

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held at Stanley Civic Hall, Front Street, Stanley on Tuesday 23rd February 2016 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: J Nicholson* A Clegg G Graham C Thompson W Nixon
 R Harrison D McMahon D Tully C Bell D Mills
 D Walker R Ferris B Nair M Wilkinson

*Chairman

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

ABSENT: Cllr C McKee
 Cllr L Elliott

IN ATTENDANCE: 7 members of the Public & Alan Shield (Durham Money Advice)

542 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllrs J Charlton, T Davinson, D Marshall & L Marshall were accepted by Council.

543 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr C Bell declared a non-pecuniary interest as Chair of the Traders Association.
 Cllr D McMahon declared a non-pecuniary interest in PACT House.

544 PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman noted that Alan Shield from Durham Money Advice would speak under public participation and give an update on the debt advisory service provided with funding from STC.

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

545 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk invited Alan Shield to give an update on the debt advisory service. Mr Shield advised members that the service started on June 24th at the Tommy Armstrong Centre. Within 88 days, 134 new clients have been seen. 1/3 of a million pounds of debt is currently being managed. It was estimated that around 50 clients would be helped but Mr Shield had revised this estimate. By the end of June it is likely they will have seen over 200 clients, such has been the demand for the service.

546 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26th January 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

547 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held in January 2016 and Committee Meetings held in February 2016 be **RECEIVED** by Council.

548 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

(a) **PLANNING**

Neighbourhood Planning - It was **RESOLVED** that Council support the Planning Committee's recommendation for the Council to continue with the designation application for the whole parish to be a Neighbourhood Planning Area and considers the matter again once the outcome of the application has been published.

(b) **CRIME & COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Provision of Salt Bins

It was **RESOLVED** that Council will adopt the Crime and Community Safety Committee's **RECOMMENDATIONS** that:

- (i) the assessment criteria for the provision of salt bins should be clarified; and
- (ii) the Town Clerk should explore the costs of providing and maintaining our own salt bins on private land.

Footway Gritting

It was **RESOLVED** that Council will adopt the Crime and Community Safety Committee's **RECOMMENDATION** that the footway gritting routes should prioritise schools, doctors surgeries and old peoples' bungalows.

(c) **FINANCE**

Civic Hall Credit Card Bookings

It was **RESOLVED** that Council will adopt the Finance Committee's **RECOMMENDATION** that a 2% surcharge be applied to credit card payments to offset the cost to the Council of accepting payments by credit card.

549 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Relocation of Craghead Post Office

Members **NOTED** the notification that Craghead Post Office is relocating to a new convenience store opposite the Village Hall.

Closure of St Aidan's Church

Members **NOTED** the notification from the Church Commissioners that St Aidan's Church in Annfield Plain will be closing.

550 **REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

Community Consultation

The Clerk advised members that there were around 490 responses so far and that the 2 secondary schools were going to get involved with answering the questionnaire.

Mini Police

The Clerk advised that the mini police launch has been rescheduled for 26th February.

Civic Hall Refurbishment

The Clerk advised members that the windows have now all been replaced and that the changing rooms are currently being refurbished.

551 **EDITORIAL POLICY**

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the Communications Policy presented by the Town Clerk be adopted by Council; and
- (ii) editorial decisions relating to the Council's publications and web based media are delegated to the Town Clerk in line with that policy.

552 **LOUISA MORRISON DISASTER MEMORIAL**

Members considered what would happen with the Louisa Morrison Disaster Memorial when St Aidan's Church closes.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk look into facilitating the re-location of the memorial on behalf of the Council with the preference of Council being that the memorial remains in Annfield Plain.

553 **NORTH ROAD GYM - REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

Members considered the request for free hire of the Civic Hall

It was **RESOLVED** that the request be declined, but that the request should be circulated to Members for consideration for funding under the Member's Initiative Fund.

554 **CRAGHEAD VILLAGE HALL - REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

Members considered the request for funding to organise an event to mark the 90th Birthday of HM the Queen.

It was **RESOLVED** that the request be declined, but that the request should be circulated to Members for consideration for funding under the Member's Initiative Fund.

555 **THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should make enquiries with DCC and ask to identify if they are planning any events across the County in which STC could participate. Any information should be provided to the Communication and Events Committee for consideration.

556 **CIVIC HALL COFFEE SHOP**

Members considered the proposal from the Civic Hall Manager to open the Coffee Shop in the gallery for general trading. It was **RESOLVED** that the Civic Hall Manager be given authority to open the coffee shop using 4 part time staff (2 full-time equivalents) employed initially on 3 months fixed term contracts (renewable) so that members can review performance before deciding if the coffee shop should be opened permanently.

557 **PACT HOUSE REPORT**

The Town Clerk presented a report to Council detailing the expenditure incurred so far on the PACT House project. Members were advised that PACT House is waiting for Companies House to complete the company registration number before they can open a bank account. Once the community interest company is set up, the PACT House will be able to apply to external funders and once the works to the cafe are complete the AAP will release funding previously awarded.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be delegated authority to incur expenditure relating to the PACT House in the following areas:

- (i) to ensure legal compliance, i.e. rates, insurances, planning etc.; and
- (ii) to ensure that minimum standards are met in respect of the safety and habitability of the building (excluding replacement of the central heating system).

It was further **RESOLVED** that Councillor B Nair be nominated as the Town Council's designated member of the PACT House Board when the community interest company is established.

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

Tuesday 22nd March 2016, 18:30 at the Civic Hall.