

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 30th July 2026

Present: Councillor C Hayes (Deputy Chairman in the Chair); Councillor J Carr; Councillor E Dinsdale; Councillor A Pearson; Councillor R Redmond; Councillor G Roberts; Councillor A Spedding; Councillor R White

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Member of the Public

Press

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and introduced himself and asked all Councillors present to introduce themselves. He said there was no scheduled testing of the fire alarm and that if the fire alarm went off people should go out in an orderly fashion down the way they had come in. He said toilets were right outside the door. For any member of the public wishing to speak he would take names at the start of the public participation item and members of the public were allowed 3 minutes to speak and the time allowed for public participation was 15 minutes in total. Members of the public were not allowed to speak while the normal business of the Meeting was going on

3064/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received as follows:-

Councillor R Gill	Holiday
Councillor B O’Kane	Holiday
Councillor G Dinsdale	Another Appointment

It was proposed by Councillor E Dinsdale and seconded by Councillor Carr that the apologies for absence be accepted and noted. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal, 1 Councillor voted against and 1 Councillor abstained. It was

RESOLVED - That the apologies for absence be accepted and noted

3089/26 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hayes declared that he was a Trustee of the Whitehaven in Need Relief Committee

3090/26 Public Participation

There was no public participation

3091/26 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th July 2026

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor White that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th July 2026 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and it 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained. It was

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th July 2026 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3092/26 Report from Cumberland Council

There was no attendance from Cumberland Council

3093/26 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1
It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor White that following consideration of the Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1 that Cumberland Council be informed that the Council had no representations/comments to make. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That following consideration of the Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1 that Cumberland Council be informed that the Council had no representations/comments to make.

3094/26 Finance Report

The Council considered the Finance report

- i. Appendix 1 – The Council considered a list of invoices at Appendix 1 plus the additional invoice below:-

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the invoices shown at Appendix 1 plus the additional invoice be approved and authorised for payment. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the invoices shown on Appendix 1 plus the additional invoice be approved and authorised for payment

- ii It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Cashbook (Appendix 2) and the Income and Expenditure (Appendix 3) be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Cashbook (Appendix 2) and the Income and Expenditure (Appendix 3) be approved and noted.

3095/26 Allotment Update Report

- 1.1 Further to Minute 3052/26 The Council considered an Allotment Update Report giving details of the position with regards to the Council's Allotment sites. The Clerk informed the Council that :-

- Cartgate Allotment Site – there were 1.5 vacancies
- Crow Park Allotment Site – There were 3 vacant plots
- Midgey Allotment Site – There were 3 vacant plots plus a plot specifically adapted for people with disabilities
- Sneckyeat Allotment Site – No vacancies

- 1.2 A request had been received from the Site Representative from Midgey Allotments to use the currently empty plot adapted for people with a disability as a garden for other allotment holders where they could put a table and some chairs and sit there on the understanding that they keep it clean and tidy and that should anyone with a disability ask to rent the adapted allotment plot that they vacate it.

It was proposed by Councillor Spedding and seconded by Councillor Carr (i) that paragraph 1.1 of the Report be noted and approved (ii) that the request to use the currently empty plot adapted for people with a disability as a garden for other allotment holders where they could put a table and some chairs and sit there on the understanding that they keep it clean and tidy and that should anyone with a disability ask to rent the adapted allotment plot that they vacate it. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That paragraph 1.1 of the Report be noted and approved and (ii) that the request to use the currently empty plot adapted for people with a disability as a garden for other allotment holders where they could put a table and some chairs and sit there on the understanding that they keep it clean and tidy and that should anyone with a disability ask to rent the adapted allotment plot that they vacate it.

3072/26

Woodhouse Road Bus Shelter

The Council considered a report on the Woodhouse Road bus shelter following an email from Josh MacAlister MP to say that a constituent had raised concerns because the bus shelter had become overgrown with vegetation which encroached into the shelter itself and various panels were missing and that the shelter was regularly used by elderly residents and children who were unable to make full use of it because of its condition. The Council heard that they had decided to install a bus shelter on Woodhouse Road in 2019 but following various instances of vandalism which the Council could not claim for on insurance as the insurance excess was higher than the claim the Council decided in November 2022 that the shelter be taken down and removed but for some unknown reason this was not done. The Ward Councillor had confirmed that the roof was still on the shelter but side panels were smashed in and that he had received no complaints about it

The Clerk reported that on 15th July 2026 an email had been received from Josh MacAlister MP to say he was writing on behalf of a constituent who had raised concerns about the fact that the shelter had become overgrown with vegetation and sections of the bus shelter were damaged. The shelter was regularly used by elderly residents and children who were unable to make full use of it because of its condition. The Clerk referred to Appendices 1 and 2 which were attached to the Report showing correspondence and photographs

The Council does not own the land the bus shelter stands on or the land around the bus shelter (it belongs to Cumberland Council) but as a measure of goodwill the Council's Contractor was asked to cut the vegetation around and inside the bus shelter which he did on 16th July 2026 and photographs were attached at Appendix 4.

The Ward Councillor said that he could think of many things that Greenbank needed but didn't see this as the issue that the MP was making of it. Nobody had ever gone to him and complained about the bus shelter. He said the vegetation around the estate was an absolute mess – it was running wild. He said if you went to 90% of people on Greenbank about the bus shelter the first thing they would say is that there's plenty more things that they were interested in rather than the bus shelter. He said the bus service wasn't as frequent as ever and that the buses were running from a different direction now. He said if you put the panels back in they would most likely get broken. Councillor Carr said that he thought that if Josh was going out of his way to get money into the

Cumberland funding that it should be basically honoured and given because why should the Council keep up with repairs or whatever if it was not our land and was probably put in 20 years ago when it was really needed. The Clerk said it was put in in 2019 with permission from the then Highways Department and asked Councillor Pearson if any buses stopped at the bus stop on Woodhouse Road and he said there was some but the popular bus ran down the main road. Councillor Dinsdale said the cleanest thing for him would be to take and just pass it on to them. He said it was their land. Councillor Carr said the Council had tried and if Josh had the funding there then go for it.

After consideration of this and the email from Josh MacAlister MP

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Pearson that the bus shelter be taken down and the site made good unless Cumberland Council wished to adopt it and maintain it including grass cutting. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the bus shelter be taken down by the Council and the site made good unless Cumberland Council wished to adopt it and maintain it including grass cutting.

3073/26 Sharp Photocopier Contract

The Council considered a report on a new Service Contract for the office Photocopier. In 2021 when the photocopier was purchased the Council entered into a 5 year service contract which had expired. Sharp had now advised that the photocopier was two generations old and had reached a stage where parts availability was becoming limited. Sharp had assessed the Council's machine and as goodwill gesture had offered to extend the Service Agreement for a further 3 years at £10.00 per month plus the existing cost per copy charges which remained unchanged at 0.403p per mono copy and 4.027p per colour copy. The Service Agreement provides continued service and maintenance support for the photocopier and as part of the revised Service Agreement toner and replacement consumables will continue to be supplied as required and will be sent at 25%. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor White that the Council enter into a 3 year Service Agreement with Sharp on the terms offered. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Council enter into a 3 year Service Agreement with Sharp on the terms offered.

3074/26 Courtesy Toilet Scheme

The Clerk reported that the Courtesy toilet scheme had not moved on a great deal but was expecting to make contact with the new café/bar at the top of King Street.

Councillor Carr said he had spoken to both of the owners the previous weekend

who were not too sure what to do but the reason was it had not turned into a café yet and in the window it showed they had put in for a new licence. He said he had asked them if they were still going ahead with the café side to please sign up. He said there was also The Strand and they were going to sign up and they had full disability and that paperwork would go to the Clerk the next day. He said he would chase The Royal Standard again and if not he said we need to come to a certain point and then that would be it. There was no resolution on this as it was for information only

3075/26 Quotes for Advertising for Council Events

The Council considered a report on quotes received for advertising for Council Events in 2027/28 from (i) Stephen Murphy the Managing Director of the Cumbria Guide and Localique in respect of In Cumbria and the Whitehaven News. These were as follows:

- (i) Cumbria Guide - Double Page Spread - £7,528.50 plus VAT
 Full Page - £4,959.00 plus VAT
 Half Page - £3,748.50 plus VAT
 Artwork - £378.00

The Clerk informed the Council that at present we contract for 6 full page adverts which includes artwork and design and that the cost for 2027/28 was £189.00 more than for 2026/27 and the artwork was £18.00 more. It was proposed by Councillor Carr and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Council continues to advertise in the Cumbria Guide and that the full page package be accepted in the sum of £4,959.00 plus VAT together with £378 for artwork. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Council continues to advertise in the Cumbria Guide and that the full page package be accepted in the sum of £4,959.00 plus VAT together with £378 for artwork.

- (ii) Localiq – 2 Half Page Adverts In Cumbria and 3 Quarter Pages in the
 Whitehaven News – Total cost £1,244.96

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote of £1,244.96 from Localiq for adverts in In Cumbria and the Whitehaven News in 2027/28 be accepted. A vote was held and it was Unanimously

RESOLVED - That the quote of £1,244.96 from Localiq for adverts in In Cumbria and the Whitehaven News in 2027/28 be accepted.

3076/26 Quote for Security for Council Events

The Council considered a report on a quote received from the Council's preferred Contractor for the provision of Security Personnel at Council Events. The quote was £25.50 per operative per Hour for 2027/28 an increase of £1 per hour per operative.

In order to accept the quote from the Council's preferred contractor to supply Security Personnel for Council Events the Council had to consider suspending Financial Regulation 5 in order to permit this. In order to suspend Financial Regulation 5 Financial Regulation 19 stated that

"The Council May by resolution of the Council duly notified prior to the relevant Meeting of the Council, suspend any part of the Financial Regulations provided that the reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising had been presented to all Members". The reasons for the suspension and the risks were shown at paragraph 1.3. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that (i) the Council resolves to suspend Financial Regulation 5 to accept the quote from the preferred supplier for the provision of security at Council Events at the rate of £25.50 per operative per hour and (ii) having made the resolution agrees that the reasons for the suspension in paragraph 1.3 of the Report be recorded and the assessment of the risks in paragraph 1.3 of the Report be accepted and approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That (i) the Council resolves to suspend Financial Regulation 5 to accept the quote from the Council's preferred contractor for the provision of security at Council Events at the rate of £25.50 per operative per hour and (ii) having made the resolution agrees that the reasons for the suspension in paragraph 1.3 of the Report be recorded and the assessment of the risks in paragraph 1.3 of the Report be accepted and approve

3077/26 Quote for the Collection, Setting Up, Removal and return of Council Equipment used at Council Events and any other work 2027/28

The Council considered a quote of £1,400 received from the Council's preferred supplier for the collection, setting up, removal and return of Council Equipment used at Council Events in 2027/28. This equates to 4 events at £350 per event. Any additional events will be at the same rate. Any other work would be at an hourly rate of £60. In order to accept the quote of £1,400.00 for Council Events plus £60 per hour for any other work from the Council's preferred supplier the Council had to consider suspending Financial Regulation 5 in order to permit this. In order to suspend Financial Regulation 5 Financial Regulation 19 stated that

"The Council May by resolution of the Council duly notified prior to the relevant Meeting of the Council, suspend any part of the Financial Regulations

provided that the reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising had been presented to all Members". The reasons for the suspension and the risks were shown at paragraph 1.3. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that (i) the Council resolves to suspend Financial Regulation 5 to accept the quote of £1,400.00 for Council Events plus £60 per hour for any other work from the Council's preferred supplier and (ii) having made the resolution agrees that the reasons for the suspension in paragraph 1.4 of the Report be recorded and the assessment of the risks in paragraph 1.4 of the Report be accepted and approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That (i) the Council resolves to suspend Financial Regulation 5 to accept the quote of £1,400.00 for Council Events plus £60 per hour for any other work from the Council's preferred supplier and (ii) having made the resolution agrees that the reasons for the suspension in paragraph 1.4 of the Report be recorded and the assessment of the risks in paragraph 1.4 of the Report be accepted and approved.

3078/26 Quotes for the Provision of Marquees at Council Events

The Council considered 2 quotes received from contractors for the provision of different sized marquees and associated equipment for Council Events in 2027/28. These were identified as Contractor A and Contractor B in the report. After consideration of the quotes it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the quote from Contractor A be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the quote from Contractor A be accepted

3079/26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return for Year ending 31st March 2026

The Clerk reported that the Council's External Auditors had issued their report and certificate which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Section 3 of the External Auditor's Report and Certificate confirmed that information submitted by the Council was in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that the relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

The Clerk said a Notice of Conclusion of Audit would in accordance with the regulations be published on the Council's Website and a copy displayed in the windows of the Council Offices.

The External Auditors had also submitted their invoice in the sum of £2,520 (including VAT) and it was recommended that the invoice be paid.

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the External Auditor's Report be approved and noted and that their invoice be

paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the External Auditor's Report be approved and noted and that their invoice be paid.

3080/26 WCSSG

Councillor E Dinsdale said he had not attended any meetings over the last month but was going to a Meeting at Cleator Moor Civic on Tuesday 4th August 2026 and would report back to the next Council Meeting

3081/26 Report from Clerk

The Clerk reported on the following:

- The Temporary Banking Hub had opened that day in the United Reformed Church in James Street and that there was no confirmation as yet of where the permanent Banking Hub would be. She read out a letter received that afternoon from Cash Access Uk which said the Temporary Banking Hub had been introduced to ensure the community continued to have access to essential banking services while work progressed towards establishing a permanent Banking Hub and that customers could access a range of banking services including cash withdrawals and deposits, bill payments, balance enquiries etc. Community Bankers from participating banks would be available on dedicated days to provide customers with more specialised banking support. The temporary Banking Hub would serve the community until the permanent Banking Hub opened
- The Tall Ship Santa Maria had sailed into Whitehaven Harbour on Tuesday morning where there were many spectators waiting to see her. The ship opened to the public on Wednesday and that day she and other people from other organisations attended the official opening and the Captain was presented with a bottle of wine on behalf of the Council. The ship would be in port until the 10th August 2026
- The Council's Beatrix Potter Exhibition opened on Wednesday 22nd August and had been well received. Thanks go to Mrs Anne Bulloch and Mrs Eileen Marshall for all the wonderful knitted and crocheted Beatrix Potter characters that they made and gave to the Council

3082/26 Councillor Ward Matters

- (i) Councillor Carr referred to Home Housing again and what he had mentioned last month regarding one of their tenants on Mirehouse East. It was still affecting the private owners on both sides and others even to yesterday when the teenage daughter of one of the home owners was

abused yet again by the two tenants – it was a mother and daughter. But what was more disappointing was that they had really reached out to them and somebody was coming out to see them and we had mentioned it as well and still nothing. So he would like it if the Clerk could send him the next day the official people that he should speak too because it was not on when there were families getting abused verbally especially when she was only 17 years old and couldn't go out in her garden. Councillor Carr said he would give her all the details of this case.

- (ii) Councillor Carr referred to parking difficulties again because Councillor O'Kane was not there. He said the local Cumberland Councillor was messaged on 12th July regarding parking on Marine Terrace basically that the occupants and residents of that area had not been told that they were obstructing parking because there was a small 3ft path and the Police were saying it was an obstruction, advisory notices will be given. However there were 6 houses there with cars and if they didn't park on that small piece of footpath then they would block the access to get further up. So the residents speaking for all on that road something was sent to Councillor Ghayouba and there had been no reply so he had been asked to bring it up because Councillor O'Kane was not there.
- (iii) Councillor Hayes said there were big celebrations on Kells Ward and they had a bin on the Welfare Ground and the streets had been cleaned and the grass had been cut around the Miner's Welfare place and was really looking tidy and he hoped everybody could keep it up
- (iv) Councillor Pearson said he had been contacting the Whitehaven News about vegetation and had put it on social media and he was going to continue to put it on social media because he had just been ignored by everybody. He said Mirehouse Football Team were doing an excellent job looking after Greenbank Playing Field. He said it was a pity the Council themselves couldn't have looked after it to the same standard as what they do. The only thing he would say about the field was that it was a Dog Exclusion Zone and he had asked Paul Shearsby and others a couple of times to say there was no signs to tell people and they came from all over to walk their dogs on it and it was supposed to be a dog exclusion zone but what it actually was, was a dog walking zone
- (v) Councillor E Dinsdale said there had been a lot of publicity in the last so many weeks about the Whitehaven Plan and asked if anybody knew what it was. He said as a representative of one half of the Town Centre he was not aware of it and nobody had shared any plan with him. He asked if somebody could formally contact Cumberland or Josh MacAlister so the Council could get a copy and they could scrutinise it. The Clerk said this was the Whitehaven Master Plan and you could get a copy online. The Chairman said he had looked at it on line. She said it had been approved by Cumberland that week. Councillor Dinsdale said he had read that but he hadn't seen it

- (vi) Councillor E Dinsdale asked how much the Council had contributed towards the Ship visit. The Clerk said she did not know the actual sums of money as they had not come in at that time. She said the Council paid for the generator and the berthing fees and that was what the Council contributed. She said obviously the Council was involved in the organisation of the Ship coming into the Harbour with the permission of the Harbour Commissioners and the Marina Company. Councillor Dinsdale asked if it would be fair to say that the majority of the finance that had been used for the ship visit does that come from the nuclear industry. The Clerk said people had to pay to go on the ship and then asked Councillor Dinsdale finance for what and Councillor Dinsdale said money had been put up front for its visit and we paid we had paid money in the past for visits like this. The Clerk said we had only paid for the generator and the berthing fees and there was nothing else to pay. She said the Ship specified a sum of money that they wanted to come into Whitehaven. The Chairman said someone else had provided the toilets and the Clerk confirmed this. So anything going from the Council in our accounts you will see that it is not a big outlay. The Clerk said Sellafield had paid to have their own corporate evenings onboard the ship. Councillor Dinsdale said so the actual sponsorship was more around that side of it than them actually giving a set fee. The Clerk confirmed and said we pay for the berthing fees and the generator during their stay and any corporate evenings were funded by the organisations themselves. He asked that based on previous visits how much had normally been. The Clerk said she couldn't tell him as she did not have the information in front of her. He said well based on a previous visit and the Clerk said based on a previous visit like last year for example the Council was not charged for the generator but the Council would be getting charged this year but couldn't tell him how much this was likely to be. He asked if the generator was off the Harbour Commissioners and them charged us. The Clerk said no it was the Contractor who charged us and that the Harbour Commissioners did not have a generator, The Clerk said the berthing fees were only a few hundred pounds. The Chairman said it was very minimal. The Clerk said it was good for the Town as the ship did pull people in. Councillor Dinsdale said he didn't think anyone would dispute that but it had in his opinion turned into the Josh MacAlister show where he put up money for advertising and it had come across to him that it was him. The clerk said publicity about the Ship had been going out for a long time and we had been using the Councils venues to publicise it but she didn't know the circumstances of the advert by Josh MacAlister. She said there were already adverts out there but she couldn't answer the question and it would be wrong of her to put forward a theory because she didn't know. Councillor Dinsdale said he supposed he wasn't asking a question it was just the perception that it left and in particular that particular article as if

it was down to him. It was a big thank you that was given to him for putting money forward for publicity for the event but it did come across as if this was Josh MacAlister that was the perception

3083/26 Date and Time of Next meeting

The date of the next meeting was Thursday 27th August 2026 at 6.00pm at the Council Offices, 148 Queen Street, Whitehaven

3084/26 IN PRIVATE

That prior to the following items of business the Chairman moved the following resolution That in view of the special or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public and or press be instructed to withdraw. This was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor White. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That in view of the special or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public and or press be instructed to withdraw.

3085/26 Application for Council Ward Grant – GCC

The Council considered an application for a Councillor Ward Grant of £1,000.00. Payment of this Grant was under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 which means that where there is no alternative power and no statutory prohibition the Council can incur expenditure under Section 137 provided it is satisfied that there is a direct benefit to the area or part of the area or to some or all of the inhabitants and that the direct benefit accruing to its area or residents is commensurate with the expenditure incurred. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Carr that being satisfied that the provisions of Section 137 were being complied with that the Councillor Ward Grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to GCC. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That being satisfied that the provisions of Section 137 were being complied with that the Councillor Ward Grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to GCC.

3086/26 Website

The Clerk reported on the Council's website and the fact that there were storage limit problems and there had been difficulties in uploading some data. The Clerk said this needed to be looked at and now might be a good time to have the Website revamped and upgraded and that now might be a good time to go out and get some quotes to deal with the problem. The Clerk said the website needed redesigned in certain aspect and the Chairman said it was a legal requirement to put certain things on the website. A general discussion ensued around the staff uploading documents themselves and security and no decision was made and it was left that the Clerk would look into all of this and report back.

3087/26 Nominations

The Clerk reported on the Town Criers Community Person of the year Award and asked Councillors to put forward their nominees for the Award which should be sent to the Clerk as soon as possible. The Judges were Marc Goodwin, Anthon Payne, Louise Savage and Joy Humphries.

The Meeting closed at 7.15pm



Chairman