

WHITEHAVEN COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW PANEL

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2014 at 10:00am
IN THE BAINBRIDGE ROOM, THE COPELAND CENTRE.**

Present: Councillors Stephen Haraldsen (Deputy Chairman) in the Chair; George Clements; Geoff Garrity; John Kane and David Moore.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Peter Kane and Peter Tyson.

Officers: Lindsay Tomlinson, Democratic Services Manager, Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer; Carole Edgar, Accountant-Financial Reporting and Technical and Janice Carrol, Interim Head of Copeland Services.

WCG 17/14 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2014 were signed by the Deputy Chairman as a correct record.

WCG 18/14 Recommendation to Full Council and Draft Community Reorganisation Order

The Panel was provided with an overview of the process undertaken so far and advised that the next step was to prepare a report with recommendations and draft Community Re-organisation Order for Full Council to consider at the 4 December 2014 meeting.

Members received additional advice regarding the name of the Council for the newly parished area and that the status of 'Town Council' could not be made by the Borough Council. It was therefore suggested that 'Whitehaven Parish Council' be recommended and further suggested that an item be included in the first meeting of the new Parish Council where the status of Town Council could be adopted.

The new Whitehaven Parish Council would be created on 1 April 2015, with the election for Councillors taking place on 7 May 2015. The Parish Council would then elect Councillors every four years, in line with all the Town and Parishes in the Borough.

The number of Parish Councillors was then reconsidered in view of the number of electorate in the Bransty Borough Council Ward who were in the Moresby Parish Council area. Following discussion it was suggested that where the Borough Council ward had three members, there would be two new Parish Councillors. Where the Borough Council ward had two members, there would be one new Parish Councillor.

This model would result in a total of Eleven new Parish Councillors, as follows:-

Bransty	-	Two Councillors
Harbour	-	Two Councillors
Hensingham	-	Two Councillors
Hillcrest	-	One Councillor
Kells	-	One Councillor
Mirehouse	-	Two Councillors
Sandwith	-	One Councillor

The Panel discussed the issue of Transfer Options and were advised that following guidance received from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Allotments should be transferred automatically from the Borough Council to the new Town Council.

The first year's Precept was discussed and a number of options were put forward by the Accountant - Financial Reporting and Technical, for consideration. This included Contingencies & Reserves that would allow the Town Council scope to progress projects it wished to deliver.

It was suggested that an initial precept equivalent to £1.00 per week for a Band D property be recommended to Council.

Members considered the Whitehaven Badge of Office. The Panel was keen to permit the Whitehaven Parish Council use of the badge if they wished, subject to conditions that would be set. It was suggested that a valuation also be obtained.

RESOLVED – that the Re-organisation Order be drafted and together with the report be recommended to Full Council and to include:-

- 1) The new parish council be called 'Whitehaven Parish Council'.
- 2) The Parish Council election for Councillors be on 7 May 2015, then every four years.

3) The Parish Council be warded and the number of Councillors per ward set as follows:

- a) Bransty - Two Councillors
- b) Harbour - Two Councillors
- c) Hensingham - Two Councillors
- d) Hillcrest - One Councillor
- e) Kells - One Councillor
- f) Mirehouse - Two Councillors
- g) Sandwith - One Councillor

The total number of Parish Councillors to be Eleven.

4) The transfer of Allotments

5) The initial precept equivalent to £1.00 per week for a Band D property.

6) A valuation of the Whitehaven Badge of Office be obtained and further consideration at a later meeting be made to conditions for the Badge to be made available to the Whitehaven Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 10:55am

Chairman.....

Date.....