

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 28th March 2024

Present: Councillor C Hayes (Chairman); Councillor R Gill; Councillor J Carr; Councillor E Dinsdale; Councillor G Dinsdale; Councillor B O’Kane; Councillor A Pearson; Councillor G Roberts; Councillor R Taylor; Councillor R White

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Councillor M Hawkins

Members of the Public

Prior to the Meeting starting the Chairman and the Councillors introduced themselves to the public and the Chairman referred to fire alarms/escape and toilets

2474/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor A Spedding	Holiday
Councillor R Redmond	Holiday

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Gill that the apologies for absence be accepted and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the apologies for absence be accepted and noted.

2475/24 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hayes declared that he was a member of the Whitehaven Tidy Town Committee and the Harbour Users Group.

Councillor Gill declared that he was a member of the Whitehaven Heritage Action Group

2476/24 Public Participation

There was no public participation

Councillor Pearson entered the Meeting

2477/24 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 29th February

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29th February 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29th February 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2478/24 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1
After considering the Planning Applications on Appendix 1.
Councillor Gill said he welcomed the application for Hensingham House and said this land goes down to Snebra Ghyll and there had been a lot of trouble with kids going onto the bypass

Councillor White entered the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that after consideration of the planning applications on Appendix 1 there were no representations and that Cumberland Council be informed of this. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That after consideration of the Planning Applications on Appendix 1 there were no representations and that Cumberland Council be informed of this.

2479/24 Report from Cumberland Council

Cumberland Councillor Mike Hawkins said that the Play Park review is one of the priorities. He said it was one of the things that had come up in the Community Panels and the state of the play parks and renewal of play parks. He said he had asked Michael Barry to supply the Council with any previous play park reviews.

Councillor Hawkins referred to Streetscape and said he was going to keep going on about it and had asked for a briefing for new Councillors and those who may be unfamiliar with it as he was keen to keep items such as this on the Agenda and he would welcome members of the Town Council to come along to the

briefing to get an idea of what Streetscape is because he thought the town had a lot to offer for visitors and tourists and that something like Streetscape if it was implemented would be a massive step in achieving that so he was going to keep going on about it. He said he would keep the Council informed about this through the clerk.

Councillor Hawkins said that at the Community Panel the previous Thursday it was reported that the following grants had been awarded

- £12,000 to Proud and Diverse Cumbria towards furniture and equipment for their new hub in Whitehaven
- £6,000 to Whitehaven Community Trust towards new pilot support schemes for people when they move from a hostel
- £8,000 to Time for Change West Cumbria for a new support project
- £6,000 to WHYP towards new flooring
- £8,410 to St Bees Village Hall towards renovation and repair
- £3,200 to Whitehaven Cricket Club towards purchasing equipment
- £3,000 to Whitehaven Boxing Club towards a new ring

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hawkins for his report

Councillor Pearson referred to play parks and said the one at Greenbank kept being locked up. So on Sunday on what is the netball part it was choc a block with bigger kids and the smaller kids were stuck outside. The slide was chained up. He said he had a letter from Home Housing in 2010 saying they would take responsibility for it and maintain it to keep it right but it wasn't right.

Councillor Hawkins said this would come under the review of play parks.

Councillor Pearson said the playing field was not fit for purpose and they wanted it maintained as Greenbank playing field not as what it was now which was a dog fouling area. He said they were building 107 houses above and all the drainage was going down towards the playing field and they had made no accommodation for this.

Councillor Gill said he welcomed the review which was long overdue and wanted an opening for Councillors to be able to put forward to Cumberland's review plots in our area for consideration and Councillor Hawkins agreed

Councillor Taylor entered the Meeting

Councillor O'Kane asked if a reply had been received about a meeting with Cumberland Council re Lowther Street Bus Stop and the Clerk said no and Councillor O'Kane referred this to Councillor Hawkins who asked that when emails were sent to a Cumberland officer that the relevant Cumberland Ward Councillor or all of the ones for Whitehaven be copied in.

Councillor G Dinsdale entered the Meeting

Councillor Hawkins said that the first Cenotaph Working Group had been set up and a meeting arranged.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hawkins
There were no decisions made as the item was for information

2480/24 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance report

- i. Appendix 1 - The Assistant Clerk reported that there were 2 additional invoices to consider on Appendix 1 namely:-

Viking	£79.07 Stationery
Cumberland Council	£84.00 Room hire

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the invoices shown on Appendix 1 plus the 2 extra invoices be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the invoices shown on Appendix 1 plus the 2 extra invoices be approved and paid.

- ii. Appendices 2 and 3 – It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that Appendices 2 and 3 be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

- iii. St Nicholas Gardens – It was noted that a breakdown of costs had been received from Cumberland Council and it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the invoice be paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the invoice be paid

2481/24 Allotments

The Council considered a report on a request from 2 tenants of allotments to grow fruit trees on the allotment not exceeding 10ft in height and to transfer from one plot to another. The report also included quotes from 2 suppliers for the provision of skips for the allotment sites.

- (i) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Tenants' requests be approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Tenant's Requests be approved

- (ii) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Carr that the quote from Supplier B in the sum of £300.00 be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the quote from supplier B in the sum of £300.00 be accepted.

2482/24 Public Space Protection Orders

The Council considered a consultation report on the draft Public Space Protection Orders prepared by Cumberland Council. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that the following representations be sent to Cumberland Council in response to the consultation

1. Schedule 2 - Dogs on Leads – Closed Churchyards, Nature Reserves etc – Greenbank Playing Field, Whitehaven. This should be a Dog Exclusion Area not a Dogs on Leads Area
2. Greenbank Play area which is fenced in is not mentioned at all and should be a Dog Exclusion area
3. Schedule 2 Restricted Areas - On Beck Bottom, Whitehaven (not Beck Bottom cemetery) there is no need for a Dogs on Leads Area

A vote was held and 9 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor Abstained

RESOLVED – That the above-mentioned responses to the consultation on the draft Public Space Protection Orders be sent to Cumberland Council

2483/24 Road Traffic Regulation Order for Whitehaven

Further to Minute 2455/24 The Council considered a report on the proposed Road Traffic Regulation Order for Whitehaven. No response had been received from Cumberland Council regarding the Council’s request for a meeting with them to discuss the possibility of modifying the Lowther Street bus stop to meet the suggestions made by the Town Council. Councillor O’Kane said that the Council would expect dialogue with Cumberland Council and Stagecoach on this matter. Councillor Hawkins said the reason this didn’t go ahead in 2015 was because of finance and that for any briefings he was going to recommend that the Town Council be involved. He said that at the moment Streetscape had been shelved. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a letter be sent to all Cumberland Councillors for Whitehaven asking them to support the Town Council’s view on Lowther Street and to make representations on the Council’s behalf. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That a letter be sent to all Cumberland Councillors for Whitehaven asking them to support the Town Council’s view on Lowther Street and to make representations on the Council’s behalf.

2484/24 **Amendments to draft Copeland Local Plan**

Further to Minute 2468/24 whereby the Council resolved to ask Cumberland Council for details of those amendments which were relevant to Whitehaven the Council had been informed that Cumberland did not have the time, the capacity or the resources to extract the modifications affecting Whitehaven. The Clerk reported that she had been informed that most of the amendments were changes to policy as recommended by the Inspector and applied Copeland wide. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the amendments be noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the amendments be noted.

2485/24 **Street Name and Numbering Former Sekers Site**

The Council considered a report received from Cumberland Council on street naming and numbering of the proposed residential development on the former Sekers site, Hensingham, Whitehaven. Following a discussion during which the Councillors did not consider the developers' suggested street names in paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 of Cumberland's report to be appropriate it was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Council's preferred name for paragraph 1.2 was The Looms and for paragraph 1.3 Sekers Way Road and that Cumberland Council be informed. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Council's preferred name for paragraph 1.2 was The Looms and for paragraph 1.3 Sekers Way Road and that Cumberland Council be informed.

2486/24 **Councillor Ward Matters**

- i. Councillor Taylor referred to Viberoptix and said they were digging up Hillcrest without any notification of what work was going on. He said he had returned from holiday and couldn't get into his house. He said they had dug up Standings Rise and Thornton Road without any notice of any work and had left a mess
- ii. Councillor Taylor said he had received thanks from the Hensingham U16 Rugby for the grant money they received and that they had put the WTC logo on their training kit
- iii. Councillor Taylor said he had received thanks from the Red Lonning Community Centre for the grant towards the new sign
- iv. Councillor Taylor said he had got in touch with Cumberland Council with regards to a TRO for Standings Rise
- v. Councillor Taylor said the working group which had been set up for the playpark was now a registered charity and were looking to raise money for nature trails, swings etc

- vi. Councillor O’Kane referred to the main road down to the Pelican Garage which was sinking quickly
- vii. Councillor O’Kane said the street lights were out in 1 or 2 places and those at the bottom of Victoria Road onto the bottom of Bay Vista and 5 there had been out for months
- viii. Councillor Pearson said whenever any correspondence comes out it’s always about Mirehouse, Woodhouse or Kells and Greenbank never got a mention
- ix. Councillor Pearson referred to building on Fell View Road and said they were constantly driving backwards and forwards from the compound and the road was covered in sludge and it was getting worse and worse. He said there should be something to clean the road. He said he had had to raise the same thing with Storys about Gomeriggs Avenue and after he had a word with them they cleaned it.
- x. Councillor Pearson said the tap in the cemetery hasn’t worked for weeks. He said he had emailed Luke Leathers about this and he had said it was in hand but there was no date as to when it would be fixed
- xi. Councillor Gill said his recycling bins had not been collected the last twice but those on the other side of the road had
- xii. Councillor G Dinsdale said there was litter all over Mirehouse and said she had seen Cumberland litter pickers at Lillyhall so if they could do it at Lillyhall why can’t it be done at Mirehouse
- xiii. Councillor G Dinsdale referred to potholes and said she had an issue on her way to Maryport when she hit a pothole and the shock absorber on her car snapped. She said CC should be responsible for repairs but they were not paying compensation and she wanted to know why. She said the pothole was still there 3 weeks later.
- xiv. Councillor E Dinsdale said himself and Councillor Hayes and Councillor Roberts had attended a recent meeting at the Golf Club about the brown water in the Harbour. He said as the Ward Councillor he really welcomed that Trudy Harrison had pulled this task force together and he thought it was a very constructive meeting with the possibility in the short term of putting some sort of filtration system in. He said they had agreed to meet up again and hopefully there would be a solution sooner rather than later.
- xv. Councillor E Dinsdale said he had received a letter from the Army Cadets thanking him for his Ward Grant money and thanked the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for their help in getting the Ward Grants paid before the year end.
- xvi. Councillor White said he had been contacted by a resident of Inkerman because it was perilous crossing the road there on the bend when cars were exceeding 30mph. Her idea was to get a flashing sign if a car goes above 30mph because it is a blind spot
- xvii. Councillor White said there were a few litter spots in his ward and he was looking to hire a litter picking kit for Pow Beck and the ginnel going through there.
- xviii. Councillor Carr referred to the Minutes on page 11 of the Agenda and an item that had been brought up on his behalf and said this had been taken on board by Councillor White and Councillor Hawkins. He said everything started going really well. Home Group were on to it straight away and said it was a collapsed drain and said they would be back in a few days and would get it fixed. That was 3 weeks ago. He asked if Councillor White or Councillor Hawkins could copy him in on

what was happening. Councillor O’Kane suggested inviting Rob Littler from Home Group to the next Council meeting.

- xix. Councillor Hayes said he had nothing to report but referred to the fact that he had been out and about all over the County, he said he had used some of his Mayor’s Allowance to get the Mayoral Chair revamped and it looked amazing and referred to the Easter egg give away in St Nicholas at 11.00am on Saturday morning and said another bit of his Mayoral allowance had been used for that.

2487/24 Date and Time of next Meeting

The next Council Meeting would be on Thursday 25th April 2024 at 6.00pm in the Beacon Portal

- 2488/24** The Clerk said that the Rangers had finished that day and the Council had received a very nice email from John Wright thanking us and saying it had been a pleasure to work with us and said that she had sent a reciprocal reply to him. Councillor Hayes proposed that all Councillors should send an email on behalf of the Council. Councillor Gill said they should on behalf of the full Council send him our thanks and wish him well for the future

IN PRIVATE

- 2489/24** 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. Councillor Gill proposed this and Councillor Roberts seconded this. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the public and or press be instructed to withdraw.

2490/24 Office Accommodation

Further to Minute 2472/24 the Clerk circulated a report on office accommodation and also a report from the Architect on tender evaluation. Advice from a professional company regarding whether or not the council could reclaim VAT stated that provided the Council decided that the 2nd Floor would not be rented/hired out and the whole building was used only as Council Offices and for use by Community Groups and Charities free of charge then there would be no problem. Members had previously decided that the Ground and First Floors of the building would be for Council/ Community/Charity use only at no charge. The clerk also circulated and read out a tender evaluation report from the Architect. Following a discussion it was

- (i) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the second floor be not used to rent out to generate income for the Council. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained

RESOLVED - That the second floor be not used to rent out to generate income for the Council.

- (ii) It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the position with VAT be noted. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained

RESOLVED – That the position with VAT be noted

- (iii) It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Council accepts the recommendation from the Architect and accepts the lowest tender but subject to the lowest tenderer giving the Architect all the necessary information for consideration before any Contract is entered into. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained.

- (iv) **RESOLVED** - That the Council accepts the recommendation from the Architect and accepts the lowest tender but subject to the lowest tenderer giving the Architect all the necessary information for consideration before any Contract is entered into.

2491/24 Councillor Ward Grants

The Council considered an application for 2 Councillor Ward Grants of £250.00 each to WSCC. The grants were under s 137 of the Local Government Act whereby the Council had to be satisfied that there would be a direct benefit to the area or part of the area or to some or all of the inhabitants and also that the Council had to ensure that the direct benefit accruing to its area or residents is commensurate with the expenditure incurred. Following a discussion during which Councillor Hayes declared an interest that a member of his family was involved in the sea cadets it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that as the Ward Grant Applications complied with the provisions of s 137 the Ward Grants of £250.00 each be awarded. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal, 1 Councillor voted against and 1 Councillor abstained

RESOLVED – That as the Ward Grant Applications complied with the conditions of s 137 the Ward Grants of £250.00 each be awarded to WSCC.

2492/24 **Application for Grant – WCT**

The Council considered an application for a grant of £1,000.00 from WCT. The grant was under section 137 of the Local Government Act whereby the Council had to be satisfied that there would be a direct benefit to the area or part of the area or to some or all of the inhabitants and also that the Council had to ensure that the direct benefit accruing to its area or residents is commensurate with the expenditure incurred. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that as the Grant application complied with the conditions of s 137 a grant of £1,000 be awarded to WCT. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That as the Grant Application complied with the conditions of s. 137 a grant of £1,000 be awarded to WCT.

The Meeting closed at 8.10pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. May', written in a cursive style.

Chairman