

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held at Stanley Civic Hall on Tuesday 22nd January 2019 at 6.30pm

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

*Chairman

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

IN ATTENDANCE: 1 member of the public

ABSENT: Cllr J Clark

Before the meeting began, the Town Mayor wished everyone a Happy New Year.

198 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Cllrs L Christie, G Wilkinson, J Stephenson & J Tully were accepted by Council.

199 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

200 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor informed the Council of the appointments he had attended since the last Full Council meeting:

- 6 December - Durham County Council Chairmans Christmas Celebrations
- 8 December - Christmas Market at New Warlands Farm
- 16 December - Stanley Town Council Town Mayor's Carol Concert
- 22 December - Spennymoor Charity Night

The Town Mayor made the following statement:

“In the time since I was given the honour of being the Town Mayor last May, I have done my very best to represent the Council and the Town by attending dozens of events. I have been given fantastic support in this by my Deputy, Cllr Hampson who has accompanied me to many events and deputised for me at many others when I was having health issues.

It was on the centenary of the end of hostilities last November when the town held two important beacon events for residents that I felt it was not right that the Deputy Town Mayor did not have any badge of her office when she was representing the town on such an important occasion.

I took the decision that I would use my Town Mayor's fund to present the Council and the Town with a badge of office for the Deputy Town Mayor. The chain which I am

wearing was presented to the town in 1954, 64 years ago and will continue to serve the town for many years to come. I hope that this new badge of office will serve the town for as long.”

The Town Mayor then presented the Deputy Town Mayor, Carole Hampson, with the badge of office.

The Town Clerk reminded Members to wait until recognised by the Town Mayor and to stand when speaking. He announced that the meeting was being recorded by STC and Mr Rollings, and that mobile phones should be switched off or turned to silent.

201 **LEADER’S STATEMENT**

Cllr D Marshall said he hoped members and staff enjoyed the festive season and had a good break. He noted that this meeting is where the Council was setting the budget and precept for the next financial year. Members had been asked to make comments and suggestions to the programme of work to allow a budget to be set which is a legal requirement. The coming year will be busy but information sheets will be provided to allow members to monitor and achieve the ambitious plans for Stanley.

202 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no written questions and no questions from the floor.

203 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, seconded by Cllr M Davinson and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27th November 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

204 **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr J Kane, seconded by Cllr M Davinson and **RESOLVED** that Council **RECEIVE** the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 12th December 2018.

205 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr C Marshall and **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The decision of the Finance & General Purposes Committee to permit partners to use the Civic Hall be **APPROVED**; and
- (ii) The Finance & General Purposes Committee be **DELEGATED** to grant community use of Council facilities in exceptional circumstances.

206 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was proposed by Cllr D Marshall, seconded by Cllr M Davinson and **RESOLVED** that the payment of accounts for December 2018 be **APPROVED** and the Bank Reconciliation for December 2018 be **NOTED**.

207 **STANLEY IN BLOOM**

The Operations Manager gave an update on Stanley in Bloom. He advised members that there will be an operational meeting next week to progress the actions required to complete the entry which members are welcome to attend as observers.

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr G Binney and **RESOLVED** that the team continue to progress the project as outlined in the report and that Council will review the scheme once complete to see how it could be improved for future years.

208 **POLICY WORKING GROUP**

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr D Marshall and **RESOLVED** that the following recommendations from the Working Group be **AGREED**:

- (i) **APPROVE** the terms of reference
- (ii) **APPROVE** the actions and approach
- (iii) **AGREE** the aims and objectives

209 **BUDGET AND PRECEPT**

The Town Clerk **RECOMMENDED** that members approve the budget so that the precept demand could be signed and submit to Durham County Council.

Councillor D Marshall stated that the Council had a legal obligation to have a fully costed budget. The budget set out will support residents and enhance their lives in Stanley. It was proposed by Cllr D Marshall, seconded by Cllr B Nair and **RESOLVED** that the level of precept be increased by 3% from 2018/19 and that the precept demand be signed and submit to DCC.

Cllr C Marshall requested a named vote:

For: Cllrs C Hampson, G Binney, H Clark, M Davinson, B Nair, J Kane, C Marshall, D Marshall, J McMahon, J Pallas, L Timbey & D Tully

Abstentions: Cllrs J Nicholson & C Bell

210 **COUNCIL ACTIONS UPDATE**

The Town Clerk provided the following updates:

- (i) **Stanley Fund** - A meeting has been arranged with Michelle Cooper.
- (ii) **Cinema** - Contractors have been instructed and will be up and running by end of February.
- (iii) **War Memorial** - Ideas will be brought to next months Council meeting.
- (iv) **Heritage Plaque** - Progressing with DCC.
- (v) **Media Consultants** - Waiting on Bryn to come back with detailed proposals
- (vi) **Panto Information** - To be discussed by Civic Hall Working Group.
- (vii) **War Memorial Working Group** - To be reconvened

211 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC ***

*Recording of proceedings was stopped at this point.

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr C Marshall and **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 items: Staff Confidentiality (Items 15,18); Discussion of Personal Information (Item 16); Legal Privilege (Item 17)

212 **STAFF RECRUITMENT**

(i) **Deputy Town Clerk**

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr C Marshall and **RESOLVED** that the post of Deputy Town Clerk be offered to Alan Tubman. Cllr C Marshall thanked all those who took part in the interviews.

(ii) **Finance Officer**

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr C Marshall and **RESOLVED** that the Deputy Town Clerk settle into his new role and look into the initiatives that the Finance Officer will need to take part in. The job description of the Finance Officer will be reviewed before advertising the role.

213 **TOWN MAYOR'S AWARDS**

It was proposed by Cllr J McMahon, seconded by Cllr C Marshall and **RESOLVED** that one nomination be deferred until next year and two extra nominations be approved.

214 **GOVERNANCE MATTER**

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr C Marshall, seconded by Cllr M Davinson and **RESOLVED** that the issue be forwarded to the Monitoring Officer to bring back a conclusion to Council.

215 **STAFFING MATTER UPDATE**

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, seconded by Cllr D Marshall and **RESOLVED** that Mr Lee Brannigan be banned from the Civic Hall and all other Town Council buildings for a period of 12 months.

Cllr L Timbey requested a named vote:

For: Cllrs C Hampson, G Binney, M Davinson, B Nair, J Kane, C Marshall, D Marshall, J McMahon, J Pallas, L Timbey, J Nicholson & D Tully

Against: Cllr H Clark

Abstention: Cllr C Bell

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DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 26th February 2019, 6.30pm, Civic Hall, Stanley