



# Stanley Town Council

## NOTICE OF MEETING

I hereby give notice that an Ordinary meeting of Stanley Town Council will be held on Tuesday, the 24th October 2017 at 6.30 pm at Stanley Civic Hall, Front Street, Stanley, DH9 0NA.

### TO ALL MEMBERS of STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

<b>B Nair (Town Mayor)</b>	T Armstrong	D Carmichael	L Christie	J Clark
<b>A Clegg (Deputy TM)</b>	H Clark	M Davinson	C Hampson	J Kane
C Marshall	D Marshall	J McMahon	J Nicholson	J Pallas
J Stephenson	L Timbey	D Tully	J Tully	G Wilkinson

You are hereby summoned to attend an **ORDINARY MEETING** of **Stanley Town Council** to be held in **Stanley Civic Hall**, on **Tuesday the 24th October 2017 at 18.30** in order to transact the following business:

Yours sincerely,

**Alan Shaw**  
**Town Clerk**  
**17th October 2017**

Please turn off all mobile phones or set to silent mode  
Please refer to the Policy for recording proceedings

## A G E N D A

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To **RECEIVE** any apologies and reasons for absence.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are invited to **DECLARE** disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests, along with the nature of those interests, in relation to any item on this agenda.

### 3 PROCEDURAL/ APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

- (i) **Annual OAPs Christmas Dinner.** The Town Mayor will make a statement in relation to the Annual OAP Christmas Lunch held in the Civic Hall.

To **RECEIVE** any further announcements from the Town Mayor or Town Clerk.

#### 4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

An adjournment will be allowed at the direction of the Chairman to allow for public comment and response in relation to items on this agenda or to consider written questions from the public submitted in advance of the meeting (*Individuals will be permitted a maximum of three minutes each. Total time for this session is limited to fifteen minutes*).

#### 5 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

To **APPROVE** as a correct record and sign the minutes of the following meeting:

26th September 2017                      Ordinary Council                      **(ATTACHMENT A)**

#### 6 MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS

To **RECEIVE** the minutes of the following meetings:

11th October 2017                      Finance & Governance Committee                      **(ATTACHMENT B)**

#### 7 RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following **RECOMMENDATIONS** of Committee meetings held since the last Ordinary Council meeting in September 2017 require consideration by Full Council:

##### (a) **FINANCE**

At a meeting held on 11th October 2017, the Finance & Governance Committee made the following **RECOMMENDATIONS** to Council:

- (i) **Public Participation in Meetings** - Committee has considered amendments to the current arrangements for this standing agenda item. A report is attached for **CONSIDERATION** by Council. **(ATTACHMENT C)**
- (ii) **Mayor's Announcements** - It is **PROPOSED** that Full Council has a standing agenda item entitled "Mayor's Announcements" to replace the current "Procedural/Appropriate Announcement From the Town Mayor" to provide a verbal monthly Mayoral report. In addition to the current procedural announcements there will be an opportunity to make a positive, non-political statement. This will combine highlights of the Mayor's Civic engagements since the last meeting and any updates on events or other developments within the town they would like to highlight. Quarterly verbal reports from the representatives to outside bodies e.g. AAP, CDALC, PACT House should also be received at Full Council to update the Council on the ongoing work in these areas.

Council is requested to **CONSIDER** the **RECOMMENDATIONS** from Committee and **DECIDE** what to do.

## 8 MEDIUM TERM PLAN

(ATTACHMENT D)

The Finance & Governance Committee has **RECOMMENDED** that Full Council adopts the attached Medium Term plan. The document represents the actions required to deliver the pledges made in advance of the May 2017 election by the Labour Group.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) Council should adopt the draft Medium Term Plan.
- (ii) The Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance & Governance Committee should prepare an outline three year delivery timeline and indicative budget estimates for the delivery of the plan;
- (iii) Budget provision for the actions identified for delivery in 2017/18 should be inserted into the second budget estimate to be presented to the Finance & Governance Committee for detailed review at the November meeting;
- (iv) Once delivery objectives for 2017/18 have been agreed, the Projects & Initiatives Committee should begin working up detailed project plans for each action to be brought forward to Council for agreement.

## 9 GRANTS & MIF POLICY

(ATTACHMENT E)

Council **RESOLVED** at the September meeting that the existing Grant Funding and Member's Initiative Fund policies should be reviewed and a revised policy agreed by Council prior to the determination of any further Grant Funding applications.

A revised policy incorporating comments from members is attached.

Council is requested to **CONSIDER** the policy and **DECIDE** what to do.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) The revised policy should be adopted;
- (ii) A grant funding working group should consider the applications in light of both the revised policy and the Council's objectives as outlined in the Medium Term Plan;
- (iii) Recommendations should be reported back to the November Full Council meeting for decision.

## 10 CHRISTMAS SHUTDOWN

(ATTACHMENT F)

The Town Council has customarily closed the office between Christmas and New Year (excepting events taking place at the Civic Hall) in line with the practice of Durham County Council.

## 11 STANLEY COUNCIL OFFICES

Members of the Council Offices sub-group have had the opportunity to examine the Council Offices proposal in the light of the detailed schedule of works required and cost estimates provided by the surveyor and circulated to members previously. The sub-group has put forward the following motion for consideration by Council:

“Having reviewed the report of the surveyor detailing the current condition of the former Stanley Urban Council Offices and examined in detail the current financial position of the Town Council, the Town Council has reluctantly come to the conclusion that the expenditure

which would be required to bring the building up to a suitable standard simply to be able to open the doors cannot be reasonably justified from the limited public funds at the Council's disposal and that an increase in the local precept to meet these costs would not be acceptable to our residents. Therefore, although the Council has a desire and ambition to see this building restored and returned to meaningful use, external sources of funding must be sought which will not place such a huge burden of any refurbishment solely onto our residents. Therefore it is proposed that:

- (i) The Town Council will notify DCC that the Town Council intends to withdraw from the proposed purchase of the building on the current terms;
- (ii) The Town Clerk will be instructed to liaise with Durham County Council and express our desire to see the building restored in the medium term, with a focus on the use of the building as a heritage asset for the town; but the Town Council cannot provide the capital required to complete the works and substantial match funding must be sought;
- (iii) Research into possible sources of funding must be carried out, with the assistance of suitably qualified and experienced fund raisers who can identify sources and prepare bids for external funding.

Council is requested to **CONSIDER** this matter and **DECIDE** what to do.

## 12 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 28th November 2017, 6.30 pm, Stanley Civic Hall

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*In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, members of the public and press are welcome to attend the meeting. Members of the public will only be permitted to speak at the beginning of the meeting during Public Question Time.*