

**MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

Held at Stanley Civic Hall, Front Street, Stanley on Tuesday 26th September 2017 at 6.30pm

**PRESENT:**    **B Nair\***            T Armstrong            D Carmichael            L Christie  
                   J Clark                H Clark                M Davinson (18:35)    C Hampson  
                   C Marshall          D Marshall            J McMahon              J Nicholson  
                   J Pallas              J Stephenson          L Timbey                D Tully  
                   J Tully                G Wilkinson

**\*Chairman**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 17 members of the public

**110            APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllrs A Clegg & J Kane were accepted by Council.

**111            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr D Marshall declared a personal interest in item 10, part 3, as his son is the Director of Stanley Events Ltd.

Cllr C Marshall declared a pecuniary interest in item 10, part 3, as he is Director of Stanley Events Ltd.

Cllr J McMahon declared a pecuniary interest in item 10, part 3, as he is an employee of Stanley Events Ltd.

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

The Town Mayor welcomed James Kane to the Council as the newly elected member to the Stanley Hall Ward, although Cllr Kane was unable attend tonight's meeting.

The Town Clerk reminded everyone to turn their mobile phones off or to silent, and advised that the meeting was being recorded but not live streamed to Facebook. He also advised that a member of the public was recording the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr J Stephenson and **RESOLVED** that Item 12 be moved up the agenda to be dealt with after Item 6 as there are a number of members of the public in attendance who had attended just for that item.

**113            PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The following matters were raised by members of the public present:

- (i) John Caulfield questioned why the Town Clerk had stated that John Ullathorne could not do his presentation in the July Projects Committee meeting and that he was not happy that the Town Clerk had misrepresented the situation in a Council meeting.

The Town Clerk advised that he was happy for John Ullathorne to attend the meeting, however Committee took the decision that there was not enough time for John to give his presentation.

- (ii) Billy Nixon questioned why the question of where the Louisa Memorial Stone would be moved was back on the agenda as it had previously been agreed in a meeting that the stone would stay in Annfield Plain. He questioned who gave the Town Clerk permission to discuss the issue with other parties, and why it was not suggested that the copy stone be put in Stanley rather than the copy stone being put in Annfield Plain. He also suggested that this item should not be discussed again as a Council decision could not be overturned within 6 months of the decision or until 11 members sign a motion for the item to be put back on the agenda.

The Town Clerk advised that he did not need permission to speak to members of the community. He also advised that he had received a motion signed by 12 members to have the item put back onto the agenda.

Cllr C Marshall stated he was concerned about the accusations from the public toward the Councils head of paid service and accusations against the Council. Any decision taken by a Council has to be the right decisions for the communities and the people who elect us and we have to take on board their views and opinions. No one is more important than the families affected by the mining disaster and their views are integral in deciding the final location of the memorial.

Mr Jack Hair informed everyone that following a consultation, the majority of relatives of the men who were killed in the disaster wished the original memorial stone to be moved to Stanley. Most of the men who were killed and injured were in the Louisa Miners Lodge. Relocating the stone to Stanley is a personal matter to the families and not a political issue. The stone should be moved to Stanley.

Mr Ed Simpson, son of one of the mining disaster victims expressed his personal wish that the stone be moved to Stanley.

Mrs Christine Bell noted that many people from Catchgate, Annfield Plain and New Kyo wanted the stone to remain in Annfield Plain.

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## CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of 25th July 2017 be **APPROVED** as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

**115 MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS**

It was proposed by Cllr L Christie, seconded by Cllr J Stephenson and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of Projects & Initiatives on 12th September and Finance & Governance on 13th September be **RECEIVED** by Council.

*Item 12 (Minute #121- Louisa Morrison Memorial) was dealt with at this point in the meeting at the direction of the Town Mayor, as the majority of members of public present had attended for this item of business.*

**116 ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

Cllr L Timbey nominated Cllr A Clegg to the office Deputy Town Mayor, seconded by Cllr C Marshall.

Cllr A Clegg was duly elected to the office of Deputy Town Mayor.

**117 CORRESPONDENCE**

There has been no relevant correspondence received to report.

**118 RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**(a) PROJECTS & INITIATIVES**

- (i) **Christmas Events** - It was **RESOLVED** that officers be instructed to deliver the event in line with that outlined in the draft specification.
- (ii) **Play in the Park** - It was **RESOLVED** that the Council should continue to provide events in 2018.

**(b) FINANCE & GOVERNANCE**

- (i) **MIF Policy** - It was **RESOLVED** that a working group be established to review the current policy and bring recommendations back to full council.
- (ii) **Financial Information** - It was **RESOLVED** that the Finance Officer be granted additional hours to produce the reports and information required in reference to the operation of the Civic Hall.
- (iii) **DBS Checks** - It was **RESOLVED** that the Council should implement a policy of compulsory DBS checks for elected members in line with the DCC policy and that ID cards be purchased for members and staff.
- (iv) **Apprentices** - It was **RESOLVED** that the Finance & Governance Committee should look into the best provider of apprentices and undertake the recruitment of an admin apprentice for 12 months. The appointment of a customer service apprentice for the Civic Hall should be looked at once the Finance Officer has looked into the Civic Hall finances further.

**119 GRANT FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

The Town Clerk explained that the Finance working group were unable to meet to discuss the Grant Funding Policy before tonight's meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that consideration of applications from the General Grants budget should be deferred until the policy has been reviewed and amended as required.

The Fireworks application will be considered separately as a specific revenue budget exists for Fireworks.

Cllr C Marshall, D Marshall & J McMahon left the room whilst members discussed the application from Stanley Events Ltd.

It was agreed that Cllr D Tully could ask Carl Marshall a technical question in relation to the payment for site equipment, gazebos, generators etc. Mr Marshall explained that this was to cover maintenance, depreciation, transport and storage of these items and is a whole cost for the equipment.

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr L Timbey and **RESOLVED** that Stanley Events Ltd be granted the £10,000 from the General Grants budget to put on a Fireworks Display in 2017. A proper tendering exercise should be held in 2018.

**120 CIVIC REGALIA**

Cllr D Marshall requested this item to be considered and suggested a ribbon with a badge showing the STC crest could be suitable and relatively inexpensive.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk look into the costs for purchasing Civic Regalia for the Town Mayor's consort and the Deputy Town Mayor and report his findings to Council for consideration.

**121 LOUISA MORRISON MEMORIAL**

The Town Clerk read out the following motion which was signed by 12 members of Council:

*"Having consulted with members of the public and considered the available historical information about the Stanley Mining Disaster, we would like the decision taken at the Full Council meeting held on 25th July 2017 (Minute 76 (a)(i)) to be reviewed."*

Cllr D Marshall stated that the decision made in July was flawed as no one had taken into consideration the views of the relatives of the victims.

The Town Clerk advised members that there are no initial costings to create a replica stone however costings can be obtained.

It was moved by Cllr D Marshall, seconded by Cllr C Marshall and **RESOLVED** that the original memorial stone be moved to the Louisa Colliery Shaft, that a second replica stone be commissioned and placed in Annfield Plain and that a suitable event to recognise the loss of lives in the mining disaster be arranged.

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

Tuesday 24th October 2017, 6:30pm, Civic Hall Stanley.