
MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL
Held at Civic Hall, Stanley on Tuesday 20th September 2016 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: J Nicholson* A Clegg G Graham C Thompson
W Nixon R Harrison D McMahon C Bell
L Elliott D Marshall 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)
James Harper (Community Development Manager)

ABSENT: Cllr C McKee

IN ATTENDANCE: 16 members of the public.

125 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllrs T Davinson, L Marshall and D Tully were accepted by Council.

126 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr C Bell declared an interest as Chairman of Stanley Traders Association.

Cllr D Marshall declared a non-pecuniary interest in Stanley Events Ltd.

Cllr D McMahon declared a non-pecuniary interest in Stanley Events Ltd and PACT House.

The Town Clerk gave a brief explanation of what the terms non-pecuniary and pecuniary interests meant for the benefit of the members of the public present.

Cllrs D Marshall and D McMahon did not request a dispensation to vote in this meeting on items of business relating to Stanley Events or PACT House.

127 PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Clerk reminded Members to speak through the chair, and reminded them of Standing Order 1.15 - that members should only speak once during the debate of on an item of business, and only once more after a motion had been proposed.

The Chairman read out a letter of thanks from St Margarets Church in Tanfield.

The Clerk advised that Cllr R Harrison and Mr L Christie were recording the meeting.

The Chairman noted that this would be Derek Shingleton’s last Full Council meeting at STC. She thanked Derek for all of his hard work over the last 3 and a half years, and presented him with gifts from Members and Staff.

128 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman asked if there were any questions from the floor.

Q1 - why did STC remove the budget for a fireworks display?

The Town Clerk advised that he could not give the reasoning behind decisions made by members but he believed that members had discussed that having funded a music festival and fireworks for a number of years, members had felt it was time to explore other things to spend the budget on, such as Armed Forces Day and the Play in the Park events.

1 member of the public noted that he was in support of the Fireworks event as it is the biggest event in Stanley where the whole family can attend.

There were 9 members of the public in attendance that were in support of the Fireworks event.

The Town Clerk advised Council that he had received a written question from Kevin Reay relating to the Fireworks and the Council’s survey, and that he had already provided a response on behalf of Council, which was attached to the papers for the meeting.

The Town Clerk also advised Council that he had received a written question from Robert Scott relating to the provision of an Automatic External Defibrillator. The Clerk advised members that the Louisa Centre has a Defibrillator however it is not operational at this time.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr R Harrison, seconded by Cllr C Bell and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would purchase a defibrillator for the Civic Hall.

129 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Members **RESOLVED** the approve the following minutes as a correct record:

- 19 July 2016 Full Council
- 28 July 2016 Extraordinary Meeting

130 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 30th August 2016 be **RECEIVED** by Council.

131 **PACT HOUSE**

The Town Clerk proposed that Council should consider part (ii) of this item first as the decision would have an impact on part (i). Council agreed to this approach.

(ii) Cllr D McMahon tabled a motion for Council to consider:

“ It is proposed that Council should agree the sub-lease to the Trustees of Pact House Stanley for peppercorn rent for the period of 10 years. The Trustees will be responsible for overheads and utilities.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr D Mills and it was **RESOLVED** that Council would agree to sub lease the PACT House building to the PACT House Charity for a peppercorn for the duration of the lease.

(i) It was **RESOLVED** that the Council delegate authority to the Town Clerk to instruct a local firm of solicitors to progress the sub-lease of the building to PACT house and to incur any necessary reasonable expenditure to do so.

Cllr D MacMahon thanked Council for it’s decision on behalf of PACT House, gave his apologies to the Chairman and left the meeting after consideration of this item of business.

132 **REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

The Council considered a funding request for £9,520 from Stanley Events Ltd towards the cost of the annual fireworks display on Oakey’s Field on 5th November.

Following a presentation from Carl Marshall in support of the application and a question and answer session, it was moved by Cllr C Bell that Standing Order 3.17 be suspended for the consideration of this item and there be a paper vote.

Cllr D Marshall rose and stated that he wished to move that the vote be a named vote and the voting of members be recorded.

After consulting the Standing Orders, the Town Clerk advised Council that a motion to suspend a standing order could be made without prior notice. Since the provision to request a named vote was part of the Standing Order that Cllr Bell had moved to suspend, the motion must be heard before the request for a named vote.

The motion was seconded by Cllr W Nixon and it was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Order 3.17 for consideration of this item and to decide this item by secret ballot.

After a discussion it was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr G Graham that the funding requested be provided to Stanley Events Ltd. Following the paper vote, it was **RESOLVED** that the request for funding be declined by 9 votes to 2, with two abstentions. Cllr D Marshall did not vote.

133 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Finance Manager noted that the agenda was incorrect and that Members were being asked to approve the payment of accounts for July and August not June.

Members had no questions for the Finance Manager and therefore **APPROVED** the payment of accounts for July and August 2016 and **NOTED** the bank reconciliation.

134 **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

The Finance Manager advised that the agenda contained a typo and that Members were being asked to consider the report in relation to the budget to August 31st not June 30th as stated.

The Finance Manager advised that he was currently projecting an underspend on the overall budget of £25,000. He further advised the the Council has received mid year estimate from DCC which shows a reduction in the LCTRS grant, however there will be an increase in the tax base which will offset most of the reduction.

Members **NOTED** the budgetary control report, the budget to August 31st 2016 and the interim tax base report from DCC.

135 **PAYMENT FOR FRONT STREET WORKS**

It was proposed by Cllr D Mills, seconded by Cllr R Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be authorised to release £100,000 to DCC which has been set aside in reserves towards the Front Street improvement works.

136 **CIVIC HALL OAPs CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

Members **RESOLVED** that the Christmas Lunch will be funded via MIFs. Each Member will contribute £100 from their MIF and be given an equal allocation of tickets for distribution to their local residents. If any Members are unable to distribute tickets they can return them to staff who will liaise with Cllr B Nair and Age UK to help distribute the spare tickets.

137 **COFFEE SHOP FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

Members **NOTED** the report from the Finance Manager in respect of the financial performance of the Civic Hall Coffee Shop to date and decided that the coffee shop should continue to operate, with a further review after Christmas.

138 **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:
Staff Confidentiality.*

139 **STAFFING REPORT**

It was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr D Marshall and **RESOLVED** that Council accept the **RECOMMENDATIONS** in the Town Clerks report and the position will be reviewed after to Christmas.

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

Tuesday 18th October 2016, 18:30 at Stanley Civic Hall