

MINUTES of the FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL held at Stanley Civic Hall on Wednesday 12th December 2018 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr M Davinson* Cllr A Clegg Cllr C Bell Cllr G Binney
 Cllr B Nair Cllr J Clark Cllr H Clark Cllr C Hampson
 Cllr J Kane Cllr C Marshall Cllr D Marshall Cllr J McMahon
 Cllr J Nicholson Cllr J Pallas Cllr D Tully Cllr J Tully
 Cllr G Wilkinson

***Chairman**

OFFICERS: Alan Shaw (Town Clerk)
 Nicola James (Senior Administration Officer)
 James Harper (Operations Manager)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Gemma Dobson (Durham County Council CLLD),
 Inspector Dave Stewart (Durham Constabulary)
 3 members of the public.

186 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Cllrs L Christie, J Stephenson & L Timbey were accepted by Committee.

187 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs C Marshall, J Nicholson, C Hampson & M Davinson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 relating to the CLLD Update, as Durham County Councillors.

188 PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Town Clerk reminded Members to turn their mobile phones off or switch them to silent. The Clerk advised those present that the meeting was being recorded by the Council and a member of the public.

189 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Town Clerk advised the Chair there had been a question submitted from the public for Inspector Stewart in respect of issues at Stanley Bus Station. As Inspector Stewart will be giving an update on this issue, Committee **NOTED** the question.

190 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr A Clegg, seconded by Cllr J Kane and **RESOLVED** that Committee **APPROVE** the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meeting held on 14th November 2018. The Chair signed them as a correct record.

191 POLICING UPDATE

Inspector Dave Stewart from Stanley Police outlined current local policing priorities and plans for the future and discussed opportunities for the Council and Police to support each other's priorities.

Inspector Stewart advised Members that following the anti social behaviour during halloween and bonfire week, presentations were given to year 7, 8 and 9 students, a number of youths who engaged in criminal activities have been identified and dealt with and Police have interacted with children and parents. There have been positive reactions from both parents and children involved.

Inspector Stewart advised that on Friday 14th December, Police and other partners are coming together to launch Operation Stay Safe. Police, PCSOs, ASB workers and Wardens will bring youths congregating and under the influence back to a central safe location. Parents will be called to come and collect the youths and deal with issues.

It was requested that Inspector Stewart come back to Committee in February to provide an update, and that he be involved with our Annual Town Meeting in March 2019.

Cllr C Marshall stated that Stanley Police have gone above and beyond engaging with all sections of the community, especially young people, and it was appalling to see that a small number of young people turned on the police the way they did.

It was proposed by Cllr C Marshall, seconded by Cllr C Hampson and **RESOLVED** that the Bamburgh Suite within the Civic Hall should be provided free of charge to partners to host Operation Stay Safe on 14th December with refreshments provided as necessary.

192 CLLD UPDATE

Gemma Dobson gave Committee information in relation to projects which have been funded so far and those in the pipeline and information about how members can get involved to support initiatives in their area.

Community Local Led Development (CLLD) has £1.2 million to spend in 3 years through two funds, European regional development fund and European social fund. The first project funded is a 121 mentoring project ran through Durham County Council and their employability team. An employability mentor has been funded via the European social fund.

The application process is 6-8 months. There has been a lot of interest in Stanley so far. CLLD is to support jobs and growth. Applications should be asking for £10,000+. The Town Clerk will circulate information to Members.

193 **WARDENS UPDATE**

The Operations Manager (OM) James Harper passed on apologies from Belinda Snow and the Neighbourhood Wardens.

The OM advised that the Wardens were doing a great job, they have an excellent attitude, are professional and provide him with regular updates.

They work well with partners and agencies, including local schools, using STC priorities to approach communities and schools.

The OM **RECOMMENDED** that STC continue with the current service priorities over the next two month.

Committee **NOTED** the update and **APPROVED** the recommendation.

194 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was proposed by Cllr D Marshall, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the Committee **APPROVE** the payment of accounts and **NOTE** the Bank Reconciliation for November 2018.

195 **BUDGET MONITORING & DRAFT BUDGET REPORT**

(i) **Budget Monitoring**

The Town Clerk advised that as we are approaching the end of the financial year, year end budget estimates are getting firmer and an underspend is likely which will hopefully offset the regular internal transfers from General to Earmarked reserves. (Capital Fund and Elections Fund)

Committee **NOTED** the report.

(ii) **Updated Draft Budget**

The Town Clerk provided Committee with a number of options to enable the Council to meet the spending requirements requested by Council for 2019/20.

Cllr D Marshall stated that Council want to offer hope, help and quality of life for Stanley residents and the growth is required to deliver the Council's plan to provide this in 2019-20.

It was proposed by Cllr D Marshall, seconded by Cllr B Nair and **RESOLVED** that Committee **RECOMMEND** that Council increase the precept by 3% in 2019/20 to fund the required growth in the budget. Additional capital expenditure required for the festive lighting scheme should be met from the Earmarked Reserve for Capital projects.

196 **COMMITTEE ACTIONS UPDATE**

The Town Clerk advised the following updates from the Committee Action Log:

- (i) **Medium Term Plan** - Steering Group for Environment not set up as yet
- (ii) **County Durham Plan Consultation** - Waiting on a response from Ian Thompson.
- (iii) **Defibrillator** - The OM is waiting for the Job Centre Facilities Team to do the electrical works.
- (iv) **Youth Council** - To be removed from the Actions Log.

It was proposed by Cllr D Marshall, seconded by Cllr B Nair and **RESOLVED** that actions should be included in staff appraisals. Each budgeted activity should have an update page detailing which staff member is responsible so that progress towards objectives can be planned, monitored and reviewed.

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

Wednesday 13th February 2019, 6.30pm, Stanley Civic Hall.