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

Held in Stanley Civic Hall on Tuesday 22nd June 2021 at 6.30pm

**PRESENT**: O Milburn\* C Bell G Binney H Clark A Clegg L Ferry C Hampson A Hanson J Kane J McMahon S McMahon J Nicholson J Stephenson M Thompson D Tully

 \*Chairman

**OFFICERS**: James Black (Town Clerk)

 Alan Tubman (Deputy Town Clerk)

 Nicola James (Senior Administration Officer)

 Ann Barry (Finance Officer)

**ABSENT:** Cllr A Jones

**30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members **ACCEPTED** apologies from Cllrs K Coulson, C Marshall, D Fall & M Wilkinson.

**31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr C Bell & J Nicholson declared an interest in item 15.

**32 TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements from the Town Mayor or the Town Clerk.

**33 LEADER’S STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Council, Cllr J Kane, noted that he will be working with the Town Clerk on the Town Council’s Medium Term Plan in the coming months.

Cllr Kane proposed that item 15 be deferred as a verbal report does not give all the facts and information for Councillors to make a full informed decision on the outcome. It was seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **AGREED** that item 15 be deferred until the next Full Council meeting where a confidential report be presented to Part B of the meeting. This motion was carried by majority vote.

**34 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Town Clerk read out the following Facebook question from Mr R Harrison:

*When will the council consider a war memorial for Stanley as the only memorial is in St Andrews church yard and is a memorial for Beamish parish dead from World war 1 and was funded by the people of Beamish parish only. Most parts of the STC area have their own memorial and funds are available from central government and the war graves commission so why not Stanley as the center of the Council area?*

 The Deputy Town Clerk replied:

*At the Town Meeting on 26 May it was agreed that the Town Council would support and develop a community based project for war memorials in the Town Centre. A report on the progress and funding opportunities for the project will be brought to Full Council.*

**35 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr A Clegg, seconded by Cllr G Binney and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the AGM held on the 24th May 2021 be **APPROVED** and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

**36 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr J Kane, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on the 8th June 2021 be **RECEIVED** by Council.

**37 STANLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING**

Sergeant Terry Archbold noted that during COVID, crime rates have not increased and there are no worrying trends. ASb has increased in the Town Centre over the last few months at the board school. The Owners were contacted and have now made the building secure. He also asked Members to assist those in their communities who are struggling with their mental health. Mental health is a massive demand on police resources and more people are in crisis, suffering, missing and even hurting themselves. We all need to work to protect those in need.

Sergeant Archbold made notes of issues in Annfield Plain, Catchgate and Tanfield Lea reported by Cllrs Nicholson & Milburn.

**38 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS & BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was proposed by Cllr J Kane, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. **APPROVE** the payment of accounts for April 2021; and
2. **NOTE** the Bank Reconciliation for April 2021.

**39 CASUAL STAFF RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN**

The Town Clerk reported that due to GDPR, our existing list of casual staff has been deleted. The Civic Hall is due to full open soon after COVID and casual staff are needed to fully delivery services. £10,000 is set aside in the budget for casual bar manager, general assistant, caretaker, and SIA staff to be brough in on work experience or a voluntary basis. They will undertake general admin functions and environmental works. All appointments will be following a completed application form, interviews and references.

Cllr Kane requested that the Town Clerk take advice from HR, following the recent restructure to avoid any complications following redundancies.

Council **NOTED** the update.

**40 EVENTS WORKING GROUP**

The Deputy Town Clerk noted the minutes from the latest Events Working Group meeting held on Friday 23 April 2021. Council **NOTED** the update.

**41 MINERS MEMORIAL UPDATE**

Council **NOTED** the report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

**42 PROPOSED CLOSURE OF ST GEORGE, SOUTH MOOR**

Council **NOTED** the report from the Town Clerk. It was proposed by Cllr C Hampson, seconded by Cllr L Ferry and **RESOLVED** that the Council should write to the church commissioners and outline concerns of another derelict building in the Town Council area and ask whether they plan to maintain the graveyard until it is sold.

**43 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Deferred.

**44 REVIEW OF COUNCIL MEETING BAN**

 Deferred.

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

 Tuesday 27th July 2021, 6.30pm, Stanley Civic Hall.