

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held at Stanley Civic Hall, Front Street, Stanley on Tuesday 15th December 2015 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: J Nicholson* A Clegg G Graham C Thompson W Nixon
 R Harrison D Tully D Walker B Nair D Mills
 L Elliott R Ferris L Marshall M Wilkinson

*Chairman

OFFICERS: Alan Shaw (Town Clerk),
 Nicola James (PA to the Town Clerk),
 James Harper (Community Development Manager) and Derek Singleton (Finance Manager)

IN ATTENDANCE: 2 members of the Public

APOLOGIES: Cllrs T Davinson, D McMahon, C Bell, D Marshall & J Charlton

ABSENT: Cllr C McKee

RECORDINGS: Cllrs W Nixon & R Harrison recorded this meeting

443 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllrs T Davinson, D McMahon, C Bell, D Marshall & J Charlton were accepted by Council.

444 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

445 PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chair requested that everyone stand for 1 minutes silence in respect of Roy Mellor who passed away at the weekend.
 The Clerk noted that Cllrs W Nixon and R Harrison are recording this meeting.
 The Clerk also reminded members to stand when they are speaking and to go through the Chair to talk on an item.

446 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John Ullathorne addressed members, to talk about the £22,000 Durham County Council have spent on traffic calming measures at Hustledown Road, which he believes are unnecessary. John noted that local residents were not sufficiently consulted on the works planned and he requested that STC support him in asking for DCC to be more open and to consult the local residents better.

Members discussed the matter and instructed the Town Clerk to write to DCC to request that consultations with local residents about similar schemes in the future are more widely publicised.

447 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24th November 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

448 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of Committee Meetings held in December 2015 be **RECEIVED** by Council.

449 BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Finance Manager talked members through his report on the banking arrangements in relation to debit cards, authorised persons and cheque signatories.

It was proposed by Cllr W Nixon, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that all members of the Council become authorised persons.

It was proposed by Cllr D Walker, seconded by Cllr R Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the Finance Manager be authorised to obtain 2 visa debit purchasing cards, 1 for the Town Clerk and 1 for the Civic Hall Manager.

It was proposed by Cllr D Walker, seconded by Cllr D Mills and **RESOLVED** that the arrangements for cheque signing stay the same, i.e 1 member and 1 officer are required to sign all cheques.

450 REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk reminded members that allocations for Member Initiative Funding should be spent or committed by February 2016 and any unspent MIF will be returned to reserves at the year end.

451 DRAFT BUDGET 2016/17

The Town Clerk and the Finance Manager talked through the report of the Draft Budget with members, including the recommendations from the Finance Committee meeting of 9th December. The Finance Manager advised members that the Government had not yet published the guidance note which would inform us whether or not Parish Councils would be required to hold a referendum for increases in local rates of 2% or more in the coming financial year.

It was proposed by Cllr D Mills, seconded by Cllr D Walker and **RESOLVED** that the Council will provide a budget allocation for the new Groundworks Community Caretaker Scheme.

In light of the advice from the Finance Manager, it was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr W Nixon and **RESOLVED** that a budget showing an increase in the precept of 1.9% for 2016-17 should be prepared for consideration in January to mitigate the effects of the reduction in the Local Council Tax Revenue Support Grant in the coming years. This motion was carried, Cllr L Marshall abstained from the vote.

It was further **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) Provision for the proposed enhancement to the Groundworks Community Caretaker scheme should be built into the final draft budget;
- (ii) The Commemoration of World War I should focus on the centenary of the cessation of hostilities in 1918. Instead of allocating a revenue budget to the project in 2016/17, an earmarked reserve should be established of £50,000 to fund a permanent memorial for the whole of Stanley to be unveiled and dedicated in 2018. (*Minute #441 of 2015/16 refers*)
- (iii) The current Membership Initiative Fund arrangements should continue to be the mechanism by which the Council supports the Local Community, rather than establishing a small grants fund awarded by a Committee or Council.

452 **GROUNDWORKS COMMUNITY CARETAKER SCHEME**

It was proposed by Cllr D Mills, seconded by Cllr D Walker and **RESOLVED** that the Council will provide a budget allocation for the new Groundworks Community Caretaker Scheme.

453 **WORLD WAR ONE COMMEMORATIONS**

It was proposed by Cllr D Mills, seconded by Cllr L Marshall and **RESOLVED** that the council will re-constitute the WWI Memorial working group and that a larger earmarked reserve to fund a permanent memorial for the whole of Stanley to be unveiled and dedicated in 2018 be set up.

454 **APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING**

Members were asked to consider the request for funding from the Just for Women Centre for £7000. It was proposed by Cllr D Mills, seconded by Cllr B Nair and **RESOLVED** that members be asked to contribute MIF monies in the first instance, and any short fall will be covered by the unallocated budget for Environmental Enhancements.

455 **PUSHBIKE PARKING**

Members were asked to consider the offer of free hoops for bicycle parking. It was proposed by Cllr D Mills, seconded by Cllr D Tully and **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be authorised to apply for the free bike parking hoops and have them installed at the side of the Civic Hall, next to the Louisa Centre, once works have been completed.

456 **POLICY ON VAPING / E-CIGARETTES IN THE CIVIC HALL**

Members discussed the idea of vaping in the Civic Hall. It was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr R Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the council will ban vaping in the Civic Hall. Cllr D Mills was against this vote, and Cllr D Tully abstained from the vote.

457 **BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME**

The Town Clerk noted that since the Blue Plaque Scheme was launched 3 names of former residents were put forwards for consideration for a blue plaque - David Horsley, Michael Heaviside and Tommy Armstrong.

It was proposed by Cllr D Mills, seconded by Cllr C Thompson and **RESOLVED** that all 3 nominations be approved and should receive a blue plaque.

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

Tuesday 26th January 2016, 18:30 at Stanley Civic Hall.