
MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL
Held at **Stanley Civic Hall** on **Monday 24th May 2021** at **6.30pm**

PRESENT:

C Bell	G Binney	A Clegg	K Coulson
D Fall	L Ferry	C Hampson	A Hanson
A Jones	J Kane	C Marshall	J McMahan
S McMahan	O Milburn*	J Nicholson	J Stephenson
M Thompson	M Wilkinson		

*Chairman

OFFICERS: James Black (Town Clerk)
Alan Tubman (Deputy Town Clerk)
Ann Barry (Finance Officer)
James Harper (Environmental Service Team Leader)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members **ACCEPTED** apologies from Cllrs H Clark and Cllr D Tully

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr A Clegg, seconded by Cllr J Kane and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Olga Milburn be **ELECTED** as Town mayor for the Civic Year 2021/22.

Cllr Marshall requested that it was put on record, thanks from the Labour Group for Cllr Hampson who, due to there being no Annual Meeting in 2020 had served two consecutive terms as Town Mayor, during a particularly challenging period.

Cllr Milburn signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took her place as Chairperson for the meeting.

- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr J Kane, seconded by Cllr A Jones and **RESOLVED** that Cllr A Clegg be **ELECTED** as Deputy Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2021/22.

Cllr A Clegg signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

4 CORE GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS

It was proposed by Cllr J Kane, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the following core governance documents were **APPROVED**, subject to the additional amendments to those proposed in the agenda.

The Constitution, appendix 5, meetings between the Leader and Town Clerk should be bi-weekly.

Financial Regulations, the new reporting regime will be monitored by Finance and General Purposes committee.

Documents approved:

- (i) The Constitution
- (ii) Standing Orders
- (iii) Financial Regulations
- (iv) Community Engagement & Communications Policies
- (v) Publications Scheme
- (vi) Publicity Policy

5 LEADER & DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr A Clegg, seconded by Cllr S McMahon and **RESOLVED** that Cllr J Kane be **ELECTED** as Leader of the Town Council.
- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr A Clegg, seconded by Cllr C Marshall and **RESOLVED** that Cllr S McMahon be **ELECTED** as Deputy Leader of the Town Council.

6 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr J Kane, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that Cllr G Binney is **ELECTED** as Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr C Hampson, seconded by Cllr C Marshall and **RESOLVED** that Cllr A Hanson is **ELECTED** Vice Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- (iii) Cllr C Marshall proposed five members of the Labour party for positions on the committee, Cllr J Kane, Cllr J McMahon, Cllr S McMahon, Cllr A Jones and Cllr D Fall. Cllr J Nicholson agreed that three Derwentside Independent Councillors would be nominated from their group at a later date. All members agreed with the proposed committee.

7 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk welcomed everybody to the meeting, including new members to the council.

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

The outgoing Town Mayor Cllr C Hampson, made the following statement:

I would like place on record my thanks to my family, friends, fellow Councillors and Staff of Stanley Town Council for their help and support during my term of office as Mayor of Stanley.

When I was first elected as Mayor in May 2019 I was so looking forward to getting out and meeting community groups, working with different people from all over the Stanley area and trying to make a difference for the better in peoples lives. During my first 9 months all was going fine, attending all sorts of lovely events, ceremonies and places until the dreaded corona virus hit. Peoples lives all over the world were turned upside down. I am so pleased we have so many remarkable quick thinking people in our area who instantly

predicted where we may need help and put things into place to try to look after our Town and communities. They all done a remarkable job. To this I am eternally grateful. Nobody knew for certain exactly what lay ahead but we had local people ready and willing to help in anyway they could. I send my condolences to anyone who has lost loved ones during this pandemic and wish anyone who has been effected by it a speedy recovery. We were unable to have an Annual General meeting last May so I remained in office for another year. Working along side our volunteers caring for our community. Helping local residents who needed it. I have most certainly had an unforgettable 2 years. We are still not out of the woods yet but slowly trying to get back to some kind of normality. I really urge people to still be on their guard, take care, be kind and stay safe. I wish Olga all the best and hope she has a wonderful experience in her term of office, I am sure she will.

Many Thanks to everyone.

9 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No questions had been received in writing prior to the meeting.

10 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr A Clegg, seconded by Cllr J Kane that the minutes from Ordinary Council Meeting on 27th April 2021 were **APPROVED** as a true record.

11 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS & GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

It was proposed by Cllr J Kane, seconded by Cllr C Marshall that the Council:

- (i) **APPROVE** the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21
- (ii) **APPROVE** the Annual Accounts for 2020/21
- (iii) **RESOLVE** that the Council has in place an effective system of internal control
- (iv) **CONFIRM** that the Council has arrangements in respect of all insurable risks in place; and
- (v) **AUTHORISE** the Town Mayor to sign the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Accounting Statement for 2020/21 on behalf of the Council.

12 REVIEW OF EXPENDITURE UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, s.137

Council **NOTED** the report.

13 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES & WORKING GROUPS

It was proposed by Cllr J Kane, seconded by Cllr S McMahon and **RESOLVED** the following appointments to outside bodies and working groups

- (i) Area Action Partnership, Cllr J Stephenson, Town Clerk is also a co opted board member
- (ii) CDALC Executive, Cllr A Clegg
- (iii) Larger Local Councils Forum (CDALC) Cllr O Milburn and Cllr A Clegg and the Town Clerk
- (iv) PACT House, Cllr D Fall

- (v) Stanley Fund, Cllr A Clegg, Cllr O Milburn, one Derwentside Independent Member to be nominated from their group
- (vi) Love Beamish and Stanley, Cllr A Jones
- (vii) Armed Forces Champion, Cllr A Jones

It was proposed by Cllr C Marshall, seconded by Cllr A Hanson and **RESOLVED** that, Cllr J Kane, Cllr D Fall and Cllr G Binney will be members of the Events Working Group, Derwentside Independents are to provide a member of the group at a later date.

It was proposed by Cllr C Marshall, seconded by Cllr A Hanson and **RESOLVED** that the Policy Working Group be refocused into the Governance Working Group and members will be Cllr J Kane, Cllr A Clegg, and Cllr O Milburn, Derwentside Independents are to provide a member of the group at a later date.

It was proposed by Cllr C Marshall, seconded by Cllr A Hanson and **RESOLVED** that Strategic Fund/Covid Recover Fund group will be Cllr G Binney, Cllr J McMahon, Cllr A Clegg and Cllr O Milburn, Derwentside Independents are to provide two members to the group.

14 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The Council **APPROVED** that Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month, with no meetings in August or January, and Full Council meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, with no meeting in August or December - for the Civic Year 2021/22.

15 SUBSCRIPTIONS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

It was proposed by Cllr A Clegg, seconded by Cllr A Hanson and **RESOLVED** that the Council subscribe to the following organisations.

- (i) National Associations of Local Councils (NALC)
- (ii) County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC)
- (iii) Society of Local Council Clerrk (SLCC)
- (iv) North East Regional Employer's Organisation (NEREO)*

*The Town Clerk provided Council with the current arrangements with NEREO.

16 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 22nd June 2021, 6.30 pm Stanley Civic Hall.