

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held at Stanley Civic Hall, Front Street, Stanley on Tuesday 25th July 2017 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: **A Clegg*** T Armstrong D Marshall L Timbey
 D Carmichael J Stephenson J McMahon D Tully
 L Christie M Davinson J Nicholson J Tully
 C Hampson J Pallas G Wilkinson

*Chairman for this meeting

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

IN ATTENDANCE: 7 members of the public

The Town Clerk opened the meeting as the Town Mayor was not present. Cllr L Timbey nominated Cllr A Clegg to Chair the meeting, seconded by Cllr D Carmichael.

Cllr A Clegg then presided over the meeting.

70 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllrs C Marshall, H Clark & J Clark were accepted by Council.

71 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr D Marshall declared a pecuniary interest in Graphic Print and a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Rotary Club. Cllr C Hampson declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Rotary Club.

72 PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Town Clerk made a statement concerning the passing of Cllr Geoff Graham and a minutes silence was held in his memory.

The Clerk reminded Members not to speak until they have been recognised by the Chairman, and to stand when speaking.

The Clerk noted that no persons present were recording the meeting, however STC were recording the meeting to be uploaded later.

73 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John Caulfield asked members how many of them supported the work that himself, John Ullathorne and other volunteers do for community speed watch. The Town Clerk advised Mr Caulfield that Council has provided £3000 funding for speed watch so it clearly has identified it as an important issue.

John Caulfield also asked why only 1 member of STC turned up to the Mini Police event at North Durham Academy. The Town Clerk advised that the invite came to

Council on the Tuesday for the event on the Friday and that was very short notice for members and staff to attend. Council has also funded the Mini Police with £4400 in this financial year in addition to funding in previous years.

74 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr L Christie, seconded by Cllr J McMahon and **RESOLVED** that the Council **APPROVE** the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 27th June 2017 as a correct record.

75 MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS

It was proposed by Cllr J Pallas, seconded by Cllr J Stephenson and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Projects & Initiatives Meeting held on 18th July 2017 **RECEIVED** by Council.

It was proposed by Cllr J Stephenson seconded by Cllr D Carmichael and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & Governance Meeting held on 19th July 2017 **RECEIVED** by Council.

76 RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

- (i) **Louisa Morrison Miner's Memorial** - It was **RESOLVED** that the memorial should be relocated in Annfield Plain and that DCC should be asked for a licence to have the stone relocated to Annfield Plain Park.
- (ii) **Armed Forces Day** - It was **RESOLVED** that the day should be repeated in 2018 and that planning should begin immediately.
- (iii) **Budget Clawback** - It was **RESOLVED** that the following budgeted projects be shelved in the current year: Music Festival (£5000); WWI Commemoration (£5000) and Council will consider reallocation of these budgets to other projects if they come to light.
- (iv) **Christmas** - It was **RESOLVED** that a specification should be produced for the Christmas light switch on event and that bids are invited from outside providers for the event.

Decisions of Committee - Members were informed that:

- (v) **Police Cars** - A working group meeting has been scheduled for August to consider the application for funding from PS Clark in the wider context of the Labour Group's pledge to reintroduce an enhanced warden service in Stanley.
- (vi) **Mini Police** - Craig Johnson will be contacted to provide a detailed proposal in respect of the budget allocation.
- (vii) **Road Safety** - John Ullathorne will be contacted to firm up allocation of the budget and provide detailed feedback .

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FINANCE**64 ITEM 6 - ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Chairman of Finance & Governance, Cllr J Stephenson, advised Council that initial meetings have been held with officers to review at the documents the committee receives. Committee need straightforward and clear indications of where money is being spent. Changes will be proposed after recess.

It was proposed by Cllr J Stephenson, seconded by Cllr L Christie and **RESOLVED** that the payment of accounts for June 2017 be approved and the bank reconciliations for June 2017 be **NOTED**.

65 ITEM 7 - BUDGET MONITORING

The Town Clerk advised members that it was a bit early in the year to provide meaningful budget monitoring information however it might be useful for new Members to get a feel of the figures. There are no major areas of concern. Members had no questions.

66 ITEM 8 - MEDIUM TERM PLAN

The Chairman, Cllr J Stephenson, advised that Committee need to focus on the production of medium term strategic documents. Who the Council is, what plans and aims the council has etc. These areas will give framework to start discussions. An away day could be arranged to set framework on what the Council will deliver.

The Town Clerk advised that a facilitated discussion to brainstorm and pull a draft plan together and set criteria had been discussed.

It was proposed by Cllr J Stephenson, seconded by Cllr D Marshall and **RESOLVED** that Council will look at a facilitated away day to develop a strategic document, vision, aims and objectives.

67 ITEM 9 - COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN

This item was deferred and will come back to the September Finance and Governance meeting.

68 ITEM 10 - INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

It was proposed by Cllr D Carmichael, seconded by Cllr M Davinson and **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, will investigate suitable investment opportunities and bring back a report for consideration by Committee after the recess.

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REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk provided updates on the following

- (i) **Civic Hall Works** - The exterior signage has been ordered and will be installed on 12 Aug. Automatic doors will be installed on 9 Aug. More quotes are being

requested for the PA system. The tech box work is scheduled for August. The steel fabrications for the fly tower have been ordered and work will commence 1st week in Aug. A second quote for the fly tower is needed. Following these works, Council can look into further external funding sources for further works required.

- (ii) **Council Offices** - The survey is done and a report is on its way. The sub group needs to look at the report in detail, review costs and bring forward recommendations. An extra-ordinary meeting of Council may be needed to discuss the recommendations of the working group. Draft contracts are with our solicitors.
- (iii) **Other matters** - The Town Clerk has progressed getting a licence for putting the Annfield Plain memorial in Annfield Plain park. The Community Development Manager has made contact with the 101 artillery and they are happy to attend Armed Forces next year. The Community Development Manager is working on a specification for Christmas. Mini Police and Road Safety projects are ongoing.

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DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 26th September 2017, 6:30pm, Civic Hall Stanley.