

MINUTES of the PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL
 held at Stanley Education Centre on Tuesday 2nd February 2016 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr W Nixon* Cllr R Harrison Cllr B Nair Cllr J Nicholson
 Cllr M Wilkinson Cllr D Mills Cllr D Tully Cllr G Graham
 Cllr A Clegg

*Chairman

OFFICERS: Alan Shaw (Town Clerk)
 Nicola James (PA to the Town Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: 2 members of the public,
 Cllr Thomas Nearney (DCC),
 Cllr Carole Hampson (DCC)

506 APOLOGIES

None.

507 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

508 PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Clerk noted that there was no one recording the meeting.

509 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman advised members of the public and members of the County Council present that they were free to participate during the meeting.

510 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr R Harrison, seconded by Cllr G Graham and **RESOLVED** that the Committee approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 29th September 2015.

511 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

The Clerk gave a presentation about the hierarchy of planning policy, the Neighbourhood Planning process and what matters could and could not be addressed by a Neighbourhood Plan for the information of those present.

Cllr B Nixon queried whether STC would be able to request a higher percentage of affordable housing to be built under a Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk advised Cllr Nixon that he did not believe that would be possible but that he would make further enquiries.

Cllr B Nair questioned whether having a Neighbourhood Plan would ensure better outcomes. The Clerk advised Cllr Nair that he was not prepared to give that guarantee but the ability to influence planning policy should in principle give better outcomes.

Cllr J Nicholson noted that residents of Stanley voted to have a Town Council and that we should have a Neighbourhood Plan to allow them to have a say in what happens in their area.

Cllr Thomas Nearney stated that as a County Councillor he was not opposed to the Town Council applying for a Neighbourhood Plan as it will help local people. He asked if there would be a communication strategy prior to a referendum. He also noted that DCC would be happy to help and provide any data that Town Council might need. The Clerk noted that the first thing the Town Council will do is to establish a steering group once designated as a Neighbourhood Planning Area. STC will need to identify stakeholders to form the group and it would be the group's responsibility to consider and devise a communications strategy.

The Clerk read out the questions from DCC Cllr Carl Marshall and the answers he provided. The Committee **RESOLVED** that they were satisfied with the responses the Clerk had provided.

It was proposed by Cllr R Harrison, seconded by Cllr B Nair and **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council continue with the designation application for the whole parish to be a Neighbourhood Planning Area and consider the matter again once the outcome of the application had been published.

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DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed