
MINUTES of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL** held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr J Stephenson * Cllr G Binney Cllr M Davinson Cllr H Clark
 Cllr B Nair Cllr J Kane Cllr J Nicholson Cllr J McMahon
 Cllr L Timbey Cllr D Tully Cllr C Hampson Cllr D Marshall

*Chairman

OFFICERS: James Black (Town Clerk)
 Alan Tubman (Deputy Town Clerk)
 Ann Barry (Finance Officer)
 Nicola James (Senior Administration Officer) – left the meeting after item 7

Before the Chair opened the meeting, she made the following announcement:

Good evening everyone and welcome to our first remote meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee. This meeting is taking place on Tuesday 12 January 2021 at 6.30pm and is streamed live to YouTube. It will be available for a minimum of 6 months. Please be aware footage from meetings could be used in media broadcasts. I am Jeanette Stephenson, Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, and I would like to extend a warm welcome to Members, Officers, members of the public and media who are watching this live stream.

Before I commence with the formal business on the agenda, I would like to cover housekeeping issues for us all to follow.

For those taking part in the meeting could you please only speak when invited to speak by myself as chair, keep your microphone on mute at all times unless invited to speak. If you wish to speak please raise your hand. Please bear in mind all participants can see discussions in the chat function. Once invited to speak, please introduce yourself with your name and position unless you have already introduced yourself earlier in the meeting. If you are having issues with connectivity, try switching off your video and use the audio function. If connectivity issues continue, you may have to leave the meeting and re-join to get a better signal.

Please follow these simple rules as it will help us run the meeting as efficiently as possible. I will be pausing briefly when questions and comments are being invited to allow members to register their interest to speak.

47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

49 **PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

None from the Chair.

The Town Clerk updated members following the latest lockdown. We have restricted access to the Civic Hall to any members of staff who cannot undertake their roles from home. Where staff can work from home, they must do so. Staff working from the Civic Hall must abide by the Government 2-meter guidelines at all times. All meetings internal and external are to be held virtually unless agreed by the Town Clerk and use of the Environmental Service Vehicle is restricted to 2 members of staff at any one time.

50 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Nothing was received in writing before the meeting.

51 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, seconded by Cllr B Nair and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17th November 2020 be **APPROVED** and signed as a correct record.

52 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was proposed by Cllr G Binney, seconded by Cllr B Nair and **RESOLVED** that the Committee:

APPROVE the payment of accounts for November 2020;

NOTE the bank reconciliation for November 2020;

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NOTE the bank reconciliation for December 2020;

53 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Committee **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*.

54 **BUDGET 2021-2022**

(i) Full Organisational Review

It was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr C Hampson and **RESOLVED** by majority recorded vote that the Finance Committee **RECOMMEND** that Full Council approve the Staffing restructure and allow formal consultation to begin.

(ii) Budget 2021-2022

It was agreed to bring forward the additional budget proposals from the Derwentside Independent Councillors to be discussed as part of the budget discussion.

It was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, seconded by Cllr C Hampson and **RESOLVED** by majority recorded vote that the Finance Committee **RECOMMEND** that Full Council increase the precept of 2.99%.

It was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, and seconded By Cllr C Hampson that the external events budget of £53,000 be reduced by £7,300 and that this budget be renamed the Community/Covid-19 Recovery Fund.

It was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, seconded by Cllr C Hampson and **RESOLVED** by majority recorded vote that the Finance Committee **RECOMMEND** that Full Council approves the budget for 2021/22.

It was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, seconded by Cllr C Hampson and **RESOLVED** by unanimous recorded vote that the Finance Committee **RECOMMEND** that Full Council delete the reserve pots of EM Capital reserve, EM Grant Fund reserve, EM Stanley Masterplan reserve, and EM IT Replacement Fund reserve with all balances moved back to the general reserve

(iii) Additional Budget Proposals

Considered in point (ii)

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DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 9th February 2021, 6.30pm, via Microsoft Teams.