

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

Held at Stanley Civic Hall on Tuesday 27th November 2018 at 6.30pm

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

**\*Town Mayor**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 3 members of the public, Michelle Cooper & Sam Scotchbrook

**170 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies from Cllrs J Clark, C Bell, J McMahon & G Wilkinson were accepted by Council.

**171 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr C Marshall declared a pecuniary interest in item 8 and noted he would leave the room when members discussed the item following his presentation.

**172 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor informed Council of the events he had represented the Council at since the last Full Council meeting held on 23rd October 2018:

- Friday 26 October - Sedgefield Town Mayor's Quiz
- Sunday 28 October - Barnard Castle Afternoon Tea
- Saturday 3 November - Oakies Park Fireworks
- Saturday 10 November - Sedgefield Remembrance Lunch
- Sunday 11 November - Catchgate Remembrance
- Friday 16 November - Fibrofamily Awareness Day
- Friday 23 November - Just for Women Centre Opening

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

**173 LEADER'S STATEMENT**

Cllr D Marshall stated that he hoped that in light of the training from the monitoring officer before the last meeting, Members would now accept the Council's Constitution and recognise that he is the Leader of the Council not just Leader of the Labour group.

Cllr D Marshall informed members of the appointments he had attended since the last Full Council meeting on 23rd October 2018:

- Love Beamish and Stanley event at Beamish Hall. The event went well and he was able to meet with local traders. STC should work with Love Beamish and Stanley when working on the Medium Term Plan.
- Signed The Dying to Work Charter on behalf of the Council.
- Attended and spoke at the WWI Beacon event on Stanley Front Street which went really well. It was streamed live to over 700 people and had over 13,000 hits on social media. The response to the event was overwhelmingly positive and well appreciated by residents.
- Visit to the STC funded Advice Centre at The Venue to see how they work and what they do. He was shown around the premises and Sam Scotchbrook will provide a report later in this meeting.
- Craghead Village Hall Christmas fair.
- Met ITV journalists in relation to the ASB on Front Street where Cllr C Marshall also recorded an interview.
- Reported that the new Police Inspector for Stanley will attend the next Finance meeting in December to discuss the issues and the Police response.
- Attended CDALC with the Town Mayor. An update report will be circulated.
- Attended the Just for Women Centre grand opening which was very well attended and the Centre is going from strength to strength.
- Attended the Advice in County Durham forum.

Cllr D Marshall informed members that he and the Town Mayor had been invited to the Autism Christmas Fair at Holmside Farm on 8 December, 10am - 3pm and everyone is welcome.

He also stated that the Christmas Lights in the trees look fantastic and he looks forward to STC expanding this scheme next year into the villages. Finally he noted that Aldi was now open and that this was good news for Stanley and the beginning of inward investment to the Town.

#### 174 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Town Clerk noted that there was an email question from Mr Billy Nixon. It was proposed by Cllr C Marshall, seconded by Cllr M Davinson and **RESOLVED** that as Mr Nixon isn't in attendance of the meeting the Town Clerk and Leader should provide him with an appropriate response.

#### 175 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 23rd October 2018 and the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Council meeting held on 7th November 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

#### 176 COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that Council **RECEIVE** the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 14th November 2018.

**177 FEEDBACK FROM FIREWORKS EVENT - STANLEY EVENTS**

Cllr C Marshall, (in his capacity as a Director of Stanley Events), presented a video and information sheet to Members in respect of the 2018 Fireworks event. He informed Council that this was the most successful year for the event to date with more rides and entertainment for young people and families with a record turnout.

*[Cllr C Marshall left the room whilst members discussed this matter]*

After a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr C Hampson and **RESOLVED** that Stanley Events Ltd should be funded in the sum of £10,000 per year for the next 3 years to provide continued support for the Fireworks Event on the basis that Stanley Events have added extra value to the event with match funding generated from other paid events outside the town.

*[Cllr C Marshall rejoined the meeting at this point]*

**178 COUNTY DURHAM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Michelle Cooper, Chief Executive of the County Durham Community Foundation, presented to members a proposal to establish a sustainable grant fund for the Stanley area which would enable other funders to contribute to increase the funding available .

After a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr C Marshall, seconded by Cllr L Christie and **RESOLVED** that STC provide £50,000 for year I of the fund to help kickstart and grow the grant fund.

This £50,000 to be funded from £35,000 of the 2019/20 MIF budget and the whole £15,000 2019/20 Youth Budget. The remaining £35,000 of the 2019/20 MIF budget to be turned into a local strategic grant funding pot, the policy framework to be discussed.

**179 ADVICE IN COUNTY DURHAM**

Sam Scotchbrook provided member with an update in relation to the services which have been provided at the STC funded advice centre in Wear Road in the current year to date. Sam thanked STC for their continued support.

Council **NOTED** the update from Advice in County Durham and **REQUESTED** that Sam provide regular updates to the Council in future.

**180 RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr B Nair and **RESOLVED** that the following **RECOMMENDATIONS** from the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 14th November 2018 be **APPROVED**:

- (i) The Civic Hall Working Group's idea of re-instating the cinema is supported;
- (ii) That the Council waives the Hall hire charges related to the staging of the 2018/19 winter performances of the Oxhill Youth Club, South Moor Operatic and Stanley Starz as per the motion motion in the minutes of that meeting;

- (iii) That a budget heading is created in the accounts where the costs of waiving these charges (and other fees waived for use of the hall by the Council) can be charged to so that the Civic Hall does not cover the losses when the Council makes a decision to support a community group of initiative;
- (iv) That a suitable revenue budget is provided in 2019/20 to cover the likely costs of similar decisions in the coming year.

**181 CIVIC HALL WORKING GROUP**

Recommendations (i) and (iii) were **APPROVED** under Minute# 180 above.

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr L Christie and **RESOLVED** that the recommendation from the Civic Hall Working Group meeting held on 6th November 2018 be **APPROVED**:

- (ii) Some of the remaining PVL money should be set aside to commission a new survey once the specification has been reviewed and agreed by Council.

Cllr B Nair, reporting Council for the Working Group, stated that the Civic Hall Working Group has looked at the D3 report and has concluded that the Civic Hall is not up to the required standard. A survey needs be carried out to make sure that the building is up to scratch for what it is needed for.

**182 NOTIFICATION OF TAX BASE**

The Council has received notification of the tax base and Local Council Tax Revenue Support Grant for 2019/20.

The Town Clerk tabled budget proposals put forward by the Labour Group for 2019/20.

It was proposed by Cllr C Marshall, seconded by Cllr D Marshall and **RESOLVED** that the proposals be accepted and incorporated into the 2019/20 budget as they are designed to support the objectives of the Medium Term Plan.

The Town Clerk is to include the proposals in an updated draft budget to be considered by the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting on 12th December 2018.

**183 MEMBER'S INITIATIVE & GRANT FUNDING**

Following the decision taken under Minute #178 above, it was proposed by Cllr C Marshall, seconded by Cllr L Christie and **RESOLVED** that the MIF Policy be updated to reflect the new Strategic Grant Funding budget. The Town Clerk is to work with Cllr C Marshall on drafting an updated policy to be presented to Council in due course.

**184 COUNCIL ACTIONS UPDATE**

*[Cllrs C Marshall and J Kane gave apologies and left the meeting at this point.]*

The Town Clerk provided the following actions updates:

- (i) The WWI Beacon event has been held and was successful.
- (ii) The Fireworks event has been held and was successful.
- (iii) The Deputy Town Clerk post has been shortlisted and Members will receive an invite and details of the meet and greet shortly.
- (iv) The review of policies will be looked at by the Policy Working Group next week.
- (v) The Matthew Kirtley heritage plaque is moving forward with Cllr H Clark.
- (vi) Gemma Dobson will attend the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting on 12th December to discuss the CLLD Update.
- (vii) The War Memorial Working Group is to be convened.

The Town Clerk provided the following additional updates:

- (viii) He has a meeting with Inspector Dave Stewart this week and will report back to Council. Inspector Stewart will be at the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting on 12th December.
- (ix) Details of what STC provide for each Remembrance Event was provided. Members need to consider how STC will assist these events in future, including the Beacon event.
- (x) PACT House radio launches on 16th January.

Cllr D Marshall stated that the Remembrance Events as a whole need to be reviewed. These events are important to ex-service men and women and the wider community. He stated that he was disappointed that one of the town's Memorials which was provided with an STC wreath did not have it laid at the correct time.

It was proposed by Cllr D Marshall, seconded by Cllr M Davinson and **RESOLVED** that the Remembrance Events should have equal support and that STC members should ensure that all of the Town's memorials have wreaths laid by members at the appropriate time.

The Town Clerk is to bring back proposals to the January 2019 Full Council meeting.

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

Tuesday, 22nd January 2019, 6.30pm, Civic Hall, Stanley