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**MINUTES of the CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL held at Stanley Education Centre on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 at 6.30pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr C Bell\*                      Cllr C Thompson                      Cllr D Walker                      Cllr G Graham  
                 Cllr J Nicholson                      Cllr J Charlton                      Cllr W Nixon

\*Chair

**OFFICERS:** Alan Shaw (Town Clerk)  
                 Nicola James (PA to the Town Clerk)  
                 James Harper (Community Development Manager)

**ABSENT:** Cllrs L Elliott and R Ferris

**513                      APOLOGIES**

None

**514                      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Charlton declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Durham County Council.

Cllr Bell declared a non-pecuniary interest as Chair of the Stanley Traders Association.

**515                      PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

None.

**516                      PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public in attendance. No written questions were submitted prior to the meeting.

**517                      CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr Graham, seconded by Cllr Nixon and **RESOLVED** that the Committee approve the minutes of the Crime and Community Safety Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**518                      WINTER MAINTENANCE**

James Harper advised members that following a recent meeting with DCC and other Town Councils, the County has advised that Town Councils are not

permitted to purchase their own grit bins and site them on DCC land. All requests for grit bins had to go through the County Council's assessment criteria and the presence or lack of funding from Parish Councils would not be a deciding factor.

The Clerk advised that residents and members could submit grit bin requests to DCC or STC could purchase their own grit bins and site them on private land. The Town Council could also lobby DCC to revise their winter maintenance policy to permit Town and Parish Councils to purchase their own grit bins and site them on DCC land.

Cllr Walker noted that the assessment form for deciding if new grit bins can be put in a new area does not take into account the height above sea level of the proposed location and this was a factor in the ambient temperatures.

Cllr Nixon noted that the assessment criteria was unclear, there was no definition of near and distant which were used in a number of criteria.

Cllr Charlton questioned how much grit bins cost, how much it costs to keep them stocked and where STC would store the salt if the Council were to supply its own bins.

It was proposed by Cllr Nixon, seconded by Cllr Thompson and **RECOMMENDED** that the Clerk discuss the assessment form with DCC to try and ascertain how the assessment criteria were actually applied.

Members discussed the footpath clearing routes that had previously been agreed. The consensus of Committee was that they felt that the priority should be changed as the routes that Groundworks were currently gritting did not reflect their priorities.

It was proposed by Cllr Nicholson, seconded by Cllr Graham and **RECOMMENDED** that the routes be altered, starting by adding the clearance of footpaths around all the schools in Stanley. The Groundworks team will be consulted and if they feel like they can clear more than just schools, the following areas will be added – doctor's surgeries, old people's bungalows and then secondary shopping areas. Members understood that this recommendation would need to be ratified by Council and agreed by DCC to be progressed further.

It was **RECOMMENDED** by the Committee that the Clerk look into the costs of purchasing and maintaining our own grit bins on private land.

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## **BIG SPRING CLEAN 2016**

Committee was asked to consider if they felt STC should participate in DCC's 'Big Spring Clean 2016' initiative.

After a discussion, it was **RECOMMENDED** that STC should consider organising a group to cleanup the Sustrans route and ask schools along the route to get involved.

**520 MINI POLICE**

The Clerk advised members that the new launch date for the Mini Police would be 26<sup>th</sup> February. The programme for the day will be the same as was scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**521 UPDATES FROM PARTNERS / PACT HOUSE UPDATE**

The Clerk advised members that PACT House now has a kitchen which was bought from a café shutting down in Gateshead. This just needs to be fitted.

The Water is back on in the building and DCC have agreed that PACT House can be exempt from rates, even though they're not registered as a charity yet.

There is an issue with the heating which is in the process of being explored and volunteers are continuing to do works to the building.

Cllr Nicholson questioned whether PACT House were concerned about the planning application submitted in relation to the old Elite Buildings as it seems that building may have some of the same functions as PACT House. The Clerk said he would look into this.

PS Dave Clark had forwarded a request for members to consider providing £108 funding to purchase 6 hi-vis jackets for Stanley Community Speedwatch volunteers.

Members **RESOLVED** to grant the request and provide the funding from the Community Safety budget on the proviso that the jackets have the STC logo and 'Community Speedwatch' printed on them.

**522 OTIS UPDATE**

Members discussed the OTIS project and expressed the view that they were disappointed with the lack of progress with the project. The idea of OTIS was sound but the team itself had not met for months and not delivered any outcomes in New Kyo.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the OTIS project be shelved until a meaningful action plan was presented for consideration.

**523 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016, 6.30pm at Stanley Civic Hall