

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 25th April 2024

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public

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

2493/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor A Spedding	Holiday
Councillor R Redmond	Holiday
Councillor R Gill	Holiday
Councillor G Dinsdale	Family bereavement
Councillor R White	Holiday

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

2494/24 Declarations of Interest

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

2495/24 Public Participation

There was no public participation

2496/24 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 28th March 2024

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th March 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 28th March 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2497/24 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1 Councillor Roberts said that Planning Application 4/23/2336/0R1 Harras Dyke Farm would just lead to overcrowding and that he had sent his own objection in.

Councillor O’Kane entered the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Carr 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.

2498/24 Report from Cumberland Council

The representative from Cumberland Council did not attend

2499/24 Finance Report

The Council considered a Finance report

- i. Appendix 1 - The Assistant Clerk reported that there were 3 additional invoices to consider on Appendix 1 namely:-

Rosehill Youth Theatre	£105 for room hire
Cumberland Council	£3969.88 Rangers Contract
C Hayes	£20 Theatre Tickets

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the invoices shown on Appendix 1 plus the 3 extra invoices be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the invoices shown on Appendix 1 plus the 3 extra invoices be approved and paid.

- ii. Appendices 2 and 3 – It was proposed by Councillor Roberts 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.

- 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

2500/24 Increase in Rate for Security Provision at Council Events

The Council considered a report from the Council's security provider which said that due to various factors including Government inflation they have found it necessary to increase their pricing from £19.50 plus VAT per hour to £20.50 plus VAT per hour. It was proposed by Councillor O'Kane and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the hourly rate increase be accepted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the hourly rate increase be accepted.

2501/24 Trader's Market on 30th May 2024

The Council considered a report on a change in the proposed entertainment for the Traders Market on 30th May 2024 as the costs of Titan the Robot had increased. An alternative would be to book Dreygo the Dragon at a cost of either £1400 or £1600 plus VAT. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hayes that Dreygo the Dragon be booked at a cost of £1600 plus VAT. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That Dreygo the Dragon be booked at a cost of £1600 plus VAT.

2502/24 **Renewal of CALC Subscriptions**

The Council considered a report on the CALC/NALC membership for 2024/25 and the annual subscription fee which was £2,123.24. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the annual CALC/NALC subscription fee of £2,123.24 for 2024/25 be paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the annual CALC/NALC subscription fee of £2,123.24 for 2024/25 be paid.

2503/24 **Annual Insurance Cover**

The Council considered a report on the Insurance premium payable for 2024/25 of £3,727.48. The Council had previously entered into a 5 year agreement with Zurich Municipal for insurance cover. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Carr that the Insurance Premium of £3,727.48 for 2024/25 be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Insurance Premium of £3,727.48 for 2024/25 be approved and paid.

2504/24 **Street Name and Numbering For land at Harras Moor**

The Council considered a report received from Cumberland Council on street Name and numbering of the proposed residential development on land at Harras Moor. The Developer had suggested the following street names and given reasons for these-

Cantle Grove
Lariat Place
Whippetree Way

Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Roberts that these street names be objected to. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the street names be objected to

2505/24 **Seat in King Street**

This was an extra item agreed by the Chairman

The Clerk reported that the business user of a property in King Street had again requested that the seat be relocated from outside his shop to elsewhere on King Street and the request had been dealt with by Cumberland Council as the

responsible authority for the highway and the siting of street furniture. The response from Cumberland Council was to say that the street furniture had been placed at pre-arranged positions as agreed with the Town Council and that the proposed relocation sites by the business user could possibly see the same issue occurring at the alternative locations when the units are filled with new businesses and that should the seat be removed again the Police will be called and the person removing them will be asked to replace the seat in its original position.

Councillor E Dinsdale said he had spoken to the business user and his opinion was that because of the alternative space that was available on King Street he could not see why the business user could not be accommodated and that where the seat is now there could be access and egress problems in an emergency. It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Pearson that a letter of thanks be sent to the Cumberland Officer and that the Council agrees with the comments made by them. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors voted against

RESOLVED – That a letter of thanks be sent to the Cumberland Officer and that the Council agrees with the comments made by them.

2506/24 **IT Provision**

This was an extra item agreed by the Chairman

The Clerk informed the Council that there is a Contract with Focus Group (Workington) for the Council’s IT provision at a cost of £978 per annum. The Council stores information on a server which cannot be accessed while working from home. With office renovations on the horizon Focus Group have suggesting moving onto cloud based data storage/retrieval by which you can retrieve data anywhere in the world and would mean that the Council would not need a server. This would be a future proof upgraded proposal which includes cyber security protection for the Council. Another way of overcoming this would be by getting encrypted memory sticks and or portable hard drives but this would need to be backed up and was less secure. Focus Group had given a quote for migrating data from the server to the cloud of £2,250.00 with monthly maintenance payments of £288.50 per month. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor that the Council move to cloud based data storage/retrieval at a cost of £2,250.00 plus monthly maintenance payments of £288.50 and this was seconded by Councillor Roberts. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Council move to cloud based data storage/retrieval at a cost of £2,250.00 plus monthly maintenance payments of £288.50

2507/24 **Councillor Ward Matters**

- i. Councillor Pearson made the following points

- The tap in the cemetery had been fixed
 - Storys had done a lot of building above Greenbank
 - The football field – there was no drainage for it now
 - He had received a couple of complaints about people riding scramble bikes in the back of the old cemetery and they were tearing it to bits. He said the CSO payback had been doing a good job in there but there was a hole in the old cemetery boundary wall that the scramble bikes could get through
- ii. Councillor O’Kane said he had the same issues –
- Health and safety issues and said Cumberland Council were dealing with some and not others. His worry was that when you go down to Tescos in the New Road and Tesco areas the lights are out of an evening and that the light factor down there was another dangerous aspect. He said down from where he lived people had been complaining for over 6 months that their lights (5 lights) were out.
 - Time and time again we are talking about the roads – the junction where Councillor Roberts lives at the pelican crossing now is getting beyond a joke and he had seen people driving on the other side of the road to avoid potholes. He said the potholes had been filled in and asked how it was that a pothole could be filled in and literally within weeks it’s back again with a new hole that’s extended. And in a matter or months that becomes a chasm
 - Councillor O’Kane asked what do we do, representing our town, to get these issues dealt with as quickly as possible. Does it need a serious accident before something is done. He asked as a Council they should be saying to CC that these are the current issues from the last meeting and asking for a response including a timeline to the next meeting because we are going round in circles. The Clerk said if the Council wanted to do this that Councillors feed their concerns to the Clerk and they would be passed to CC but there would need to be a timescale set up to do this.
- iii. Councillor Roberts said a distressed lady from Harras Moor had contacted him about rats. He said the rat catcher from Cumberland Council had caught 1 large male rat. He said he was monitoring the situation and CC were monitoring the situation but it was very worrying and that he had told residents not to put food out. He said he would be getting back to Cumberland Council and Councillor Ghayouba
- iv. Councillor Carr said it was a shame that Councillor Hawkins and Councillor White weren’t at the meeting as he needed to speak with them about the lady with the drainage problem and said it was now out of control and that he would be chasing it up and would like to have a 1 to 1 meeting with Home Group
- v. Councillor Carr said he would be sharing photographs of the path between Mirehouse and Greenbank (Fairy Path). He said every one of the lamps was smashed or the main covers off. He said the problem was

- that there was 1 live feed and if someone had to touch it could be dangerous. He said it was shocking
- vi. Councillor Hayes said it was all positive on Kells. He said the Rugby under 7 team were doing good and the Dance Ranch had won all sorts of awards. He said the Knit and Natter Group were going out to old folks homes to teach people to knit etc
- vii. Councillor Taylor made the following points
- The Red Lonning Community Centre were looking to sign a 5 year lease that day
 - There was a new initiative starting – a youth club for under 16s
 - He had been to a meeting on the Play Park and the user group had now got Charity status. They had got a quote for the Play Park of £100,000 and the biggest part of that was the floor
 - He said it was a parking nightmare where he lived and it was getting worse and that he would be sending the Clerk some photos
 - He said the bus stop was still barriered off
- viii. Councillor E Dinsdale said there was a lot of publicity around the empty shops and that this concerned him as a representative of the town centre as to how the Council could move this forward and said that maybe this was one where the Council should set up a support group and invite stakeholders and try and get a plan together about the way forward. Councillor E Dinsdale said if we had a plan there is nothing to prevent the Council submitting that plan into BEC, NDA or Sellafield Ltd requesting that the Council would like that done. Cllr O’Kane said he thought the Town Council should go back to BEC to discuss this. Councillor E Dinsdale said what people would say is that the Town Council had no ideas so the starting point would be to put something on the table. He said the Council would need to get together and agree on what we would like the town to look like and say to them how do you make it happen. Councillor Taylor said why don’t we ask BEC, Lara Schwab and Councillor Ghayouba just to give us an update. Councillor O’Kane said to go further and ask Mark Fryer. Councillor E Dinsdale said he was the Senior Planner and that the actual nuclear money was enshrined in the Energy Act and that we get this money as it is written in the Energy Act. He said the Council represented 24,000 people and that if we want something we should make demands

2508/24 Date and Time of next Meeting

The Clerk reported that the next Meeting which was the Annual Meeting was scheduled for 30th May 2024. However this was the same day as the Council’s first event and because it had not been possible to enter into the usual agreement for the provision of the two experienced Rangers the Clerk and Assistant Clerk would be working that day from 7.30am until approx. 5.00pm and it would not therefore be possible to attend the Council Meeting at 6.00pm and that if the Clerk was not there the Meeting could not take place so the Clerk asked that the date be changed. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Taylor

and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Annual Meeting of the Council be held on Wednesday 29th May 2024 at 6.00pm at the Beacon Portal. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Annual Council Meeting be held on 29th May 2024 at 6.00pm at the Beacon Portal

2509/24 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 Taylor 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.

2510/24 Office Accommodation

Further to Minute 2490/24 the Clerk circulated a confidential report to Members as follows

- At the last Meeting it was agreed that the Council would send a letter to the Contractor saying that the Council was minded to accept the Tender subject to the Architect receiving all the required information but this had not been finalised yet.
 - The Architect had raised the Party Wall Agreement and said that the Structural Engineer (previously authorised by the Council) was due to inspect the premises shortly to develop a solution to the party wall problem and cost it
 - The Architect was near to getting the required level of information to complete the tender evaluation
 - The Architect had stated that as previously advised there were potential unforeseen works which would only be realised on opening up
 - The Architects had provided a revised fee proposal for services during the contract period based on either an hourly charge or a set amount for RIBA Stages 4 and 6.
- i. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Architects fee proposal for RIBA Stages 5 and 6 (Contract Administration and Handover/close out) be approved. A vote was held and 6 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained

RESOLVED – That the Architects fee proposal for RIBA Stages 5 and 6 (Contract Administration and Handover/close out) be approved

- ii. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Hayes that if the Architect confirms that all the required information has been provided and he is happy with this then the Council formally confirms that the Contract should be entered into. A vote was held and 5 Councillors voted for the proposal and 2 Councillors abstained
- iii. **RESOLVED** – That if the Architect confirms that all the required information has been provided and he is happy with this then the Council formally confirms that the Contract should be entered into

2511/24 **Application for Grant FHSG**

The Council considered an application for a grant of £1,000 from FHSG. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Carr that a grant of £1,000 be awarded to FHSG. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That a grant of £1,000 be awarded to FHSG.

2512/24 **Application for Grant – WTOY**

The Council considered an application for a grant of £1,000.00 from WTOY. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hayes that a grant of £1,000 be awarded to WTOY. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That a grant of £1,000 be awarded to WTOY

The Meeting closed at 7.30pm


Chairman