of garage plot 3, Fairview garage Site, Bransty Road, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2287/0F1	Erection of ground floor living room and bathroom and first floor bedroom extension 29 North Road, Bransty
CH/4/15/2288/0F1	Erection of dwellinghouse Plot 13 former White School, Kells
CH/4/15/2289/0F1	Erection of a porch and sitting room Extension 79 Leathwaite, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2293/0L1	Listed Building Consent to fit bird spikes to first floor window sill areas, Old Town Hall, Duke Street, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2313/0F1	Removal of prefabricated garage, erection of Ladies WC extension with open porch, internal alterations and erection of a fence Distressed Sailors Inn, Egremont Road, Hensingham
CH/4/15/2316/0F1	Storage shed and retaining wall (retrospective) 27 Monkway Cottages
CH/4/15/2318/0F1	Customer collection canopy Tesco Supermarket, Bransty Row, Whitehaven
CH/4/15/2319/0A1	Signage to click and collect facility, Tesco Supermarket, Bransty Row, Whitehaven

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

54/15 **Christmas Lights**

The Interim Clerk referred to Minute 43/15 of the Council meeting held On 2nd July 2015 when it was resolved that the Town Council would finance the Christmas lights this year in Whitehaven.

Councillor O’Kane referred to a recent meeting he had had with John Davis (CBC) at the Moresby offices and said that he had inspected the Whitehaven Christmas lights which were stored there. He said that the lights would need to be tested before use, refurbished and disposed of as necessary and that the provision of Christmas lights in Whitehaven would be a complex and costly operation.

RESOLVED – That the Interim Clerk obtain costings for the testing, erection, maintenance and dismantling of the Christmas lights in Whitehaven and also for the cost of electricity.

55/15 **Progress Reports**

(i) Accommodation For Town Council

Further to Minute 44/15 3 of the Town Council meeting held on 2nd July 2015 the Interim Clerk reported that the Lease for the room in Whitehaven Civic Hall was now ready to be signed by the Town Council

RESOLVED - That the Lease be signed by the Town Council.

(ii) Bank Account

The Interim Clerk reported that the Cumberland Building Society had supplied mandate forms which would need to be signed by each Councillor before the bank accounts (one current account and one deposit account) could be opened.

RESOLVED - That each Councillor contact the Interim Clerk to make arrangements to sign the mandate forms.

(iii) Website

The Interim Clerk reported that the development of the website was progressing and that she was meeting with Councillor McKew the following week to go through various matters and to carry out any necessary actions

RESOLVED – That the position be noted and asked that Councillor McKew be requested to do a presentation at the next Council meeting

(iv) Allotments

It was reported that there was ongoing communications with the allotment sites and that the Allotments Task Force (Councillors B O’Kane, G McKew, G Roberts, J Forster, and J. Laine) would be meeting regularly with the representatives of the allotment sites to see if the Town Council could help them in any way and that the Allotments Task Force would report back to the Council on the results of these discussions and for authority to take any action.

RESOLVED – That the position be noted

(v) Town Council Notice Board

Further to Minute 44/15 7 of the Council meeting held on 2nd July 2015 Councillor Laine reported that she had consulted with many businesses in Whitehaven who were all enthusiastic about purchasing advertising space on a digital notice board as it represented good value for money.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Laine give all the details of the digital notice board and a list of the businesses in Whitehaven to the Interim Clerk so that a letter can be sent out on Town Council headed notepaper to those businesses informing them about a digital noticeboard and asking them if they would buy advertising space and asking for ideas as to where the noticeboard could be sited.

The Council meeting was adjourned at this point in order that the Mayor of Copeland, Mike Starkie could address the Council. He said it was important for Copeland Borough Council to work with the Town Council and that really good things were going on and that there was positive engagement with some of the major players in the area. He

said he had ambitious plans that would be transformational for the area and a complete transformation of Whitehaven Town Centre.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council thanked the Mayor for attending.

56/15 **Financial Report**

The Interim Clerk reported that there had been no expenditure since the last Council meeting.

RESOLVED – That this be noted.

57/15 **Appointment of Clerk to Council**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee Councillor B O’Kane informed The Council of the recommendations made by the Staffing Committee at its meeting on 19th July 2015.

RESOLVED – (i) That the appointment of the Clerk be on a full-time basis and
(ii) That the terms and conditions of appointment be discussed at a future meeting of The Staffing Committee and the recommendations made be reported to full Council for approval.

58/15 **Result of Public Consultation**

Further to Minute 30/15 the Interim Clerk reported that following the article in the Whitehaven News asking for the public’s views about what the Town Council could do for them there had been four responses:-

- (i) A Mrs Nelson said that at either side of the road at College View there were two fields and one opposite to where she lives had never been cut and that there were briars and nettles 12 feet high and she wondered if the Town Council could do anything about this.
- (ii) A voice mail was received stating that the road up to Hillcrest Avenue from the Loop Road and then up to Standings Rise was in a dreadful condition and suggested that this be a Town Council

project. The Chairman said that the Town Council had no authority over roads.

- (iii) A telephone call was received stating that the streets in Whitehaven are filthy and the Town Council should ask individual shop owners to keep the frontages of their shops clean.
- (iv) A Mr Nicholson said that he and some of his friends would be willing to volunteer to do general tidying up work in the Town Council's area. The Chairman suggested that Mr Nicholson be contacted about this.

59/15 Proposed Closure of West Cumbria Magistrates Court

The Interim Clerk reported that a letter and comments form had been received from the Ministry of Justice outlining proposals to close the West Cumbria Magistrates Court (including the County Court) and relocate it at Carlisle. The Town Council expressed their unanimous objection to the proposed closure of the West Cumbria Magistrates Court.

RESOLVED – That the Interim Clerk complete the comments form and inform the Ministry of Justice that the Town Council is totally opposed to the closure because many people would be denied access to justice and the fact that Whitehaven and the surrounding area is rapidly expanding and needs a Court nearer than Carlisle

60/15 Request to take over Grass Cutting at Sandwith

A request had been received from the Borough Councillor for Sandwith, Councillor Peter Tyson asking the Town Council to take over the grass cutting of Sandwith Village Green. Following a discussion it was:-

RESOLVED – That the Town Council agrees to cut the grass on Sandwith Village Green this year subject to obtaining consent from the owners, St Bees School.

61/15 Land Registration of Allotment Sites

The Interim Clerk informed the Council that in order to complete the legal formalities to transfer the allotment sites from the Borough Council to the Town Council a letter was required from the Town Council giving

its consent to the transfer of the allotments so that this can be registered with the Land Registry.

RESOLVED – That a letter be prepared giving the Town Council's consent to the transfer of the allotment sites from Copeland Borough Council to Whitehaven Town Council.

62/15 Councillor Matters

Councillors raised the following matters:-

- (i) Councillor Arrighi raised the problems of seagulls in Whitehaven and then referred the matter to Councillor Roberts who said seagulls are a big issue particularly when they swoop down and grab food from people. The Interim Clerk gave a brief outline of the legal position with regards to seagulls and the Chairman said this would be an item for discussion on the next Agenda.
- (ii) Councillor Roberts said there had been complaints from residents that the entrance to the town was unsightly and that there was between seven and eleven bins on the pavement outside Wetherspoons.
- (iii) Councillor Kane wanted someone from Copeland Borough Council to talk to the Town Council about Castle Park. He said from the top part to the bottom part of Castle Park there were nettles over six feet high and also people were drinking in the park.
- (iv) Councillor Laine said there were problems with the cycleway at Mirehouse on the 09 side from the bridge to the cattle arch because of rubbish, graffiti, broken glass, and needles. Sustrans had informed her that they were not responsible for this stretch of the cycleway and that it was Copeland's responsibility. The Chairman said that this would be discussed at the next Council meeting.
- (v) Councillor Laine said she had been approached by Dave Harkison from the United Reformed Church asking if the Town Council would be interested in being involved in a town centre chaplaincy role. The Chairman said that this would be discussed at the next Council meeting.

- (vi) Councillor Laine asked if someone from NuGen could come to the Town Council meeting to give some clarity as to the consultation process. The Chairman said the Interim Clerk would write to them about this.
- (vii) Councillor O’Kane raised an issue on grass cutting. He said that coming into town from the Loop Road there were two overgrown areas namely Toll Bar and Bransty Park which were very unsightly and that it would cost approximately £390 to cut these areas. The Chairman said this would be discussed at the next Council meeting.
- (viii) Councillor Kane referred to College View at Monkway and the path running down the Brows. The Chairman said this would be discussed at the next Council meeting.
- (ix) Councillor Arrighi said that there were two loading bays in front of the Multi Storey Car Park and asked about making these into taxi ranks. The Interim Clerk said that the County Council had created new taxi ranks on Quay Street and these had been included in the recent Road Traffic Order and would be marked out in due course.

63/15 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – That the next Town Council meeting will be on 27th August 2015 at 7.00 at the United Reformed Church Hall.

The Meeting closed at 8.45



Chairman