

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held at Civic Hall, Stanley on Tuesday 18th October 2016 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: J Nicholson* A Clegg C McKee W Nixon
 T Davinson R Harrison D McMahan C Bell
 D Marshall D Mills B Nair M Wilkinson

*Chairman

OFFICERS: Alan Shaw (Town Clerk)
 Nicola James (PA to the Town Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Adrian Cattle-Jones (DCC), Peter Naylor (Wear Rivers Trust), Mark Patterson and 1 member of the public

163 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllrs G Graham, C Thompson, L Elliott, J Charlton, R Ferris, D Walker, L Marshall and D Tully were accepted by Council.

164 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr C Bell declared an interest as a Chairman of Stanley Traders Association.

165 PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Clerk reminded Members to speak through the chair, and to stand when speaking.

The Clerk advised that Cllr W Nixon was recording the meeting.

166 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions from the public.

167 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr R Harrison, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the Council approve the following minutes as a correct record:

20th September 2016 Full Council

Cllr D Marshall referred to item 135 from the minutes of 20th September. He advised that he had looked into the comment made by Cllr R Ferris that there had been accidents and complaints. There have been no reported accidents and there have only been 2 enquiries by the traders which were resolved by DCC. Cllr D Marshall requested that any statements like this should be backed up with evidence and provided to the Clerk.

168 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Communications & Events Committee held on 4th October 2016 and the Crime & Community Safety Committee held on 5th October 2016 be **RECEIVED** by Council.

The Chairman advised members that agenda item 9 (Minute #171) and agenda item 8 (Minute #170) would be taken before the recommendations from Committees.

169 RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Members were asked to consider the recommendations from the Communications and Events Committee & Crime and Community Safety Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr W Nixon and **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk would pull a draft budget together containing all the expenditure put forward by the Committees together with other operating costs for the Town Council and Civic Hall which would be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 1st November.

170 GREENING TWIZELL PARTNERSHIP

Adrian Cattle-Jones gave a presentation updating progress on the project which STC has part-funded, based around the Twizell Burn. The South Moor heritage trail will be launched on 11th November, details to be forwarded after the meeting.

Peter Naylon gave a presentation to update the ongoing work to improve wetland and habitat areas. The plan is to integrate the habitat improvement works with the heritage works. Peter requested that Council provided grant funding of £15,000 towards the purchase of two footbridges which will be needed to facilitate the public footpaths through the Memorial Woods once Stanley Burn has been re-meandered along its original course.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr D Marshall, seconded by Cllr C Bell and **RESOLVED** that STC will provide the £15,000 requested from underspending in other areas in the current year's budgets.

171 ROLLOVER OF GRANT FUNDING REQUEST

Mark Patterson updated Members on the Toy Appeal and Caritas Fund which were supported by MIF in 2015-16. He advised that the Toy Appeal provided 603 children with 1 large and 3 small gifts for Christmas during 2015. Gala Bingo had provided gifts which meant that there was an underspend in the MIF money provided. Mark advised Council that the Caritas Fund has helped 100 children in local schools, 60% of which lived in Stanley. There was also an underspend in the MIF money provided.

It was proposed by Cllr R Harrison, seconded by Cllr D Marshall and **RESOLVED** that Council approve the underspent MIFs to be carried forward to 2017 appeals - Toy Appeal £1529.10 and Caritas Fund £1212.23.

The Town Clerk advised members for information that he had recruited, on an interim basis, Susan Oliver to cover the role of Finance Officer.

172 CIVIC HALL SCHEDULE OF FEES & CHARGES

Members considered the new proposed schedule of fees and charges for the Civic Hall for 2017/18. It was proposed by Cllr W Nixon, seconded by Cllr R Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the proposed rates be approved but that the 20% discount be for Charities and not for profit organisations.

173 ASSET TRANSFER

Members were asked to consider the following:

- (i) Evaluating the costs and work involved in taking over the play areas and parks in Stanley under asset transfer.*
- (ii) Taking over the 'Old Man's Hut' in Annfield Plain under asset transfer.
- (iii) Taking over the former Stanley Urban District Council Offices on Front Street.

Members discussed taking over the 'Old Man's Hut' in Annfield Plain. It was proposed by Cllr W Nixon, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk pursue asset transfer of the building on behalf of Council.

Members discussed taking over the Front Street Offices. It was proposed by Cllr D Marshall, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be authorised to find out if it is feasible for the Town Council to take over the Offices.

**Item (i) was not discussed by members during consideration of this item and will be carried forward to a future agenda.*

174 WINTER MAINTENANCE

Members were asked to set aside £4750 from the current year's budget to implement the recommendations of the report from the Community Development Manager. It was proposed by Cllr D McMahon, seconded by Cllr B Nair and **RESOLVED** that the budget be set aside to implement the proposal and provide 11 new grit bins (and 2 spares in stock) around the Parish.

175 COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

It was proposed by Cllr R Harrison, seconded by Cllr D Mills and **RESOLVED** that the recommendation of the Town Clerk, that the Council take advice from the North East Ambulance Service about where would be most effective place to site new defibrillators be taken forward.

176 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

*Members recording the proceedings stopped at this point.

Council **RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Justification for excluding the public and press from consideration of the following item: To consider professional legal advice.

177 **STAFFING MATTER**

Council considered the matter and **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk take the matter forward.

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

Tuesday 15th November 2016, 18:30 at Shield Row Education Centre, Kind Edward VIII Terrace, Stanley.