

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held at Stanley Masonic Hall on Tuesday 26th November 2019 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: C Hampson* G Binney H Clark J Clark A Clegg
 M Davinson J Kane C Marshall J Nicholson J Pallas
 J Stephenson L Timbey D Tully J Tully G Wilkinson

*Chairman

OFFICERS: Alan Shaw (Town Clerk)
 Alan Tubman (Deputy Town Clerk)
 Nicola James (Senior Administration Officer)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: 1 member of the public

ABSENT: Cllrs L Christie & J McMahon

142 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Cllrs C Bell, B Nair & D Marshall were accepted by Council.

143 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr C Marshall declared an interest as a Durham County Councillor.

144 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor outlined the appointments she had attended since the previous meeting:

- 300th Armed Forces Covenant Ceremony (attended by Cllr D Marshall)
- Fireworks at Oakies
- Stay Safe at the Civic Hall
- Employer Recognition Silver Awards Dinner (attended by Cllr D Marshall)
- Catchgate & Annfield Plain Action Partnership Childrens Service of Remembrance
- South Moor, Annfield Plain & Front Street Remembrance
- Civic Hall Remembrance
- Annie Panto
- SHAID 21st Birthday
- Stanley Learning Partnership Marvellous Minds
- Warlands Farm Autism Christmas Fayre

The Town Clerk reminded Members to wait until recognised by the Town Mayor and to stand when speaking. He announced that the meeting was being recorded by STC and 1 member of the public and that mobile phones should be switched off or turned to silent.

145 LEADER'S STATEMENT

Cllr L Timbey thanked all members and staff who were involved in the Strategic Grant Funding panel. The panel worked well together and realised that the policy needs tweaking. This will be done and brought to the Policy Working Group.

He noted that he attended Annie and Marvellous Minds which were both well attended. Local groups have provided great shows working with the Town Council by being provided with free room hire.

He noted that although the Greenland School planning application was withdrawn, the Council still need to check for a resubmission in coming months.

Finally, Cllr Timbey advised that an update report on the NALC training that himself and Cllr J Stephenson attended will be coming to Council in January.

146 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no written questions and no questions from the floor.

147 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr J Stephenson seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22nd October 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

148 COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr A Clegg, seconded by Cllr J Stephenson and **RESOLVED** that Council **RECEIVE** the minutes of the Finance & GP Committee held on 19th November 2019.

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr J Kane and **RESOLVED** that Council **APPROVE** the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 24th September 2019 and signed by the Town Mayor.

149 STANLEY MASTER PLAN STEERING GROUP

It was proposed by Cllr J Kane, seconded by Cllr G Binney and **RESOLVED** that the membership on the Stanley Master Plan Steering Group be in line with the political balance and nominated Cllrs Timbey & Stephenson to take part from the Labour party.

It was proposed by Cllr A Clegg, seconded by Cllr J Stephenson and **RESOLVED** that the representative from the Independent party is Cllr H Clark.

150 ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, SOUTH MOOR

After being informed that St George's Church in South Moor is to close, Cllr Timbey noted that it is sad to see any church closing, especially one in the Stanley area.

It was proposed by Cllr C Marshall, seconded by Cllr G Wilkinson and **RESOLVED** that STC would like to see the memorial located in a suitable place within the locality and will work with the church to facilitate this.

151 WAR MEMORIALS

The Deputy Town Clerk noted the update on the War Memorial report from earlier in the year. Cllr G Binney thanked the DTC for his report and proposed that he continue to support groups and feedback to Council. Cllr M Davinson noted that the work on the DLI memorial bench could be funded via DCC Councillors funding, and STC would

be able to maintain the bench. Members were happy for officers to continue with the projects.

152 COUNCIL ACTIONS UPDATE

The Town Clerk noted the following updates:

- (i) **Road Safety Visor** - Officers need to decide how to bring this forward.
- (ii) **Pantomime** - Update provided at this meeting.
- (iii) **Civic Hall Refurbishment** - Decoration booked for January and toilet quotes pending.
- (iv) **IT / Telephones** - Work to begin by the end of this week.
- (v) **South Moor Miners Banner** - To be installed after refurbishment works.

153 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC*

*Recording of proceedings was stopped at this point.

Council **RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Justification for excluding the public and press from consideration of the following item: Commercial Sensitivity.

154 BUDGET SECOND DRAFT

Following a discussion in relation to the reports provided by the Town Clerk, it was proposed by Cllr C Marshall, seconded by Cllr J Stephenson and **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the extra budget for Play in the Park be removed.
- (ii) issues relating to the irregularities in the Pantomime figures are to be resolved, and a programme for the Civic Hall Christmas 2020 be drafted as a back up if STC do not hold their own Pantomime.
- (iii) officers should continue to use foam boards for advertising on the notice board in the front street and for this to be reviewed over time.

Cllr Marshall also noted that there is a lot of uncertainty around setting this budget. The Town Clerk should meet with DCC to discuss when they will agree the LCRS.

Cllr L Timbey added that the Council should budget for a 5% increase on salaries.

He also added that the Town Clerk should look into repeating the resident survey from 2016. The Policy Working Group should review the questionnaire and see if it is still fit for purpose or if any changes are to be made. This should be brought to Council in January.

155 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 21st January 2020, 6.30pm, Stanley Civic Hall