

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held at Stanley Civic Hall, Front Street, Stanley on Tuesday 26th January 2016 at 6.30pm

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

*Chairman

OFFICERS: Alan Shaw (Town Clerk)
 Nicola James (PA to the Town Clerk)
 Derek Shingleton (Finance Manager)

IN ATTENDANCE: 3 members of the Public

APOLOGIES: Cllrs C McKee, D McMahon, C Bell, L Elliott, D Marshall & L Marshall

RECORDINGS: Cllr W Nixon recorded this meeting

491 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

492 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Charlton declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Durham County Council. (DCC)

493 PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Clerk noted that Cllr W Nixon was recording this meeting.
 The Clerk noted that item 13 was to be cancelled as the representatives from the Royal British Legion could not attend.
 The Clerk also reminded members to stand when they are speaking and to go through the Chair to talk on an item.

494 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John Ullathorne addressed members in relation to the traffic calming measures at Hustledown Road. John questioned why STC had not yet contacted DCC on the matter. The Clerk advised Mr Ullathorne that we trying to locate correspondence from DCC to see if they had consulted STC about the proposal and we would contact DCC in due course.

495 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15th December 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

496 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of Personnel, Crime and Communications Committee Meetings held in January 2016 be **RECEIVED** by Council.

497 RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Absence Management Policy & Special Leave Policy - It was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr D Mills and **RESOLVED** that both policies be adopted by Council, subject to a proper consultation with staff.

498 REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

The Clerk advised members that around 250 responses to the consultation questionnaire have been received so far.

Members **NOTED** the report from the Town Clerk.

499 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

The Town Clerk presented the options prepared for Council to consider in relation to the 2016/17 budget report.

It was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr T Davinson and **RESOLVED** by majority vote, that the Council will increase the precept by 2% in this financial year to mitigate the projected decrease in the overall budget by the reductions which will be applied to the Local Council Tax Revenue Support Grant over a three year period.

It was further **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk and Chairman be authorised to sign the precept demand for the amount of **£664,858** on behalf of Council and the Clerk will deliver the demand to DCC.

500 CIVIC HALL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The Clerk advised members of the items that had been identified as high and low priority by the Civic Hall Manager.

It was proposed by Cllr R Harrison, seconded by Cllr B Nixon and **RESOLVED** that the Council approve the Civic Hall Manager to authorise the works in the order she suggested, along with 2 suggestions from Cllr Harrison - soundproofing the Bamburgh suite doors and work to increase the size of the balcony tech box.

501 COUNCIL LOGO

The Clerk presented a report to members in relation to a motion put forward by Cllr W Nixon that the Town Council should seek to adopt the arms of the former Stanley Urban District Council, the rights to which are currently held by DCC.

It was proposed by Cllr D Mills, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should liaise with DCC with a view to STC being granted authority to adopt the arms.

502 Craghead Village Hall - Grant Funding

Following a request from Craghead Village Hall to retain an unspent grant award from 2015 to hold the Leek, Flower and Vegetable show in 2016, it was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr B Nixon and **RESOLVED** that Craghead Village Hall be allowed to keep the unspent funding for the same purpose.

503 Request from Loyal British Legion

This item was withdrawn as the Royal British Legion representatives were unable to attend. Apologies were accepted by Council.

504 CDALC Executive Representative

It was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr R Harrison and **RESOLVED** that Cllr A Clegg be nominated as a representative to the Executive of the County Durham Association of Local Councils.

505 Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Tuesday 23rd February 2016, 18:30 at Stanley Civic Hall.