

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

Held at Stanley Civic Hall, Front Street, Stanley on Tuesday 13th March 2018 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:**    **B Nair\***            T Armstrong            L Christie            H Clark            M Davinson  
                   C Hampson        J Kane                    C Marshall        D Marshall        J McMahon  
                   J Pallas            L Timbey                D Tully            G Wilkinson

\*Town Mayor

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 5 members of the public.

**254            APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllrs D Carmichael, J Clark, A Clegg, J Nicholson, J Tully & J Stephenson were accepted by Council.

**255            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs M Davinson, C Marshall & C Hampson declared an interest in item 9 (Stanley Library) as they are members of Durham County Council. Cllr C Marshall stated that he will leave the room when the item is discussed as he is a member of the cabinet.

**256            TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor informed Members of the events he had attended in the month prior to the meeting which included:

- Oxhill Youth Club - Babes in the Wood
- Shildon Town Council Charity Dinner
- West Stanley Pit Disaster commemoration.
- East Stanley memorial bench unveiling
- Sedgfield Town Council - Civic Ball.

The Town Mayor also advised that when Cllrs A Clegg and J Stephenson were recovered, he would be meeting with them to review the Town Mayor's budget and submit a report to Council.

The Town Clerk reminded everyone present to turn their mobile phones off or to silent, and advised all present that the meeting was being recorded. He also advised those present that a member of the public was recording the meeting. Members were reminded to stand when speaking after being recognised by the Town Mayor.

**257            PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Joan Oldfield (Treasurer of Oxhill Youth Club and secretary of the Friends of the Civic Hall) asked if there was any truth to rumours that the Civic Hall was closing and also offered her services to advise how to finance and run shows.

The Town Clerk responded that there was no truth to the rumours that the Civic Hall was to be closed, however budgets had been restructured and changes are being made to make the Civic Hall more cost effective for the community. He also welcomed Mrs Oldfield's offer for advice on the staging of events in the future.

Ron Harrison had written to the Town Clerk to advise that he would like the Louisa Morrison Memorial to be relocated outside the Civic Hall near where the coal tub is located. (in relation to agenda item 12, *Minute #265*)

Bob Drake had contacted the Town Clerk and wished to express that he feels very strongly that Stanley should have a central war memorial (in relation to agenda item 10, *Minute #263*)

## 258 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr C Marshall, seconded by Cllr L Timbey and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 23rd January 2018 be **APPROVED** as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

## 259 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND BANK RECONCILIATION

It was proposed by Cllr D Marshall, seconded by Cllr J Kane and **RESOLVED** that Council **APPROVE** the payment of accounts for January 2018 and **NOTE** the bank reconciliation for January 2018.

## 260 INTERNAL AUDIT

It was proposed by Cllr D Marshall, seconded by Cllr J McMahon and **RESOLVED** that Council **NOTE** the reports of the auditor and were pleased that Full Assurance has been given for Budgetary Control, Income & Banking and the Main Accounting System.

## 261 EVENTS SPECIFICATION

Members reviewed the draft specification. After a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that assessment criteria should be added with weightings for safety, quality, price, capability and experience. The revised specification to be resubmitted to Council for approval at the meeting to be held on 27th March 2018.

## 262 STANLEY LIBRARY UPDATE

Cllr C Marshall left the room while this item was discussed.

The Town Clerk updated members on the progress of acquiring the library building. Members **NOTED** the report and thanked the Town Clerk for progressing the matter.

263 **WAR MEMORIAL**

Members **RESOLVED** that a working group should be convened as soon as possible to identify whether if there is public support for the building of a new memorial for Stanley.

The working group will be Cllrs A Clegg, J McMahon, M Davinson & G Wilkinson.

264 **ALLOTMENTS**

Members **NOTED** the report of the Town Clerk and await the information requested.

Members **NOTED** that it would be important to avoid double taxation and to ensure that DCC put the Allotments into an acceptable condition before they are transferred to STC to ensure value for money for the people of Stanley.

265 **LOUISA MORRISON MEMORIAL**

Members **CONSIDERED** the Town Clerk's report. It was proposed by Cllr D Marshall, seconded by Cllr J McMahon and **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The Council wishes the memorial to be moved to the preferred location in Stanley.
- (ii) Officers are tasked to submit the required faculty application to the Church Commissioners in order to progress this.
- (iii) Should the Church Commission decide to relocate the stone to St Thomas' church, the Town Council will not commit any resources to facilitate or support this.

266 **COUNCIL ACTIONS UPDATE**

The Town Clerk updated members on the following previous decisions of Council:

- (i) **DBS Checks** - The Community Development Manager has been in contact with the HR service at DCC to provide support in completing the checks.
- (ii) **ID Badges** - Badges and lanyards have been delivered and are available for members.
- (iii) **Civic Regalia** - The Town Clerk is looking into loaning a civic chain from DCC and purchasing a pendant for the Deputy Town Mayor. A quote will be brought back to Council for consideration.
- (iv) **Council Offices** - This action will be deferred until after following Council's restructure.
- (v) **Budget** - The Town Clerk is liaising with Groundwork and DCC to look at the Job Descriptions and transfer of the staff to STC under the TUPE regulations.

Cllr L Timbey requested that the decision on the publicity associated with the Council's adoption of the Dying To Work scheme be added to the actions list and an update provided at the next meeting.

**267 TOWN MAYOR'S AWARDS**

As there had been no nominations received in time to arrange the awards night as planned, it was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr J Kane and **RESOLVED** that the deadline for nominations be extended until 30th March and that civic awards event be held on a date in May before the Annual Council meeting.

**268 BORROWING REQUEST**

It was proposed by Cllr C Marshall, seconded by Cllr J McMahon and **RESOLVED** to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £190,000 up to 10 years for the purchase of a building to be used as a community resource centre. The annual loan repayments will come to around £23,000 a year. There is no intention to increase the precept for the purposes of the loan.

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

Tuesday 27th March 2018, 6:30pm, Civic Hall Stanley.