

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

Held at Stanley Civic Hall, Front Street, Stanley on Tuesday 18th April 2017 at 6.30pm

**PRESENT:** J Nicholson\*                      G Graham                      J Charlton                      W Nixon  
                   D Tully                                      D Mills                              D Walker                      M Wilkinson  
                   R Harrison                                A Clegg                              L Elliott                        C Thompson

\*Chairman

**OFFICERS:** Alan Shaw (Town Clerk)  
                   Nicola James (PA to the Town Clerk)  
                   James Harper (Community Development Manager)

**ABSENT:** Cllrs C McKee, T Davinson & B Nair

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 11 members of the public

**359                      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllrs C Bell, R Ferris, D Marshall, L Marshall & D McMahon were accepted by Council.

**360                      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr D Mills declared a non pecuniary interest in the South Moor Banner Group.

**361                      PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman wished good luck to the new Council following the May elections. She advised members and public present that it had been a privilege to be Chairman of STC.

The Clerk reminded Members not to speak until they have been recognised by the chair, and to stand when speaking.

The Clerk thanked those members who were not standing in the upcoming elections for their service to the Town.

The Clerk advised that no one was recording the meeting, however STC were live streaming this meeting on Facebook.

Councillor R Harrison advised that he was not standing in the upcoming elections for various reasons, and that he would like to present the Chairman with a flag of the STC crest to fly proudly outside the Civic Hall.

**362                      PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Steve McGough from Beamish FC requested that the Council donate one of the Kubota tractors to the Football Club to assist in grass cutting etc.

Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr D Walker, seconded by Cllr R Harrison and **RESOLVED** that Beamish FC would be able to use the Kubota tractor until the new Council can approve the donation after the election.

### 363 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr D Walker, seconded by Cllr D Tully and **RESOLVED** that subject to the deletion of the minute 341(a) the Council approve the Full Council minutes of 21st March 2017 as a correct record.

*Cllr Charlton joined the meeting at 18.48*

### 364 MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 14th March 2017 and the minutes of the Communications & Events Committee held on 4th April 2017 be **RECEIVED** by Council.

### 365 RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

#### (a) COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENTS

It was proposed by Cllr R Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the following recommendations be accepted:

- (i) **Music Festival** - The festival should be held over two nights: one Punk night and one Country and Western night.
- (ii) **Armed Forces** - The event be given authorisation to go ahead even if there is an overspend on the budget due to the unavailability of grant funding.
- (iii) **Fools Gold** - Council should ask for a breakdown of costs for all primary schools and all care homes within a 3 month period.
- (iv) **Michael Heaviside Centenary** - Grant of funding of £2000 for the event be allocated from the Heritage budget.
- (v) **South Moor Banner Group** - Grant funding £400 be allocated from the Heritage Budget.
- (vi) **Community Engagement Policy** - Council adopts the Community Engagement Policy approved by Committee.
- (vii) **Civic Hall Improvement Works** - Council prioritise the Fly Tower, PA and Tech Box to be completed using the Public Works Loan.

### 366 ANNFIELD PLAIN MINERS MEMORIAL

The Town Clerk requested members to consider the request from the Diocese of Durham for the Council to 'lead in finding an alternative home for the memorial stone'.

It was proposed by Cllr Walker, seconded by Cllr Nixon and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council take the lead but leave the decision for its relocation to the new Council following the election.

**367 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was proposed by Cllr R Harrison, seconded by Cllr D Mills and **RESOLVED** that Council **APPROVE** the payment of accounts for March 2017 and **NOTE** the bank reconciliation.

**368 COUNCIL OFFICES**

It was proposed by Cllr D Mills, seconded by Cllr D Walker and **RESOLVED** that:

Council **DELEGATES AUTHORITY** to the Town Clerk to:

- (i) Instruct a surveyor to carry out a detailed building survey;
- (ii) Begin the process of applying for a Public Works Loan in accordance with the business plan submitted to Durham County Council as part of the bid process
- (iii) Identify a suitable architect to prepare planning/ building drawings for Full Planning permission for structural works to the building.

**369 MEMBER TRAINING**

Members discussed the training proposal provided by LGRC. It was proposed by Cllr R Harrison, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the proposal be accepted and training be provided in July 2017.

**370 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC\***

\*Members recording the proceedings stopped at this point.

Council **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: The consideration of staffing matters needs to be held in closed session to preserve the privacy of staff.*

**371 CIVIC HALL - STAFFING MATTER**

Members noted the successful applicant for the vacant Caretaker post. Members **APPROVED** to convert the existing General Assistant post into a second Caretaker post.

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

Tuesday 16th May 2017 (Annual General Meeting), 6:30pm, Civic Hall Stanley.