

**COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2013**

Present: Councillors Peter Tyson (Mayor); David Banks; Geoffrey Blackwell; John Bowman; Jackie Bowman; Hugh Branney; Yvonne Clarkson; George Clements; Peter Connolly; Brian Dixon; Margarita Docherty; Eileen Eastwood; John Fallows; Anne Faichney; Geoffrey Garrity; Phil Greatorex; Stephen Haraldsen; Lena Hogg; Allan Holliday; Joan Hully; John Jackson; John Kane; Peter Kane; Michael McVeigh; David Moore; Alistair Norwood; Sam Pollen; David Riley; Robert Salkeld; Gilbert Scurrah; Dave Smith; Peter Stephenson; Graham Sunderland; Gillian Troughton; Paul Whalley; Jeanette Williams; Doug Wilson; Felicity Wilson; Carole Woodman; Elaine Woodburn; Henry Wormstrup.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Karl Connor; Jon Downie; Fred Gleaves;; Reg Heathcote; Ian Hill; Keith Hitchen; Alan Jacob; Jack Park; William Southward.

**C 93 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 February 2013 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**C 94 Declarations of Interests**

Councillors Yvonne Clarkson declared a non Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 8 – due to being a trustee in a company which is involved in the Whitehaven Townscape Initiative.

Councillors Geoff Blackwell, John Kane and Alistair Norwood declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in Agenda Item 11 Members Allowances – Independent Remuneration Panel due to being affected by the proposals and left the meeting during its consideration.

**C 95 Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor thanked all Members who attended his Charity evening of Friday 15 March 2013.

**C 96 To Receive Petitions under Procedure Rule 19**

There were no petitions

**C 97 Questions from Members of the Public**

There were no questions from members of the public

**C 98 Questions from Members of the Council**

Councillor Stephen Haraldsen asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability:-

“Can the Portfolio Holder confirm the number of fines issued for dog fouling in each of the past three civic years, the number of complaints made relating to dog fouling, the current number of enforcement officers, the change in number since 2010, the scope of their work, the impact dog control orders have had if any on numbers of fines and complaints relating to dog fouling, and any strategy the Council has in place to deal with this anti-social, health risk and environmental problem?”

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability Councillor Allan Holliday replied as follows: -

“Can I just start by saying that there are 5.5 equivalent full time staff who deal with enforcement. Actual dog fouling takes up approximately one third of the work that they do, the other two thirds consists of things like taxi licensing compliance, trade waste compliance, fly tipping and littering, abandoned vehicles and stray dogs.

Of the three years that you have mentioned the first we were working under a different set of rules and the figures wouldn't give an appropriate overview. The last two years are more significant because it was when we brought in a zero tolerance but prior to that we would just warn people. In 2011/12 there were 283 complaints and 49 fines and in 2012/13 185 complaints and 33 fines. In 2012/13 the dog control orders went out so there has been a drop in complaints and fines since the orders came in. As far as the anti-social and the health risk are concerned these are covered in the health and safety report which we receive quarterly.”

Councillor Haraldsen asked the following supplementary question of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability: -

“Could I ask a question on the current policy of spraying of dog waste I think with orange paint which I've noticed around the town, why this is happening rather than cleaning up the mess because it strikes me that leaving it there is a bit of a risk for people to come along later and stand in it.”

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability replied as follows: -

“In line with that part of the reason was to highlight the actual problem but part of it is as well that our enforcement officers do work pretty closely with our street cleansing people and they highlight any particular areas. One of the best things we can do is to highlight areas where our officers can actually tackle high areas of dog fouling and that's why we work very closely with the Town and Parish Councils but any reference of any particular area get in touch with us and we can deal with it. But as I have said it is only one third of the work so it is important that we get the right sort of information so that we can take the appropriate action.”

Councillor David Moore asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration

“As the new stadium project has completely stalled what discussions have taken place between NMP and the Council with regard to the £4.5 million they have committed? If no discussions are ongoing, is it time to start looking at all sports facilities across Copeland that could benefit from investment and give the residents of Copeland the facilities they deserve?”

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration replied as follows: -

“May I start by saying that the initial Pow Beck project hasn’t been stalled, it has actually been brought to a close in its entirety. I think that another point I must make is that the £4.5 million you refer to is not succinctly ring fenced for sports facilities so with that in mind in terms of where we are now what I can say is that there is a local project titled the Whitehaven Community Sports Hub set up through the Whitehaven Amateur Football Club and Whitehaven Rugby League Club. The two clubs in terms of building on previous experience have received some early meeting facilitation help from NMP and are linking to one of the BEC Project Managers. Following on from the previous Pow Beck Project the Council have no role in this current project except to receive updates on the project. Currently the BEC Board have offered the project a small development grant to assist them to fully detail their proposals to extend and make improvements to the clubs facilities to enable increased joint working. The BEC board is anticipating a follow up capital bid for significantly less than the previous Community Stadium project. To be clear there is no new stadium proposal in Whitehaven.

As Members will be aware the Council undertook a facilities audit as part of the evidence base for our core strategy approved at our last meeting. This highlighted a range of sports facilities across Copeland which are mostly delivered and developed by local clubs. There are two sports partnerships in the Borough, one for the North and one for the South which offer the opportunity to discuss sports development and opportunities for funding this was resourced by the Council but from April and as a result of the cuts we will no longer have any sports resource and they will be looking to the sports clubs providers to continue the momentum.

What I will do is point to the success of organisations such as Egremont Rugby Club has had for instance for drawing down money but that is current position.”

Councillor David Moore asked the following supplementary question: -

“Thank you for that update and the first that I’d heard about the scheme that it was being taken forward so it may have been useful if Members had been made aware. I appreciate that the Council has no role in this but I think that the Council could have a role that £4.5 million that was made available. Obviously it’s a lot smaller amount that’s going to be needed for this project and at the time they were totally committed to projects in Copeland and I think if we are not careful that money could be lost and I think there is a case for us to go back and try and secure funding for some of those good schemes that are across the Borough that still need support. We’ve got Millom Swimming Pool, issues like that that I think maybe we should be picking up where there isn’t funding to be drawn down because unfortunately we are going to lose funding here on a smaller project down there and I think the opportunity was that it was committed to Copeland and I think we should be pushing hard to get that.”

**C 99 Executive Report**

The Council received and noted the Executive report.

**C 100 Council Tax Resolution**

The minutes of the Council Tax Setting Committee held on 4 March 2013 were received and noted.

**C 101 GIS Mapping of Sewers and Responsibilities**

In response to a request from Councillor Stephen Haraldsen to map sewers and responsibilities in Hillcrest and other areas the Leader of the Council undertook to look at each area individually as and when the need arises.

**C 102 Beacon**

Arising from a question from Councillor Graham Sunderland the Portfolio Holder for Leisure Culture and Youth undertook to congratulate staff at the Beacon for its successful reapplication for Museum Accreditation Status.

**C 103 Sellafield Ltd – Business Rates**

In response to a question from Councillor Henry Wormstrup relating to the new retention of business rates as Sellafield build new facilities on site the Leader of the Council explained what unique circumstances Copeland had with regard to the localisation of business rates having Sellafield in the area. It was moved by the Leader of the Council duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** – That a letter be written to Government explaining the financial difficulty Copeland has facing it and that the one opportunity to get resources has now gone with the changes.

**C 104 West Cumberland Hospital Redevelopment – Apprenticeships**

Arising from a question from Councillor Brian Dixon the Leader of the Council undertook to provide a written reply on the level of local employment and apprentices working on the West Cumberland Hospital Redevelopment.

**C 105 Cleator Moor Health Centre**

Arising from a question from Councillor Carole Woodman the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources undertook to provide and update on plans to employ and officer at the Cleator Moor Health Centre, to direct Members of the public to the relevant departments, which had been on the original plan.

**C 106 On Street Parking**

In response to a question from Councillor John Kane the Portfolio Holder Environment undertook to write to the Leaders of Allerdale Borough Council and the County Council airing Members concerns over the poor enforcement of on street parking in Whitehaven town centre

**C 107 Travel Plan**

Arising from a question from Councillor Yvonne Clarkson regarding the on-going work with the County Council on a travel plan for Whitehaven in light of the 1000 people who will occupy the Albion Square development the Leader of the Council undertook to advise Members when the draft plan was completed.

**C 108 Member Development Session**

In response to a request from Council Stephen Haraldsen and in light of the complexity of the new business rates retention scheme the Leader of the Council agreed that a further Member development session be arranged early in the 2013/14 municipal year.

**C 109 Member Allowances – Independent Remuneration Panel**

(Note Councillor Graham Sunderland left the meeting during consideration of this item and prior to the vote being taken)

Further to Minute C 88 (21 February 2013) it was noted that the independent remuneration panel had made no objection to the proposal to reduce the level of some special responsibility allowances. The Leader of the Council moved:-

That from the new municipal year 2013/14

- a) the payment of £1184.51 to the Deputy Leader of the Main Opposition Group be ceased;
- b) payments of £3006.84 to the two Overview and Scrutiny Chairs be ceased;
- c) the payment of £3673.95 to the Planning Panel Chair be ceased;
- d) the Mayors allowance be reduced to £2000; and
- e) the Deputy Mayors Allowance be reduced to £500;

In moving the recommendations the Leader of the Council further moved that the Members Allowance be frozen for a fifth year 2013/14

The Motion was duly seconded.

Councillor Stephen Haraldsen moved by way of amendment that:-

Recommendations a) – e) be deleted and all Special Responsibility Allowances be reduce by one third.

Upon the amendment being duly seconded by Councillor David Moore; the Monitoring Officer exercised his delegated authority in granting a dispensation to Councillors Geoff Blackwell; John Bowman; Hugh Branney; George Clements; Phil Greatorex; Allan Holliday; John Kane; David Moore; Alistair Norwood; Gillian Troughton; Elaine Woodburn which enabled them to fully participate in further consideration of this item. Councillor Geoff Blackwell; John Kane and Alistair Norwood were invited back into the room.

Members requested, by a show of hands, that a recorded vote to be taken on the amendment.

**For the Amendment** – Yvonne Clarkson; Eileen Eastwood; Stephen Haraldsen; David Moore; Alistair Norwood; Doug Wilson

**Against the Amendment** - Councillors David Banks; Geoffrey Blackwell; John Bowman; Jackie Bowman; George Clements; Peter Connolly; Brian Dixon; Margarita Docherty; John Fallows; Anne Faichney; Geoffrey Garrity; Lena Hogg; Allan Holliday; Joan Hully; Peter Kane Michael McVeigh; Sam Pollen; David Riley; Dave Smith; Peter Stephenson; Gillian Troughton; Peter Tyson; Paul Whalley Jeanette Williams; Elaine Woodburn; Henry Wormstrup.

**Abstention from the vote** - Hugh Branney; Phil Greatorex; John Jackson; John Kane; Gilbert Scurrah; Felicity Wilson; Carole Woodman.

On a vote of 6 For, 26 Against and 7 Abstentions the Amendment was declared **LOST**.

The substantive Motion was then put to the vote and

**RESOLVED** – That from the 2013/14 Municipal Year

- a) the payment of £1184.51 to the Deputy Leader of the Main Opposition Group be ceased;
- b) payments of £3006.84 to the two Overview and Scrutiny Chairs be ceased;
- c) the payment of £3673.95 to the Planning Panel Chair be ceased;
- d) the Mayors allowance be reduced to £2000;
- e) the Deputy Mayors Allowance be reduced to £500; and
- f) the Basic Members Allowance be frozen for a fifth year 2013/14

#### **C 110 Cumbria Police and Crime Panel**

Consideration was given to a report seeking formal agreement for the terms of reference and working arrangements of the joint Cumbria Police and Crime Panel.

**RESOLVED** – That a) the establishment and composition of the Cumbria Police and Crime Panel be noted; and

b) the terms of reference and working arrangements of the Panel as detailed in Appendix A of the report be approved.

**C 111 St Bees Play Area – Accountable Body**

Consideration was given to a request for the Council to act as accountable body for the St Bees Play Area.

**RESOLVED** – That agreement for the Council to act as accountable body for the St Bees Play Area project as required by Financial Regulations, up to a value of £150k be confirmed.

**C 112 Localism Act 2011 – Pay Policy Statement**

Consideration was given to the Council's Pay Policy Statement as required by Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011.

**RESOLVED** – That the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14 be approved.

**C 113 South Whitehaven Plan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

Consideration was given to a recommendation from the Local Development Framework Working Party to adopt the South Whitehaven Supplementary Planning Document which would then form part of the Copeland Local Development Framework.

**RESOLVED** – That the South Whitehaven Plan Supplementary Planning Document be approved and adopted.

**C 114 Nominations of Mayor and Appointment as Deputy Mayor for the 2013/14 Municipal Year**

It was moved by Councillor Joan Hully, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor Geoff Garrity be nominated for election as Mayor in 2013/14.

Prior to consideration being given to the appointment of a Deputy Mayor for 2013/14.

It was moved by the Leader of the Council Councillor Elaine Woodburn duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** – A Policy Development Group be set up consisting of 9 Members on a 5 3 1 basis with appointment of Members to attend meetings being delegated to each political group with terms of reference being to review the Mayoralty in context of savings in support costs already agreed to consider whether to continue with the current model of Mayoralty and the rules of appointment for members to the appointment of Mayor; and if necessary a Special meeting be called to consider proposals prior to the Council's Annual General Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

**Mayor**