

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

V Gorley, Assistant Clerk

Councillor E Taylor – St Bees Parish Council

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

2573/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor R Gill	Holiday
Councillor A Pearson	Family Commitment
Councillor J Carr	Work Commitment

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

2574/24 Declarations of Interest

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

2575/24 Public Participation

Councillor E Taylor from St Bees Parish Council attended to give an update on the St Bees to Whitehaven Cycle Path. He said it had been going on for some time and had been stopping and starting for various reasons, coal mine, Nugen lots of things like that. He said they now had an opportunity to open the door again with Cumberland Council. He said Councillor Graham Minshaw had been very supportive and had got them meetings with the Head of Infrastructure at Carlisle who was keen to meet with the Parish Council. He said St Bees Parish Council was fully behind this but the cycle path starts in St Bees or ends in St Bees whichever way you look at it and it starts in Whitehaven and the Parish Council would like the endorsement of Whitehaven Town Council so that when he met with the people from Carlisle he could tell them fully that all participants from all areas are in support of this. He said at this stage it was no more than that and that if the Council wished he could come back to a later Meeting(s) and give a full presentation. However he said he would send the Clerk a Briefing Document which gives a concise history from 1999 when it first started and all the reasons why it stopped started and where we are now and that it contained a lot of information and in particular why it should go ahead.

So what he was asking for was an endorsement from the Town Council to tell the people from Carlisle Infrastructure that the St Bees Parish Council had the support of Whitehaven Town Council.

Councillor E Dinsdale said he had been thinking about pulling together a sub-committee together around the cycle path and said there were 4 Councillors which the path covers but if any other Councillor wanted to join he thought it would be worthwhile and anything we could feed back into this whether it be improvements to the cycle path or being a bit more co-ordinated around this Whitehaven to St Bees project he thought would work well

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes, and seconded by Councillor White that the Council gives its full support to St Bees Parish Council for this project and they be invited back to give further information at a later date. Following a vote this was unanimously agreed.

Councillor Taylor thanked the Town Council

The Chairman thanked Councillor Taylor for attending

2576/24 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 27th June 2024

It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th June 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal and 1 Councillor abstained

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th June 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2577/24 Planning Applications

The Council considered a list of Planning Applications shown at Appendix 1. It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Taylor 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.

2578/24 Report from Cumberland Council

The representative from Cumberland Council, Councillor Hawkins had sent an email apologising that he was not able to attend because of an urgent meeting at 6.00pm and asked if the Council would be prepared to contribute towards the renovation costs of the Cenotaph which was circa £15,000. However the Clerk reported that there appeared to have been some slight overlap as she had been corresponding directly with Michael Barry on this and it had been explained that although the Council had no money in this year’s budget for this it was fully behind and supported renovation work to the Cenotaph and that if it was to be done next year then if the Council agreed it could be incorporated in next year’s budget. The Clerk also sent him copies of preliminary investigation work that she had carried out on repairs to the Cenotaph in 2019. The Clerk said as far as she was aware CC had not got any actual quotes for the work to be carried out and she would be contacting Mike Hawkins directly about this. It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that Michael Barry be asked to attend a Council Meeting to outline his ideas for the Cenotaph together with the costings thereof. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That Michael Barry be asked to attend a Council Meeting to outline his ideas for the Cenotaph together with the costings thereof.

2579/24 Finance Report

The Council considered the Finance report

- i. Appendix 1 - The Assistant Clerk reported that there were 5 additional invoices to consider on Appendix 1 namely:-

Zurich Municipal	£460.35 Insurance for Mace
Arboroscope	£4,800 Beds Basket and Planters
	June instalment
Arboroscope	£187.20 Reinstallation of

Cumbria Media
Seymour Services

Hanging basket bracket
£222.00 Website Maintenance
£350 Event Equipment Contract
July Traders Market

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the invoices shown on Appendix 1 plus the 5 extra invoices be approved and paid. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the invoices shown on Appendix 1 plus the 5 extra invoices be approved and paid.

- ii. Appendices 2 and 3 – It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Taylor 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.

2580/24

Quote Received for the Supply of Winter Bedding Plants 2024 in Whitehaven

Councillor G Dinsdale entered the Meeting

The Council considered a report on a quote of £1591.50 plus VAT received from the Council's preferred supplier for Winter Bedding Plants 2024 in Whitehaven. In order to purchase the Winter Bedding Plants 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 Winter Bedding Plants 2024 to be purchased from the Council's preferred supplier at a cost of £1591.50 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 Winter Bedding Plants 2024 to be purchased from the Council's preferred supplier at a cost of £1591.70 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.

2581/24 Office Renovation Progress Report

1. The Clerk gave a progress report on the office renovations as follows:-

- The Contractors took possession of the building on 1st July 2024 and the renovation work is progressing well. The total strip out of the first floor will be completed shortly
- Following this the Contractors will start on the stripping out of the ground floor
- The ground floor staircase at the rear of the building leading up to the first floor has been removed. The main staircase at the front of the building leading to the first floor will be retained
- So far there have been no unforeseen problems although with an old building this is likely to occur at some stage
- The Architect was visiting the next day to inspect a steel beam found behind a wall on the first floor so that he could give the Contractors instructions on what to do with this

It was proposed by Councillor White and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the report be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the report be approved and noted

2. An email had been received from the Architect before the Meeting which said *Could you please review and let us know if we can instruct Shed to progress with the required support. There are some structural alterations and additional design works required further to opening up, so we ideally need them on board to assist the process.*

To clarify I think it would be prudent and important to instruct them for both of the inclusions within the quotation:

- *Designs for remedial works to party wall (actually already completed), address site queries for first 5 months of build (assumed main part/required involvement relating to structural elements). £3,475 + VAT*
- *Structural condition survey post opening up to identify any defective structural elements of the build : £2,750 + VAT*

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Structural Engineers be instructed for both of the above at a cost of £3,475 and £2,750 plus VAT. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That the Structural Engineers be instructed for both of the above at a cost of £3,475 and £2,750 plus VAT.

2582/24 Upgrade to Photocopier

The Council considered a report on an upgrade to the photocopier to enable it to print from a memory stick. The cost would be £29 a month for the remainder of the Contract (22 months) and an engineer would be required to fit 2 new pieces of equipment to the photocopier. The Clerk reported that the lack of this facility was not causing a great deal of inconvenience. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Spedding that the upgrade and expenditure be not agreed to

RESOLVED - That the upgrade and expenditure be not agreed to

2583/24 Repair to Storage Unit Roller Door

The Clerk gave a report on repairs necessary to the roller door at the Council's Storage Unit due to a steel cable snapping and because of the urgency had previously sent a couple of emails to all Councillors about this which contained details of 2 quotes received for the necessary repair work and asking for permission to Proceed. The first quote was for £134.70 for 1 replacement cable and an extra £32.50 if 2 new cables were required. The second quote was for the replacement of 2 steel cables at a cost of £587.00. The Councillors who replied stated that the lower quote should be accepted. The Clerk reported that the work had been carried out and the roller door was now working.

It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor White that the action taken be approved and noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the action taken and expenditure incurred be approved and noted

2584/24 Update on Geese Sculpture

The Clerk reported that this matter was discussed at the last Council Meeting and the decision made was that this be an Agenda item on the next meeting of the Harbour Users Group which Councillor Hayes attends and Councillor Gill said he would mention it at the next meeting of the Whitehaven Heritage Action Group. Following a letter to the Harbour Commissioners about this the Council was informed that they had already dealt with this directly with CM and had said that they had to say no to her suggestion because they were unable to say yes to all requests to have tributes placed on the harbour and they had suggested to CM that she contact LS. The Harbour Commissioners also said that this was something that the Council (CC) might consider incorporating into their plans for the regeneration of the Market Place. The Clerk reported that she had spoken directly about this to CM about the ways of potentially obtaining grant funding for her project. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hayes that the report be noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the report be noted

2585/24 **South Cumberland Speed Limit Review**

The Council considered a Report and a consultation document received from Cumberland Council on the South Cumberland Speed Limit Review. It was proposed by Councillor O’Kane and seconded by Councillor Hayes that following consideration of the document there were no representations to make except for the roads around the two main schools because there are additional issues regarding traffic flow there. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - That there were no representations to make except for the roads around the two main schools because there are additional issues regarding traffic flow there.

2586/24 **Public Path Diversion and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2023 – Footpath No 431022 Parish of Whitehaven**

The Council had received a Notice of Order and letter from the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the above. The Chairman said that the right of way was being moved and re-routed. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Taylor that the Notice of Order and letter from the Planning Inspectorate be noted and that no Statement of Case be submitted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the Notice of Order and letter from the Planning Inspectorate be noted and no Statement of Case be submitted

2587/24 **Councillor Ward Matters**

- i. Councillor Hayes reported that the residents of Kells had had the first meeting for several months with Councillor Emma Williamson. He said that they had a hub on Kells for people to use and that the meeting had been very productive
- ii. Councillor O’Kane referred to Victoria Road and the hedges down there were a real problem. He said the traffic was taking chunks from the hedge and asked the Clerk to send a request to Cumberland Council that this hedge be cut
- iii. Councillor Spedding said Castle Park was looking really good with a well populated Notice Board
- iv. Councillor Taylor raised various matters
 - The bus stop at Hillcrest Avenue. He said CC had spent 1.5 days setting up the road and then realised the tree roots/tree would have to come out. He said he didn’t know what was happening but the

footpath was still blocked and the bus stop was unavailable for use and people had to stand on the road

- He said he had been to Beck Bottom on Saturday morning helping in the garden and referred to the plaque that the Council had funded and they wondered if they could have a priest to bless it. Councillor Hayes mentioned St John's at Hensingham and Councillor Taylor mentioned St Nicholas and asked if we could write to them about this
 - This weekend there was going to be a fun day at the Community Centre between 11.00am and 1.30 pm with cakes and sandwiches
 - The Hillcrest Play Park had now got Cumberland Council on board and he had given some of his Ward Grant to this and wondered if any other Councillors would support this
 - Councillor Taylor said he had been talking with Councillor Ghayouba who was doing a lot of work on Bransty- Dog stencilling relating to dog fouling on paths and wondered if this could be rolled out in other areas
 - 2 residents had asked if the Council could do anything with Homes England
- v. Councillor Redmond asked if the Council could get some wheelchair ramps for the marquees in St Nicholas Gardens Councillor Hayes said he would look into this
- vi. Councillor E Dinsdale raised various matters
- Margaret Crosby had touched base with him and she is the lead for the Whitehaven Heritage who put the plaques up. He said she had asked for a donation to put a heritage plaque up in the town and that he had agreed to that and was wondering if any other Councillors would like also to donate. He said Councillor G Dinsdale had agreed to come in so that made the £1000 down to £500 each. He said an email had been sent to Councillors who border his Ward asking them if they would like to contribute. The Assistant Clerk said she would send a round robin to all Councillors about this to ask them if they wished to contribute
 - Residents on Low Road had been complaining about the overgrowth in the field on the recreation side of the wall and it was now coming over the wall and from a driving point of view there was a real safety issue. The Clerk said the first thing to do was to find the owner of the land and said if Councillor Dinsdale could pass the photographs to her she would contact Cumberland Council about this
 - Milltech were organising vintage car day and were starting to panic because they hadn't heard any word from CC about the road closure. The Clerk said she had already informed Milltech that she would sort it out for them. The Clerk said there wasn't a problem as on a Market day which this event was on the Market Place including James Street was closed to all vehicular traffic

- between 7.00am and 6.00pm to allow markets etc to take place. The Clerk said that a Road Closure Order was not required.
- On King Street some shops were leaving seagull proof bags out all the time. The Clerk said she would contact CC about this
 - The gutters in King Street – residents say they are overgrown and Cllr Ghayouba trying to get in touch with shop owners to try and get them to do something
 - Sound art at the lighthouse on the Harbour. Residents up as far as Harras Moor have been getting in touch about the noise. He said he believed that they have limited times they play this and that it had been reduced now. Councillor Hayes said he would bring it up at the next Harbour Users Group
- vii. Councillor White said he had had a complaint about the cycle path on Esk Avenue going towards the Rugby Club that the growth was going onto the path and was not happy with the upkeep. He said there might be Japanese Knotwood there
- viii. Councillor O’Kane asked how we can remind people out there where the grass is high that it isn’t being cut anymore. How do we make it clear to the public that we do not cut grass anymore as people expect this and that everything is down to CC or the owners of the land. Social Media was suggested.
- ix. Councillor O’Kane asked if they could have a copy of the Market Charter. The Clerk said as far as she was aware nobody has a full copy of the market Charter and she had only ever seen a short excerpt.

2588/24 Date and Time of next Meeting

The next Town Council Meeting would be on Thursday 29 August 2024 at the Beacon Portal, Whitehaven at 6.00pm

2589/24 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 Hayes seconded this. A vote was held and it was unanimously

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

2590/24 **Application for Council Grant – P & D**

The Council considered an application for a grant of £1,000 from P& D' It was proposed by Councillor Spedding and seconded by Councillor O'Kane that the grant be not awarded. A vote was held and 7 Councillors voted for the proposal, 1 Councillor voted against and 1 Councillor abstained.

RESOLVED – That the grant be not awarded

2591/24 **Application for Council Grant – GCA**

The Council considered an application for a grant of £1,000 from GCA. The grant was under s137 of the Local Government Act whereby the Council had to be satisfied that there would be 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 its residents was commensurate with the expenditure incurred. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hayes that as the Grant Application complied with the conditions of s137 that a Grant of £1,000 be awarded to GCA. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That as the Grant Application complied with the conditions of s137 that a Grant of £1,000 be awarded to GCA.

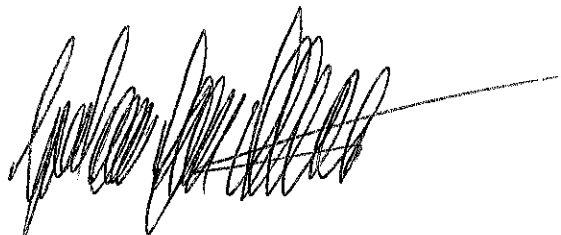
2592/24 **Acts Booked for Christmas Lights Switch on**

The Clerk reported that the Council had previously authorised £900 to be spent on artistes for the Christmas Lights Switch on Saturday 16th November 2024. Logan Paul Murphy who was a great success last year has been booked for 2 x 45 min sets at a cost of £595 and Lee Adams has been booked for 2 x 30 min sets at a cost of £180. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Taylor that this be noted. A vote was held and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That this be noted

The Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Hayes', written over a horizontal line.