

**MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

Held at Stanley Civic Hall on Tuesday 25th June 2019 at 6.30pm

**PRESENT:** C Hampson\* C Bell G Binney D Marshall M Davinson  
 B Nair J Nicholson J Stephenson L Timbey D Tully  
 J Tully

**\*Town Mayor**

**OFFICERS:** Alan Shaw (Town Clerk)  
 Nicola James (Senior Administration Officer)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 1 member of the Public & Sam Scotchbrook (ACD)

**ABSENT:** Cllrs L Christie & J McMahon

**29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies from Cllrs H Clark, J Clark, A Clegg, J Kane, C Marshall, J Pallas & G Wilkinson were accepted by Council.

**30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs J Nicholson & C Bell declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 11 (*Minute #39*) as volunteers at the Annfield Plain Food Bank.

**31 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor informed members present that Cllr A Clegg is now home from hospital and is resting. A card will be sent from the office to wish him well.

The Town Mayor advised Council of the appointments she had attended since the previous meeting which included:

- PACT House radio launch
- Love Beamish and Stanley event
- PACT House DBAD event
- St Teresas church fayre opening
- Raising of the flag at Annfield Plain park
- Unveiling the Morrison Busty banner

The Town Clerk reminded Members to wait until recognised by the Town Mayor before speaking and to stand when speaking. He informed those present that the meeting was being recorded by STC and 1 member of the public and that mobile phones should be switched off or switched to silent during the meeting.

**32 LEADER'S STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Council, Cllr L Timbey, thanked members for electing him as Leader of Stanley Town Council for 2019-20.

Cllr Timbey paid tribute to Cllr D Marshall for his leadership during the last two years and for mentoring him and preparing him for the Leadership role.

Cllr Timbey informed members that he will focus on implementing Medium Term and Long Term Plans to benefit the Stanley area, with decisions being made for the many residents, not the few.

As Leader, Cllr Timbey wants to make Stanley a better place for people to live and enjoy, promote community involvement and encourage fairness and equality to all residents. STC will make sure events and monies are distributed evenly amongst all villages and decisions will be made to provide the best value option.

DH9 radio was recently launched to give Stanley their own radio station, achieved through STC funding and working with PACT House.

The first round of Strategic Grant Funding has been completed and those who have been awarded funding have been contacted.

The Leader announced a 'Meet the Staff' event on Sat 27 July to allow Councillors to meet with the staff and listen to their ideas on how to improve the services that the Council deliver.

### 33 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

### 34 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson seconded by Cllr J Stephenson and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 28th May 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

### 35 COMMITTEE MINUTES

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr M Davinson and **RESOLVED** that Council **RECEIVE** and **APPROVE** the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 28th May 2019.
- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr M Davinson and **RESOLVED** that Council **RECEIVE** the minutes of the Finance & GP Committee held on 11th June 2019.

### 36 POLICY WORKING GROUP

Members were asked to consider the draft policies:

- Vehicle Use Policy
- Town Mayor's Awards
- Equality and Diversity

It was proposed by Cllr G Binney, seconded by Cllr J Stephenson and **RESOLVED** that Council **ACCEPT** and **APPROVE** the policies.

### 37 EVENTS WORKING GROUP

Members **NOTED** the minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2019.

**38 CIVIC HALL (OPERATIONS) WORKING GROUP**

The Chairman of the Working Group thanked the staff for their proposals and noted that recommendations 2 and 3 (cosmetic refurbishment and surround sound) are essential for successful operation of the Civic Hall.

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr L Timbey and **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The website and publicity work will not be undertaken until all the refurbishment is complete.
- (ii) Quotes are required to refurbish the Bamburgh Suite and the Main Hall.
- (iii) Quotes are required for additional surround sound equipment.

**39 STANLEY ADVICE SERVICE UPDATE**

Sam Scotchbrook from Advice in County Durham provided Council with an update in relation to the running of the service and its outputs.

Reports were left for Members to take away.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should liaise with Sam and CREO to make a press release to publicise the good work of the service.

Council thanked Sam and **NOTED** the update.

**40 APPRENTICES**

Members considered the report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

It was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, seconded by Cllr J Stephenson and **RESOLVED** that one Environmental Services apprentice be established which will include day release to Houghall College. The Deputy Town Clerk to report final details via the Finance Committee.

The Hospitality apprentice post be deferred until there is a clear direction for the Civic Hall. The DTC should continue to look for funding to fund this post.

**41 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

Council **APPROVED** the updated schedule of meetings.

**42 ARMED FORCES COVENANT**

Members discussed the attached report. It was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, seconded by Cllr M Davinson and **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) Stanley Town Council will sign the Charter;
- (ii) The wording of the Charter be approved;
- (iii) Member champion should be Cllr D Marshall, officer champion should be the Deputy Town Clerk;
- (iv) The Charter should be signed at Stanley Armed Forces Day on 7th July 2019 and the member and officer champions will re-sign the Charter at the Armed Forces event in Washington.

43                    **COUNCIL ACTIONS UPDATE**

The Town Clerk gave an update in respect of actions on the Full Council Actions Log.

He advised Council that a Comms Plan will be circulated to Members soon, along with details of the Star Council Awards application.

He also advised Council that a proposal will come to Council to discuss a more significant commemoration for the Louisa Morrison Disaster.

Cllr J Stephenson requested that strategic funding support and training be added onto the Action Log.

Members **NOTED** the updates.

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

Tuesday 23rd July 2019, 6.30pm, Civic Hall, Stanley