

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT STANLEY CIVIC HALL, FRONT STREET, STANLEY, DH9 0NA
TUESDAY 23rd JUNE 2015 6.30pm**

PRESENT

C. Bell	J. Charlton	A. Clegg	T. Davinson	L. Elliott
R. Harrison	C. McKee	D. Marshall	L. Marshall	D. Mills
G. Graham	B. Nair	J. Nicholson	W. Nixon	C. Thompson
D. Tully	D. Walker	M. Wilkinson		

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OFFICIALS

D. Shingleton – Acting Town Clerk
J. Harper – Community Development Manager
N. James – PA to the Town Clerk (Note Taker)
C. Howe – Civic Hall Manager

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

6 Members of the Public (1 video recording)
Andy Palmer (DCC)

Cllr Nixon was recording this meeting

STC.28-15 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Councillors D McMahon and R Ferris were accepted by the Council.

STC.29-15 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Bell declared an interest as Chair of the Traders. Cllr Charlton declared an interest as a County Councillor

STC.30-15 **PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Clegg noted his thanks to all the staff for their commitment to working with him whilst he was Chairman for 2014-15. He also asked that members work together with the new Clerk when he starts in July. He finally thanked Cllr Nicholson for her help as Vice-Chair in 2014-15 and wished her good luck for 2015-16.

Cllr Nicholson noted that as this was the Acting Town Clerk's last Full Council before the new Town Clerk arrives on 13th July, she would like to present him with a gift from all Members and Staff. The Acting Town Clerk thanked everyone.

STC.31-15 **EXTRA ITEM – PROJECT GENESIS**

Andy Palmer, Head of Strategy, Programmes and Performance from the County Council presented information about the Project Genesis initiative, established in 1994 to regenerate the site of the former steel works in Consett. He explained that the initiative was initially intended as a partnership between the District Council and a property developer, Dysart Developments however quickly evolved to include a charitable trust. The primary function of the tri partite structure was to attract grant and to re develop the steel works site for the benefit of the people of the Derwentside area. The charitable trust element of Project

Genesis was established to gain access to grant funding on more favourable terms to those that could be attracted by the District Council and also to guarantee focus on the site should the district Council cease to exist. The Trust has a number of charitable objectives to promote education, leisure, arts and amenity on the site. The Trust receives income from Dysart developments in respect of the sale of land when development opportunities become available, at a fixed minimum price of £2813 per acre. In recent years the Trust has established a grant fund, which is administered by the County Durham Foundation. Small grants are available to community organisations across the former Derwentside District Council area in line with the Trust's charitable objectives. Members of the Council asked Mr Palmer a series of questions with regards the operation of the grant fund; Mr Palmer agreed to forward details to James Harper for further consideration. The chair of the Council thanked Mr Palmer for his attendance.

STC.32-15 **MINUTES**

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the AGM on 26.05.15 be approved as a correct record.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of Full Council on 26.05.15 be approved as a correct record.

It was proposed by Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr B Nair and **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of Crime and Community Safety on 06.05.15 be received.

The minutes of Communications and Events on 12.05.15 be received.

The minutes of Finance & General Purposes on 13.05.15 be received.

The minutes of Personnel on 04.12.14 be received.

STC.33-15 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions from members of the public in attendance.

There were no written questions.

STC.34-15 **COMMITTEES**

Crime & Community Safety Committee 03.06.15:

The Chair, Cllr Bell, had nothing to report for the Council to consider.

Communication & Events Committee 09.06.15:

The Chair, Cllr Mills, noted that the Town Clerk as progressing the Fireworks Festival, the Christmas Festival was being looked into by the Working Group, the Golf Trail was being progressed by Brian and the Clerk. He noted that there was a Comedy Night coming to the Civic Hall in Feb/Mar 2016. The Moria Con is coming along nicely, and is looking to be very successful. Cllr Mills noted that the Council needed to approve providing £15,000 to Stanley Events to provide the Music Festival. Following a discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Council provide the funding to SEL.

Finance & General Purposes Committee 16.06.15:

The Chair, Cllr Walker, noted that he was meeting with the Just for Women Centre next week to discuss their request for funding. He also noted that the Council had to approve subscriptions to outside organisations. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council continue to subscribe to NALC and CDALC. Following a discussion, Cllr Bell noted that she would like to look for an organisation to provide better advice than NEREO. She noted that we do not know that NEREO is the best. It was proposed by Cllr D Marshall, seconded by Cllr D Mills

and **RESOLVED** that the Council continue their subscription with NEREO until the Clerk can find an alternative.

Cllr D Marshall noted that under Item 4 – Minutes, he had requested information re: all events, but had still not received his. He urged the Clerk to produce this information. Members agreed.

Personnel Committee 02.06.15:

The Chair, Cllr Harrison noted that there was an error under item 07-15, it should read, 'not be employed by the council' instead of note. Members will discuss the details from part B, during part B of this meeting.

STC.35-15 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Rose Ferris stands down from the Personnel Committee, and is replaced by Cllr Joyce Charlton.

STC.36-15 **SOUTH STANLEY SCHOOL**

Following a request from the school, seeking the Town Council's support in acquiring some of the old Technology School site, it was proposed by Cllr Nair, seconded by Cllr Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the Council support the school and speak to Durham County Council to try and get them to release the land to the school.

(2 members of the public left the meeting 8.05pm)

STC.37-15 **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2014/2015**

The Acting Town Clerk noted his report to members on the Annual Accounts for 2014-15. It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) Members approved the content of Section 1 of the Annual Return and authorised the Acting Town Clerk (as Responsible Financial Officer) and the Chair of the meeting to sign the appropriate boxes, and specifically record this approval in the minutes of the meeting.
- b) Members approved Section 2 of the Annual Return, noted the response given in each box and authorised the Acting Town Clerk and the Chair of the meeting to sign the appropriate boxes, and specifically record this approval in the minutes of the meeting.
- c) Noted Section 4 of the Annual Return and the responses given by the Internal Auditor.

STC.38-15 **MEMBERS INITIATIVE FUND**

Cllr Mills and the Clerk noted the changes made to the current MIF application form and procedure. It was **RESOLVED** that the new updated application form and procedure be approved.

(1 member of the public left the meeting 8.18pm)

STC.39-15 **CIVIC HALL**

Members were asked to consider a report in relation to the Coffee Shop for the Civic Hall. Members noted that receiving the report late meant that they could not consider the options fully.

(Cllr Walker left the meeting 8.38pm)

Cllr Nixon proposed that the name of the coffee shop be agreed in this meeting. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the coffee shop be called the Little Gallery Coffee Shop.

It was proposed by Cllr Charlton, seconded by Cllr Davinson and **RESOLVED** that the decisions on this report be deferred to a special meeting, to be held as soon as possible, and that further details be provided by the Civic Hall Manager.

STC.40-15 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council excludes the press and public on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

*It was proposed by Cllr D Mills, seconded by Cllr R Harrison and **RESOLVED** that Standing Orders be suspended for 30 minutes to 9:30pm.*

PART B

STC.41-15 **STAFFING ISSUES**

STC.42-15 **EXTRA ITEM – CRAGHEAD CEMETERY**

STC.43-15 **DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 28th July 2015, 6.30pm, Stanley Civic Hall