

# **WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Councillor M Hawkins – Cumberland Council

Members of the Public

Before the start of the formal proceedings the Chairman said he had a pleasant duty to perform. He said that before the Council was Thomas Donnan and that he knew Thomas and his family very well and that it gave him great pleasure to present this award to Thomas. He said Thomas was born and raised in Whitehaven and educated in West Cumbria. He studied at The LIPA in Liverpool and then after his Foundation Course was awarded a place at the Bristol Old Vic where he passed out with flying colours and he had just finished a run in the West End. He said Thomas would be a great ambassador for Whitehaven and that it gave him great pleasure to present the award to Thomas. Thomas then thanked everyone and the Chairman for the award.

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

### **2593/24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor J Carr

Work Commitments

Councillor G Dinsdale

Illness

It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor White 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.

**2594/24**     **Declarations of Interest**

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

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

**2595/24**     **Public Participation**

There was no public participation

**2596/24**     **Minutes of Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained

**RESOLVED** - That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**2597/24**     **Planning Applications**

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1  
It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that having considered the Planning Applications on Appendix 1 that Cumberland Council be informed that the Council had no representations/comments to make

**RESOLVED** - That after consideration of the Planning Applications on Appendix 1 that Cumberland Council be informed that the Council had no representations/comments to make

**2598/24**     **Report from Cumberland Council**

Councillor Mike Hawkins attended and gave the following report

- The Cenotaph – there were some costings in and three quotes had been received for the steam cleaning, pointing and repairs to the nose as follows:-
  - £11,214
  - £4,710
  - £3,673
- Stone Central was the cheapest at £3,673 and it appeared that they were quite well qualified from information provided and the cheapest. He said

Cumberland Council could find half of the cost of £3,673 and he thought that that was the one that the CC were going to go with. He said it had been confirmed that CC could find half of the price if the Town Council would like to go halves on the project.

- The RTROs are ongoing and should be coming to a conclusion shortly. He said some of the yellow lines were wrong near where he lived.
- The cycle path had been upgraded at Mirehouse and widened by a metre and there were plans to widen it down Esk Avenue and a proposal to go round the back of Home Bargains past the Multi Storey Car Park to link up to the Harbour so cyclists would have a safe passage onto the cycle route
- The next meeting with Home Group was at 6.00pm on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024. He said he was away and Councillor White was away and asked if any other Town Councillor wanted to go. Councillor O’Kane said he wanted to go and it was open to other Councillors to go

Councillor Taylor said he had been to the Mirehouse Wellbeing and thought it was an excellent event. He said there was flooding on the Loop Road just past the Pelican and that the drainage was not working. The Chairman said it was National Highways responsibility

Councillor E Dinsdale said that every year the drains were blocked by falling leaves in Autumn and said all drains were the responsibility of CC

Councillor Pearson referred to the Greenbank Play Park and asked if Greenbank actually fell under CC or were they a separate entity to everybody else because he said Joseph Ghayouba had said about play parks being upgraded but apparently Greenbank Play Park doesn’t come under the umbrella of CC . He said they had been told by Emma Williamson the Greenbank Play Park was an ongoing situation between the ladies of the Community Centre who are all in their 70s and Home Housing who weren’t interested. He thought the easiest thing to do was to have CC to take control of Greenbank Play Park

Councillor O’Kane referred to Victoria Road/Bleach Green where the hedge was overhanging onto the highway and was dangerous to cars. He said one car had got scraped all down one side. He referred to the Cenotaph being cleaned and asked was it possible before we finally agreed with everything to look at all the plans to see what we can actually do in case the Town Council want something that hasn’t been costed. Councillor Hawkins said he would bring it to the next Meeting

#### **2599/24 Repairs to Cenotaph, Castle Park**

The Council considered a report on a request from Cumberland Council to contribute 50% of the cost of £3,673 for carrying repair work to the Cenotaph.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Council pays 50% of the costs of £3,673 for repairs to the Cenotaph and enter into discussions with Michael Barry as to what further additional work may be required. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the Council pays 50% of the costs of £3,673 for repairs to the Cenotaph and enter into discussions with Michael Barry as to what further additional work may be required.

**2600/24**     **Finance Report**

The Council considered the Finance report

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

Viking	£53.82 Copier Paper
Seymour Services	£350.00 Event Equipment Contract

It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hayes 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 Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hayes 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.

**2601/24**     **Annual Governance and Accountability Return for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

The Council considered a report on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 received from the External Auditors which stated that everything was in order and that relevant legislation and Regulatory requirements had been met. They raised 3 matters which did not affect the Return itself and which had or were being dealt with.

The Notice of Conclusion of Audit would in accordance with Regulations be published on the Council's website and a copy displayed on the Window of the Council Offices. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor that the External Auditors Certificate for 2023/24 be approved and noted and that a vote of thanks be given to the staff for this. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** – That the External Auditors Certificate for 2023/24 be approved and noted and that a vote of thanks be given to the staff for this.

**2602/24 Quotes for Advertising in Cumbria Guide 2025/26**

The Council considered a report on quotes received for advertising in the Cumbria Guide in 2025/26. The present contract for a full page spread and which expires in March 2025 costs £3,690 with artwork at £300. The Council considered the quotes for various packages and it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that the quote of £4,170 plus VAT for a full page spread plus £300 for artwork for the year 2025/26 be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That that the quote of £4,170 plus VAT for a full page spread plus £300 for artwork for the year 2025/26 be accepted.

**2603/24 Quote for Summer Plants in Whitehaven 2025**

The Council considered a report on a quote of £5,703.65 plus VAT from the Council's preferred supplier for the provision of Summer Plants for Whitehaven in 2025.

In order to purchase the Summer Plants for Whitehaven from the Council's preferred supplier the Council had to consider suspending Financial Regulation 5 to permit this. In order to suspend Financial Regulation 5, Financial Regulation 19 states that "the Council may by resolution duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of the Council suspend any part of the Regulations provided that the reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been presented to all Members". It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hayes that (i) the Council suspends Financial Regulation 5 to allow the Summer Plants for Whitehaven in 2025 to be purchased from the Council's preferred supplier at a cost of £5,703.65 plus VAT and (ii) having made that resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks in the report be accepted and approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That (i) the Council suspends Financial Regulation 5 to allow the Summer Plants for Whitehaven in 2025 to be purchased from the Council's preferred supplier at a cost of £5,703.65 plus VAT and (ii) having made that resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks in the report be accepted and approved

**2604/24 Quotes for Summer Plants and Winter Bedding Plants in St Nicholas Gardens 2025/26**

The Council considered a quote of £3,608.00 plus VAT for Summer Plants and a quote of £3,346.00 plus VAT for Winter Bedding Plants in St Nicholas Gardens 2025/26.

In order to purchase the Summer Plants and Winter Bedding Plants for St

Nicholas Gardens in 2025/26 from the Council's preferred supplier the Council had to consider suspending Financial Regulation 5 to permit this. In order to suspend Financial Regulation 5, Financial Regulation 19 states that "the Council may by resolution duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of the Council suspend any part of the Regulations provided that the reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been presented to all Members". It was proposed by Councillor Hates and seconded by Councillor Taylor that (i) the Council suspends Financial Regulation 5 to allow the Summer Plants and Winter Bedding Plants in St Nicholas Gardens in 2025/26 to be purchased from the Council's preferred supplier at a cost of £3,608.00 plus VAT and £3,346.00 plus VAT respectively and (ii) having made that resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks in the report be accepted and approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That(i) the Council suspends Financial Regulation 5 to allow the Summer Plants and Winter Bedding Plants for St Nicholas Gardens in 2025/26 to be purchased from the Council's preferred supplier at a cost of £3,608.00 plus VAT and £3,346.00 plus VAT respectively and (ii) having made that resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks in the report be accepted and approved

2605/24

**Quote for Planting and Maintenance Contract in St Nicholas Gardens for 2025/26**

The Council considered a report on a quote of £10,550.00 plus VAT received from the Council's preferred supplier for the Planting and Maintenance Contract in St Nicholas Gardens for 2025/26.

In order to accept the quote for the Planting and Maintenance in St Nicholas Gardens 2025/26 from the Council's preferred supplier the Council had to consider suspending Financial Regulation 5 to permit this. In order to suspend Financial Regulation 5, Financial Regulation 19 states that "the Council may by resolution duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of the Council suspend any part of the Regulations provided that the reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been presented to all Members". It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hayes that (i) the Council suspends Financial Regulation 5 to allow the Planting and Maintenance of St Nicholas Gardens in 2025/26 to be carried out by the Council's preferred supplier at a cost of £10,550.00 plus VAT and (ii) having made that resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks in the report be accepted and approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That(i) the Council suspends Financial Regulation 5 to allow the Planting and Maintenance of St Nicholas Gardens in 2025/26 to be carried out

by the Council's preferred supplier at a cost of £10,550.00 plus VAT and (ii) having made that resolution that the reasons for the suspension as stated in the report be recorded and also that the assessment of the risks in the report be accepted and approved

**2606/24 Purchase of Flags and Burner for 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

The Council considered a report on purchasing 4 60" x 36" VE Day Flags at a cost of £149.32 plus VAT and a VE Day Burner at a cost of £349.00 plus VAT to be used at the VE Day celebrations on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the Council Purchases 4 60" x 36" VE Day Flags at a cost of £149.32 plus VAT and a VE Day Burner at a cost of £349.00 plus VAT to be used at the VE Day Celebrations on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the Council Purchases 4 60" x 36" VE Day Flags at a cost of £149.32 plus VAT and a VE Day Burner at a cost of £349.00 plus VAT to be used at the VE Day Celebrations on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

**2607/24 WCSSG**

Councillor E Dinsdale gave a report on this and made the following points

- He attended a meeting of the WCSSG on 6th August 2024 and had to leave early but he had listened to and watched the video
- Low level waste on Drigg Site – concerns were raised about the timescales around the capping off process which is now to 2035
- GDF and Timescales – it was proposed to start drilling in 2029 and they recognised that due to the election that there has been a bit of a pause in community engagement but they are looking to pick up on that. They have said when the 2029 drilling does take place most will take place out at sea
- There was a discussion on activities around community funding to areas that are currently applied. They did say that other areas applied but they seemed to think that they had reached a point now where there was going to have to be a cut off just to start and move
- After the drilling they will then move TOPS which is Test of Public Support
- There were concerns raised by Beckermat around the arrangements about the current storage of the waste. A number of Parish Councils and people from the public gallery said about improving our infrastructure and getting ready for a potential GDF.
- Update from Mike Heslop on Enabling Groups which focussed a lot on community funding and concerns raised about the overall funding that we receive as community in comparison with the money spent at Sellafield. We are talking about 2.8 billion getting pushed up locally to nearly 3

billion. In comparison to what we get there was a strong feeling that we weren't getting our worth

- Plutonium – is it an asset or is it waste. The conclusion is that it is an asset but not worth any money
- Presentation given around around socio-economics. There was a lot of concern about how to apply but there was a link within the presentation report which was on the website , the WCSSG website where you could email her or her deputy and support would be offered around putting a grant application in. They were adamant in getting your application in to do what you want to do Councillor Dinsdale said he has consistently said that we as a Town Council need to get our ideas together and we need to take them to all these nuclear outlets and test the funding process. Councillor Dinsdale said there was an email address in the presentation which was [socialimpact@sellafieldsites.com](mailto:socialimpact@sellafieldsites.com). You can go on and apply for funding which could be anything from up to £100,000 and there was different criteria and different levels that you've got to get past. The Social Impact Steering Group look at greater than £500,000 worth of funding. He suggested that maybe we should pull together a few people who want to do this. Councillor Taylor suggested a Working Group

Councillor O'Kane asked if there was any feedback on the Moorside site and Councillor Dinsdale said from what he had read in the press 80% NDA said they're claiming now for future work.

The Chairman thanked Councillor E Dinsdale for his report.

## **2608/24 St Bees to Mirehouse Cycle Track**

The Council considered a report on the St Bees to Mirehouse Cycle Track.

- i. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the partnership between St Bees Parish Council and Whitehaven Town Council with regard to this cycle track be reinstated. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the partnership between St Bees Parish Council and Whitehaven Town Council with regard to this cycle track be reinstated.

- ii Councillor Hayes, Councillor E Dinsdale, Councillor Taylor and Councillor White asked to be appointed to represent the Council on the Partnership. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the above Councillors be appointed to represent the Council on the Partnership. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the above Councillors be appointed to represent the Council on the Partnership.

- iii It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Gill that a Working Group on the cycle tracks in Whitehaven be formed to



look at improvements, Anti Social Behaviour etc and to showcase them and that Councillor Hayes, Councillor E Dinsdale, Councillor G Dinsdale, Councillor Carr and Councillor White be appointed to the Working Group. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That a Working Group on the cycle tracks in Whitehaven be formed to look at improvements, Anti Social Behaviour etc and to showcase them and that Councillor Hayes, Councillor E Dinsdale, Councillor G Dinsdale, Councillor Carr and Councillor White be appointed to the Working Group.

**2609/24**     **Office Accommodation Update**

The Clerk referred to an email received from William King Construction giving an update on works carried out to date to the Council's building. The Clerk also referred to recent urgent consultation with Councillors about the positioning of the lift due to unexpected problems with a steel beam and that the Architect had given 2 Options for Councillors to consider. 8 Councillors replied and all favoured Option 2 and the Architect was instructed accordingly. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the update information and action taken regarding the lift be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That the update information and action taken regarding the lift be approved and noted.

**2610/24**     **Whitehaven Road Traffic Regulation Order – Statutory Consultation**

The Council referred to the Statutory Consultation document on the Whitehaven Road Traffic Regulation Order. This was a very long document and it was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that this be considered at a separate Council Meeting to be arranged for next week. A vote was held and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** - That this be considered at a separate Council Meeting to be arranged for next week.

**2611/24**     **Councillor Ward Matters**

- i. Councillor Hayes said everything was running smoothly at Kells and that the new hub had opened and that Home Group were coming every Wednesday for a couple of hours to deal with people's complaints
- ii. Councillor Pearson said
  - a lady called AF emailed him and he had sent the email onto Planning as she was concerned about Fell View Avenue about the parking spaces for the new houses. Apparently she had been told that they're not going to build these parking spaces for the new

houses and she's constantly getting blocked on her drive she was saying that the road was constantly full of sludge and they're doing nothing about it and so I've passed this onto Planning

- The vegetation around Greenbank. Greenbank is absolutely buried in vegetation and he had been reporting stuff to CC and he had reported what he thought was a really dangerous place where possibly somebody could be killed. He said he reported it in May and still nothing had been done with it and he was talking about a place where crossing on St Bees to Greenbank Road, St Bees to Whitehaven Road and no visibility at all. The cars are coming round and it only takes someone to be slow on their feet and a car speeding for somebody to be killed. They said they were going to do something with it at the end of the bird nesting season but asked if birds nests were more important than people's lives. He said he had reported a few things and they kept telling him they had been done and nothing has been done. It took 10 weeks to get the verges cut at the junctions and he had to get onto Mark Fryer and he contacted him and said it had been done and he contacted him back and said there had been 10 yards either side of the junction cut but they had cut nothing else and they said that was it done. He said the residents were up in arms. Coming down Woodhouse Hill the trees were hanging over the footpath, the grass is growing out of the verges. It is horrendous
  - Where the planted the trees at Greenbank there's a footpath which kept people from walking on the main road but now it's not visible and people are being forced to walk on the road. I have emailed people to see when work is going to be carried out but nobody replies and all this is doing is putting people's lives in danger
  - He said there was a strip of grass at Greenbank that wasn't 10 yards wide and they had been that day and cut all the grass and had left that strip and the strip was 5 foot high and it impairs the junction coming down Woodhouse Hill. All the residents had been asking why they wouldn't cut that. He said he had been onto Emma and she said about no man's land.
- iii. Councillor E Dinsdale asked if there had been any feedback on Low Road and the Clerk said no and asked if it would be worthwhile him submitting the photos through the website and the Clerk said it would
- iv. Councillor White said he was on the verge of writing to the Whitehaven News about the lack of functionality of Cumberland Council Highways Department. He said no one got in touch and he wondered what goes on in these Departments
- v. Councillor Taylor said
- Cumberland Council Highways had removed the trees on Hillcrest Avenue and replaced the bus shelter and that they had done an excellent job

- He referred to the money that was donated through his Ward Grant to the Community Centre. He said there was now a café and they were selling produce out of the garden and it was a roaring success selling cheap food to the community and they had said thanks very much for the donation it was really appreciated
- vi. Councillor O’Kane said
- He was delighted that Aikbank Road had been done
  - It was a shame that the Town hadn’t got an overarching meeting with Home Group and could we not amalgamate things and have a co-ordinated approach. Councillor Gill said they promise the world and go away and do nothing
  - Councillor O’Kane asked if we should ask Home Group if they can attend our Meeting. Councillor Hawkins said himself and Councillor White had regular meetings with Home Group which were for the whole town
- vii. Councillor E Dinsdale said he had received an email from Margaret Crosby thanking all the Councillors who had chipped in for the refurbishment of the heritage signs

**2612/24 Date and Time of next Meeting**

The next Town Council Meeting would be on Thursday 26 August 2024 at the Beacon Portal, Whitehaven at 6.00pm

**2613/24 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. Councillor Hayes proposed this and Councillor Taylor seconded this. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

**2614/24 Allotments**

The Council considered a Report on Allotments. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that there be a meeting between the Allotments Advisory Group and the Allotment Site Representatives so that they have an input into the way forward. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor voted against

**RESOLVED** - That there be a meeting between the Allotments Advisory Group

and the Allotment Site Representatives so that they have an input into the way forward.

The Meeting closed at 7.40pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chairman