

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 30th January 2025

Present: Councillor C Hayes (Deputy Chairman in the Chair);
Councillor J Carr; Councillor E Dinsdale; Councillor G Dinsdale;
Councillor R Gill; Councillor B O’Kane; Councillor A Pearson;
Councillor R Redmond; 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

Councillor J Ghayouba – Cumberland Council

Members of the Public

The Press

Prior to the Meeting starting the Deputy Mayor asked all Town Councillors present to introduce themselves.

He informed all those present that there was no scheduled testing of the fire Alarms and gave evacuation details should the fire alarm ring and the location of toilets.

He explained about public participation and gave information about conduct at Meetings

2684/25 Apology for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor G Roberts due to illness

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Carr that the apology for absence be accepted and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the apology for absence be accepted and noted

2685/25 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

2686/25 Public Participation

There was no public participation

Councillor R Taylor entered the Meeting

2687/25 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 28th November 2024

Councillor O’Kane wished the fourth line of the third bullet point of Minute 2665/24 be amended to read “ We were given ideas by Copeland Borough Council Officers about stringing.....”.

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that subject to the above amendment the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th November 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 subject to the above amendment the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th November 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2688/25 Minutes of Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 13th January 2025

Councillor G Dinsdale entered the meeting

It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Gill that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 13th January 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 4 Councillors abstained

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 13th January 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

Councillor R White entered the Meeting

2689/25 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1.

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor O’Kane that following consideration of the Planning Applications on 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 after consideration of the Planning Applications on Appendix 1 that Cumberland Council be informed that the Council had no representations/comments to make

2690/25 Meeting with Home Group

The Representative from Home Group had not arrived so the item was deferred until later in the Meeting

2691/25 Report from Cumberland Council

Councillor Mike Hawkins and Councillor Joseph Ghayouba from Cumberland Council attended. Councillor Hawkins made the following points:

- They had advertised for a co-opted member to sit on the Whitehaven Community Panel and there had been a couple of expressions of interest to sit on the Community Panel but they have no voting rights
- They had held a networking event at Hillcrest Community Centre and gave a presentation on bus services, proposals for the cycleway and one of the topics was parking around the hospital - the Hospital management were unaware of this and were taking some issues back and hopefully we can come to some arrangement around Devon Road, Westmorland Road, Cumberland road where people working at the Hospital were causing a nuisance by parking on the estates all day or staff not paying for parking to make hospital staff aware that they may be causing a nuisance on the estates. The Hospital management said there was enough parking on the Hospital site

Councillor Hawkins said not a lot of the public attended this meeting and he was disappointed by that.

Councillor Ghayouba said the Town council was aware of the incident at Bransty on New Years Eve and that all but 1 of the families had returned to their homes and 1 couldn’t go back but the insurance company were providing them with temporary accommodation. He said 1 property had been demolished and 1 property partially demolished and that this was going to be an ongoing problem until the properties were rebuilt

Councillor E Dinsdale asked if there had been any discussions around paying for parking by patient or employees and Councillor Hawkins said he had brought this up at the meeting as he was getting told that consultants don’t have to pay for parking

Councillor Hawkins said he thought it was national policy to charge for parking

Councillor E Dinsdale said a lot of hospitals away have multi storey car parks and he wasn't proposing this at a cost of 2/3 million but that a throw up car park could easily be put together

Councillor Hawkins said a lot of people were concerned about parking and said where people had come back and got a ticket when they had stayed longer than anticipated. He said they were looking at trialling putting barriers on like at Carlisle where you pay for the time you've been on the car park. He said there was a ticket for £5 that people could buy which lasted for 24 hours

Councillor Ghayouba said there was a complaints process with the hospital that people could use for car parking/behaviour of staff called PALS. He said he had asked if this complaints procedure could be advertised

Councillor E Dinsdale said maybe the 5 Cumberland Councillors and the Town Council need to get together and do some kind of campaign

Councillor Ghayouba said parking was £18 per month and if you were lower paid or part time it was scaled down to a cheaper rate and that parking earned the hospital £400,000 per annum and their budget deficit was well into the millions this year

Councillor O'Kane referred to bins and said that a resident had been told that from that day everybody would have to pay if they needed a new bin except if a new lid/repair to lid was needed which would be free. He said he had contacted CC Customer Services to see if this had been advertised and she said no and that the Comms were supposed to come out that day but they hadn't. Councillor O'Kane had asked if there was any chance that the elderly, unemployed etc would not have to pay for a new bin and they said no everyone had to pay.

Councillor Taylor asked about play parks reviews and Councillor Ghayouba said the report was out there. He said Hillcrest/Jericho for this year was getting share prosperity funding and that Jericho play park was getting this year's share because Bransty for this year was not quite ready and that Bransty was still a priority for next year

Councillor G Dinsdale asked if it was right that social workers for babies were being cut as a social worker had told her that she should not expect a letter next year

Councillor Ghayouba said that as the Chair of Business Resources he got a quarterly report and it came before them about 12 months ago. He said they were underperforming on performance and were struggling for nurses and they were only reaching 45-50% of checks getting done when the target was 80-90%. He said he had flagged this up and asked for a report as to why they hadn't defaulted the contract. The reply was the contract was up for renewal and they would be recommissioning the contract

Councillor Ghayouba referred to bin charges and said he had spoken with someone on the Exec about this and said if any residents were struggling to pay any fees for that to send them to him and he would review the case to try and see what could be done and he hoped they would look at it on a case by case basis

Councillor Taylor said 2 weeks ago he had heard Cumberland Council were considering charging all residents for brown bins and Councillor Ghayouba said

there were no proposals for brown bin charges but there may be a charge for an extra brown bin

Councillor Pearson referred to the play park at Greenbank. He said there was a report in the Whitehaven News about what residents thought and said Councillor Williamson didn't want any part of it. He said it had gone from Cumberland Council to Home Group and from Home Group to the Women's Centre. He said when the residents put the letter in would it not have been nice to send a reply to them. He said he thought it was poor that they just ignored people. Councillor Ghayouba replied and said he thought he should contact Michael Barry and send that letter on to get a response from Cumberland Council or go to Tamsin as she is a community worker. Councillor Pearson said it would be nice if people would have a meeting with the residents

Councillor E Dinsdale asked how much it would be for a replacement bin and Councillor Ghayouba said the Council would get a better rate as they would be buying in bulk.

Councillor Hawkins said they were trying to standardise all taxi licensing in Cumberland tomorrow. He said it was out for consultation as to whether to keep the 3 districts or 1 Cumberland district. He said it was all about coming together as a Council and standardising things

Councillor G Dinsdale queried the PALS complaints system and Councillor Ghayouba said is she had a complaint about anything on the service she received that that was the complaints process

That Chairman thanked Councillor Hawkins and Councillor Ghayouba for attending and Councillor Gill endorsed this and wished it to be noted

2692/25 Finance Report

The Council considered the Finance report

- i. Appendix 1 - The Assistant Clerk reported that the payments listed in Appendix 1 had already been paid to avoid any late payment fees as there had not been a full Council Meeting since 28th November 2024 and asked that these be noted and approved

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the invoices shown on Appendix 1 be noted and approved. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the invoices shown on Appendix 1 be noted and approved .

- ii. Appendix 2 – It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the invoices shown on Appendix 2 be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the invoices shown on Appendix 2 be approved and paid

- iii. Appendices 3 and 4 – It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that Appendices 3 and 4 be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That Appendices 3 and 4 be approved and noted.

2693/25 Consultation on Cycling and Walking in Whitehaven, Bus Services and Car Parks

The Council considered the consultation document from Cumberland Council and made the following comments:-

- Councillor Carr said he had attended a drop-in session that day and said he was not for it as
 - The multi-storey/Quay Street Side they were taking away 2 laybys and a bus stop and they had also taken the drop off point for Enterprise
 - They said there were only 4 buses per hour using the bus stop and they were stagecoach buses but Hobans had been there that day when he went past and a Sellafield bus had been seen there twice
 - It would mean that the road would be shrunk down by over a metre to make access for the cycle path
 - There would be another set of traffic lights at the Vets which is a bottleneck at the best of times
 - We are not a massive cycle hub and asked will it get used
 - On the opposite side of St Beghs that side works but not here
- Councillor White said you see this in town centres across the country and that people on mobility scooters would also be using it
- They would need to sort out the railway bridge which was dirty underneath and the ginnel going through Coach Road where there was some knotweed and the ginnel through to Home Bargains
- He said all of these roads are going to be shared by automobiles, walkers and others

The Clerk asked Councillors to go onto the online survey to put their views and the Councillors agreed to do this

2694/25 Easter Egg Event

The Council considered a report about whether or not to organise the same event as the previous 2 years to give children a free easter egg close to Easter and if so to consider approving the funding for this from the Mayors Allowance which the Mayor had agreed to. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Carr that the event be approved for this year funded (maximum £500) out of the Mayor's Allowance and that in future the event be included in the annual schedule of events and included in the budget. A vote was held and it

was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the event be approved for this year funded (maximum £500) out of the Mayor's Allowance and that in future the event be included in the annual schedule of events and included in the budget.

2695/25 Quote Received from Octopus Energy

(i) The Council considered a report on a quote received from Octopus Energy for the electricity supply to the Council's storage unit. The Clerk reported that since the quote had been given Octopus Energy had contacted the Council to say that formal quote did not stand under their rules as the Council's annual estimated consumption was below 1,000 KWH. Our current charges are £2.00 daily standing charge and 47.7p KWH with EON NEXT. We then received a quote from EON Next which gave a quote of 56.0p daily standing charge and 65.0pKWH for a 12 month's Contract. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a 12 month's contract for the supply of electricity to Council's storage unit at a rate of 56.0p for daily standing charge and 65.0p KWH be entered into with EON Next. A vote was held and 8 Councillors voted for the proposal 2 Councillors voted against and 1 Councillor abstained

(ii) **RESOLVED** - That a 12 month's contract for the supply of electricity to the Council's storage unit at a rate of 56.0p for daily standing charge and 65.0p KWH be entered into with EON Next.

(iii) It was reported that the Contract for the supply of gas to the Council's offices had expired and the Contract for the supply of electricity was due to expire shortly. The Council were asked if the Council would agree to the Clerks finding the lowest prices for a 1 year contract for the supply of gas and electricity to the Council Offices. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the Clerks find the lowest prices for a one year contract for the supply of gas and electricity to the Council Offices and then sign up for a 12 month period. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Clerks find the lowest prices for a one year contract for the supply of gas and electricity to the Council Offices and then sign up for a 12 month period.

2696/25 WCSSG

Councillor E Dinsdale referred to storm Eowyn the previous Friday and said he had been contacted by a great number of very distressed nuclear workers from Whitehaven who had been instructed to attend on site that day and that some

who drove there said they were petrified. Trees had come down on the roads and when the workers got into work thousands of people were cabined up on site as it was clearly too windy to do any form of outside work. They were immediately told to go to a canteen or tea bar but even getting from the car to the tea bar was hazardous as there was debris and sheets from buildings flying around. Then they were stood down and had to make the journey back home. For the back shift they reduced it to basic safety manning. This would be a few hundred when a few thousand had to attend in the morning when the storm was just about at its peak

Councillor Dinsdale said that he believed that this was irresponsible and in his opinion was a total breach of care and a total disregard for health and safety by the company who claim to prioritise security with wind speeds of 114 mph. He said he would be asking the questions

- Why did this happen why were lives put at risk
- Who made the decision as there was 1000s told to attend
- How did they get to the place where they thought this was acceptable

Councillor Gill said this was not Town Council business. He said the problem was an issue between the workforce at Sellafield and the Management and the Trade Unions

Councillor O’Kane said this was a union issue and there was little difference between the Police and hospital staff who had attended work on the same day. He said it was impossible for the Town Council to criticise what was going on there and did not see anything the Council could do

Councillor Dinsdale said the site for safety needs to maintain a minimum safety level and the issue was that people were being told to attend when there was clearly no need. He said he could take this to the stakeholders and that he was raising this matter for information.

Councillor White said if they could be invited to attend with union reps he would be willing to attend but he was not sure what the Council could do here and now

Councillor Dinsdale referred to the recent announcement about plutonium.

He said plutonium has now been moved from an asset to a liability.

He said this had been going on for donkeys years and one year a report had been produced saying plutonium was an asset.

He said a number of years ago there were 3 companies who were heavily involved in plutonium reuse

- Arriva from France
- Cando from Canada
- GE Hitachi who had a plan to create a prism reactor where 141.7 tonnes could be made inert which would mean it was safe and then it could be fed into the prism reactor to create energy

Councillor Dinsdale said that to state that plutonium was a liability rather than an asset was in his opinion a missed opportunity

There was no decision made as the report was for information only

2697/25 Christmas Lighting

The Council were informed that there had been a meeting with the Council's lighting Contractor following the evaluation of the Christmas lighting after it had been taken down.

- (i) Some of the clusterline lighting was broken and could not be repaired and replacement was required as follows and they came in 6 metre lengths and we needed 120 metres in total at a cost of £1800 plus VAT plus delivery

It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the 120 metres of clusterline be purchased at a cost of £1800 plus VAT plus delivery. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That 120 metres of clusterline be purchased at a cost of £1800 plus VAT plus delivery.

- (ii) Karabiner clips for lights so that plastic cable ties do not have to be used
- 1.269 clips were required either M6 - £1,536.47 plus VAT or M8 £1,960.47 plus VAT

The Council's Contractor had been contacted to confirm which size would be Suitable. It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Taylor that when the Contractor confirmed which size was required that these be purchased. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That when the Contractor confirmed which size was required that these be purchased.

- (iii) For the cross street banners blue and white LED rope lighting was required at a cost of £180 plus VAT for white, £140 plus VAT for blue and £5 each for rectifiers. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hayes that blue rope lighting at a cost of £140 plus VAT, white rope lighting at a cost of £180 plus Vat and rectifiers at £5 each be purchased. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That blue rope lighting at a cost of £140 plus VAT, white rope lighting at a cost of £180 plus Vat and rectifiers at £5 each be purchased.

- (iv) Solar lighting in the 8 Heritage lamp posts in King Street. The Council's Contractor had suggested that solar lights could be put into each of the Heritage lamp posts in King Street and that the cost per lamp post would be in the region of £150 Plus VAT. It was proposed by Councillor Gill seconded by Councillor Hayes that solar lights be purchased for the 8 Heritage lamp posts in Whitehaven

at a cost of approximately £150 plus VAT per lamp. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That solar lights be purchased for the 8 Heritage lamp posts in Whitehaven at a cost of approximately £150 plus VAT per lamp.

- (v) Bunting – It was reported that some of the Council’s bunting needed replacing. It was estimated that 200 metres was required at a cost of £314.10 plus VAT plus delivery. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hayes that 200 metres of bunting be purchased at a cost of £314.10 plus VAT plus delivery. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That 200 metres of bunting be purchased at a cost of £314.10 plus VAT plus delivery

2698/25 TTROs

The Clerk read out an email from Cumberland Council which had been circulated to Councillors regarding the procedure for Temporary Traffic Orders and gave a summary of the legislation. The Orders were made under either the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 (for processions, local events etc) or other legislation where the event is of a substantial nature or more substantial traffic management is required to enable the event to take place on the road.

In the last few years the Council have used the provisions of the Town Police Clauses Act for the Remembrance Sunday Parade to obtain a road closure order at no cost to the Council and in response to a question Cumberland Council confirmed that a charge of £332 would likely be made.

They also confirmed that for the Council’s Christmas Lights switch on and market held in the Market Place which under the Market Charter ceases to be a public highway on Market days (Thursdays and Saturdays) an order would not be required under the Town Police Clauses Act.

Councillor Taylor said a letter should be sent to CC as he was disgusted about this as people had given their lives for this country and they want to charge us £332 for a couple of hours. He said he was appalled by it. The Clerk said Allerdale had charged £121 in the past but Copeland never did charge.

Councillor Gill said he thought we would have to pay it and that whatever was necessary for this event we should support it.

Councillor E Dinsdale said it was disgraceful that one local authority is asking another local authority when what we’re putting on is a parade to remember people who have died for us and given us the freedom that we’ve got today.

Councillor Taylor said this is another one where we should be working together

There was no decision on this as it was for information only

Request by Councillor E Dinsdale and Councillor G Dinsdale under Standing Order 6

The Chairman referred to an email received from Councillor E Dinsdale and Councillor G Dinsdale requesting The Chairman to call an Extraordinary Council Meeting under Standing Order 6. The Clerk read out Standing Order 6. The Chairman said that he would not be calling a Meeting and Councillor E Dinsdale said that in this event and in line with Standing Order 6 that himself and Councillor G Dinsdale would be calling an Extraordinary Council Meeting. Councillor O'Kane referred to a situation at Whitehaven School some years ago and he had had a talk with the MP who told him that Councillors could call a public meeting to engage the MP to explain certain circumstances. He said his advice to Councillor Dinsdale was to call a public meeting and call the MP to answer questions about the key topic. He said at that meeting at Whitehaven School which was to start at 7.30pm the Trust came through at 6.30pm with the withdrawal of their supervision of the School and this changed the whole meeting. He said all he was saying was that the most important person was our MP and his advice to Councillor Dinsdale was to call our MP to account at a public meeting.

Councillor Gill said the MP held a public meeting and he had had meetings with British Rail, the Harbour Commissioners and all environmental agencies. He said the reason he didn't think this was within our remit was because there was a public meeting every month convened by British Rail where questions could be asked and answered

Councillor Taylor said the brown water was having a big impact on the Town. He said a lot of boats that were in Whitehaven Harbour had moved to Maryport and anyone could tell you this. He said as part of his job they had an office at Forth Engineering and the person who owns Forth Engineering needed about £20,000 to do a feasibility study to look at the situation and how to address the problem. He said his response to him as a Councillor was that he had seen that people were not working together and the comms coming out were awful and people want to know what the issue is and everybody needs to get behind it as a unit but this is a shambles and it is ruining our town.

Councillor Dinsdale said the reason he had put this is now is because he wanted the boat owners, businesses and visitors to the town to have an opportunity to publicly air their concerns. That was what it was about. He said the Harbour was in his Ward and he was continually getting stopped by people asking him what was going on and he wanted to give them an opportunity to have their say so this was part 1. He said if we needed to set up a more organised campaign we could do so.

There was no decision on this as it was a procedural issue under Standing Orders

2700/25 Home Group

The representative from Home Group did not attend and Councillor O’Kane said there were issues to be answered and although the representative had not attended the Council should still deal with the issues. He asked Councillors what issues they had with Home Group and had those issues been addressed in a timely manner.

Councillor White said there was a breakdown in communication and commitment with and by Home group

Councillor Gill said in the past they had promised the earth and that never happened

Councillor Carr said he had been in touch with the private owner on Meadow Road about the water ingress into the garden and six weeks ago when we had ice he had got Cumberland grit boxes but right behind these houses there was a major problem with drainage

Councillor G Dinsdale said when she was a Copeland Councillor the only time she got anything done by Home Group was when it was in the paper.

She said it was impossible to catch anybody and talk on the phone and that it was impossible to do her job as a Councillor as she couldn’t communicate with them and that the shame was that there was no recourse. She proposed that the Council put a complaint into Home Group and then the residents would know it’s not us

Councillor Hawkins said he shared the Council’s concerns and that it was the worst company he had ever had to deal with. He said once it went to Newcastle it all went pear shaped. He said he thought they were making progress last year with James and he was seeing an improvement and to be fair not all problems were caused by Home Group – there were 2 sides to each issue. He said himself and Councillor O’Kane were working closely together on a case and were doing their best there

Councillor Gill said for the first 10 years following the transfer there were a number of Copeland Councillors on the Board of Directors but as soon as the 10 years were up they put the shutters down

Councillor Ghayouba said it might be worthwhile for him to take it away to see if there was a residents scrutiny committee that can summons them. He said he didn’t know if there was a committee that could scrutinise it but he was willing to go away and find out and if there was one he could get in touch with the chair of that committee to have it on the Agenda

There were no decisions made as it was a general discussion only

2701/25 Councillor Ward Matters

- i. Councillor Carr said he was very disappointed that Home Group had not attended the Meeting. He said there was still water ingress into people’s

gardens including two different roads and that it had been 11 months since it was first reported to Home Group. He said that on a positive note it was good that CC had reached out and provided 2 grit bins during the icy weather

ii. Councillor Taylor raised the following:

- A Miss H from Hillcrest Avenue asked if Whitehaven Town Council would consider moving the Fireworks Display to 5th November. The Clerk said that the Contract had already been signed and the deposit paid for 6th December 2025 and that it was only for a ten minute period
- A Mr R From Beckside had asked about increases in Council Tax and was questioning was the right consultation followed. He said it lacked credibility as the correspondence was sent to 526 which represented 2.69% of individuals
- Several people on Hillcrest who had banked with HSBC and TSB asked if we could work together for a community hub. He Clerk explained that a banking hub would only be set up where there was no remaining bank in a town and that Whitehaven had 1 bank and 1 building society
- Cumberland Council had closed the Cleator Moor Leisure Centre as it was getting modernised and during the storm the lead person who takes the fitness classes at Whitehaven Sports Centre had been hit by a van and a lot of classes had been stopped at weekends so a resident was asking as a group of individuals who should be provided with mental health people services and it helps with that a lot and Whitehaven Sports Centre are not fulfilling the classes at weekends and a lot of people can't make it through the week and it's having a big impact and there's no discount at the minute on people's memberships
- A lot of people who used Castle Park at the top path from Loop Road into Castle Park had been complaining about water ingress on the path closing the path. He asked if a trench could be dug on one side so that we could get the water away and then people could use the path as a route into Town which is significantly used by cyclists. Councillor Gill said this was the responsibility of Woodland Trust. Councillor Ghayouba said they had tried to contact Woodland Trust but they were very difficult to contact but that the path issue had been raised with the Woodland Trust

iii. Councillor Pearson said a MR L had asked about speed on the B4535. On 9th October 2023 Councillor Williamson said she would arrange a meeting to discuss this. He said there was only 1 speed reminder sign and the street light coming from the Fairy Path was causing a black spot

at night. He said nobody seems to care and if somebody gets killed who takes the blame. The speed signs for the 30mph were on the St Bees Road

- iv. Councillor White said he was thinking about giving his Ward Grant to Whitehaven Theatre Group. He said there were still some parking problems on Back Corkickle. He said there was a bit of damage caused by the storm but that had been taken care of
- v. Councillor E Dinsdale referred to the Art Exhibition at the Beacon around the West Cumbria Industrial past and said it was well worth a visit
- vi. Councillor G Dinsdale asked about allotment holders claiming for storm damage and the Clerk said that allotment holders should have their own insurance for their equipment etc on their allotments and then they would be able to claim for any damage done.

2702/25 Date and Time of next Meeting

The next Town Council Meeting would be on Thursday 27th February 2025 at the Beacon Portal, Whitehaven at 6.00pm

Councillor Spedding, Councillor E Dinsdale and Councillor G Dinsdale left the Meeting

2703/25 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 O'Kane seconded this. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

2704/25 Update on Office Accommodation

The Clerk gave a report received from the Contractor on progress since the report to the Council Meeting in October as follows:

Para 1.1 Page 1 – monthly update on Progress

- Metal stud work 90% complete across the building
- Party wall grouted with SIKa products
- Ground floor to FF ceiling cut out and steel installed
- Rear exterior wall has been demolished and removed from site
- Foundation and concrete pad installed for rear steel supports

- Steel columns installed to rear
- Blockwork complete above steelwork in reception
- Plumbers began first fixing
- Additional remedial work as identified by structural engineer has begun

Para 1.2 Page 2

- Expenditure from 1st April 2024

Para 1.2 Page 3

- 3Deposit Account Income since 1st April 2024

Para 1.2 Page 4

- Invoices received from William King

Para 1.2 Page 5

- Projected expenditure other than from William King

Para 1.2 Page 6

- Deposit Account Starting Balance, Contract Price minus payment made to William King

Para 1.2 Page 7

- As at 4th December 2024 individual percentages of work in contract that have been completed

Para1.3

Approval of expenditure for urgent remedial work previously agreed by Councillors

Para 1.4

Approval of expenditure for urgent removal of steelwork previously agreed by Councillors

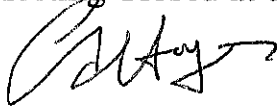
Para 1.5

Party Wall Agreement

The Clerk reported that the Party Wall surveyor had confirmed following inspection that a party wall Agreement was not required.

It was proposed by Councillor Gill and seconded by Councillor Hayes (i) that the information contained in paragraph 1.2 be noted and approved and (ii) that the actions taken in paragraphs 1.3; 1.4; and 1.5 be noted and approved

The Meeting Closed at 8.15pm


Chairman