

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD AT STANLEY CIVIC HALL, FRONT STREET, STANLEY, DH9 0NA  
TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015 AT 6:00PM**

**PRESENT**

J. Charlton	A. Clegg	L. Elliott	R. Harrison	C. Malin
D. Mills	D. McMahon	B. Nair	J. Nicholson	W. Nixon
C. Thompson	D. Tully	D. Walker	M. Wilkinson	G. Graham

**APOLOGIES**

Cllrs: C. Bell, T. Davinson, R. Ferris, D. Marshall & L. Marshall.

**OFFICIALS**

D. Shingleton – Acting Town Clerk  
J. Harper – Community Development Manager  
B. Hall – Community Services Officer  
N. James – PA (Note Taker)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Julie Patterson – Step by Step Training  
1 Member of the Public

*The Chairman made a speech to all members. He reminded them that they had an obligation to fulfil their Code of Conduct. They were to respect each other and not bully each other. Members are to speak through the Chairman.*

*Cllr Nixon informed Members that he would be recording this meeting.*

STC.173-14 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Cllrs C. Bell, T. Davinson, R. Ferris, D. Marshall & L. Marshall were accepted by the Council.

STC.174-14 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Charlton declared her standing declaration as a County Councillor.

STC.175-14 **PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

None.

STC.176-14 **PRESENTATION BY JULIE PATTERSON**

Julie informed members of a new scheme which she would like to request funding for. The scheme is a hardship fund, aimed at providing clothes, shoes etc. to those children who are in need. Members will contact Nicola if they wish to provide MIF towards this scheme.

STC.177-14 **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr D Mills, seconded by Cllr R Harrison and **RESOLVED** by all Members that the minutes of the Full Council meeting on 16.12.14 be confirmed as a correct record.

It was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr R Harrison and **RESOLVED** by all Members that the minutes of the Full Council meeting on 06.01.15 be confirmed as a correct record.

It was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr R Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Crime and Community Safety Committee meeting on 03.12.14 be received, the minutes of the Communications and Events Committee meeting on 09.12.14 be received, and the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 11.12.14 be received.

#### STC.178-14 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions from Members of the Public in attendance.

There were no questions submitted before the meeting from the Public.

#### STC.179-14 **COMMITTEES**

**Planning Committee:** There was no meeting in January 2015, therefore there were no recommendations to consider.

**Crime & Community Safety Committee:** The Chairman noted that the main item for consideration was for the Committee to have a budget of £30,000 for Crime Initiatives. All members agreed this recommendation.

**Communications & Events Committee:** The Chairman noted the following; the 27<sup>th</sup> June was to be a joint Fun Day / Armed Forces Day, and a working party be set up to develop the event; the budget of £25,000 for New Events should be renamed Other Events. All members agreed this recommendation.

**Finance & GP Committee:** The Clerk noted that the committee discussed the budget however they did not make any specific recommendations.

#### STC.180-14 **CIVIC HALL**

Claire Howe updated Members on current events at the Civic Hall:

- She's Fired was a great night.
- There will be a Horrible Histories musical called Deadly Durham on 25<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm and 7pm.
- Ladies Night will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> March.
- Room hire pricing has been altered, as we no longer provide technical support.
- A small committee needs to be put together to discuss progressing the coffee shop.

#### STC.181-14 **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Letter of Thanks:** Members noted the letter of thanks from Mr and Mrs Harker.

**DCC – Open Space Needs Assessment:** Members noted the letter from DCC. It was queried, what is happening in Stanley?

**Real Choice College – request for funding:** Members requested that the Clerk query if the college is part of Villa Real 6<sup>th</sup> Form, and how many pupils are from Stanley.

**Great North Air Ambulance – request for funding:** Members decided that STC could hold a fund raising event to raise funds for the GNAA.

**Citizens Advice County Durham – update and request for funding:** Members requested that the Clerk respond, explaining why STC decided not to fund the CAB.

STC.182-14 **BUDGET 2015/2016**

The Clerk noted that information in relation to the possible referendum will be available on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. Following a discussion, Cllr D Walker proposed a 0% increase in Council Tax, seconded by Cllr D Mills. Cllr R Harrison proposed a 1.9% increase in Council Tax, seconded by Cllr B Nair. The counter motion was taken first, 7 votes in favour, 7 votes against, and 1 abstention. The Chairman has the casting vote, and it was **RESOLVED** that Stanley Town Council increase their Council Tax by 1.9%.

STC.183-14 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council excludes the press and public on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

STC.184-14 **STAFFING ISSUES**

**Town Clerk:** The Acting Town Clerk noted that the recruitment process for filling the Clerks vacancy is underway and that the closing date was 30<sup>th</sup> January. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Council, plus the Chair and Vice Chair of the Personnel Committee will be involved in shortlisting applications with the Acting Town Clerk. The Acting Town Clerk noted he was in discussions with Russell's solicitor to continue with the appeals process.

**Civic Hall Staffing:** The Acting Town Clerk and Claire Howe have had 2 meetings with the HR team at Durham County Council. Hopefully the staff will be informed of the proposed structure within the next week.

STC.185-14 **DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015, 6.30pm, Stanley Civic Hall.