

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held at Stanley Civic Hall on Tuesday 20th October 2019 at 6.30pm

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

*Chairman

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Darren McMahon, Ruth Blakey & 1 member of the public

ABSENT: Cllrs L Christie & J Kane

113 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Cllrs J Clark, M Davinson, C Marshall, J Pallas, J Tully & G Wilkinson were accepted by Council.

114 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J McMahon declared an interest in Item 9 (Detached Youth Project)

115 TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor noted that Item 9 (Detached Youth Project) be moved up the agenda and dealt with after Item 7 (Committee Minutes).

The Town Mayor outlined the appointments she had attended since the previous meeting:

- Town Mayor’s Charity Race Night
- Opening of Hedley House
- Presentation of Strategic Grant Funding to Tanfield Lea and District Community Association
- Follow up Strategic Grant Funding photos at Just for Women Centre & Reg Vardy Band
- Blooming Good Fun awards night
- The Deputy Town Mayor was thanked for attending Sedgefield Town Council Civic Service on behalf of the Town Mayor

Members were reminded that the town Mayor’s Carol Concert will be held in the Civic Hall on December 8th at 6pm.

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 1 member of the public and that mobile phones should be switched off or turned to silent.

116 LEADER'S STATEMENT

The Leader of the Council, Cllr L Timbey noted that following Stanley Town Council's decision to sign the Armed Forces Covenant in the summer, Stanley Town Council were last week recognised by the MOD Employer Recognitions scheme and awarded a bronze award. The bronze award recognises the Town Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant by agreeing to ensure our recruitment processes treat ex-armed forces personnel, reservists and their families favourably by guaranteeing interviews for relevant people who meet essential job criteria, and by promoting the covenant within our area.

He also thanked all the staff involved in making Blooming Good Fun a success last night and wished Tanfield good luck for the Britain in Bloom Nationals on Friday.

Cllr Timbey noted that the end of 2019 will be a busy one, including Remembrance Events, half term Cinema showings in the Civic Hall and the Christmas Light Switch on on the 7th which is expected to be a show stopper.

117 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

118 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr A Clegg seconded by Cllr J Stephenson and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th September 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

119 COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that Council **RECEIVE** the minutes of the Finance & GP Committee held on 15th October 2019.

120 RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, seconded by Cllr B Nair and **RESOLVED** that the following recommendation from the Finance & General Purposes Committee be **APPROVED**:

- (i) **Civic Hall:** Council should not appoint a quantity surveyor, the decoration of the Main Hall, the Bamburgh suite and the Community Meeting Room be undertaken and the refurbishment of the toilets be actioned as urgent but further works should be deferred for two years.
- (ii) **Events:** Beacon event to be held on Sunday 10th as per 2018 but with improvements to the PA system.
- (iii) **Events:** Christmas Event to go ahead as agreed. Real dressed tree to be provided in the existing electrical installation provided for the old tree. lights from tree adjacent to old board school to be added to display in Thorneyholme Terrace. No additional scheme to be provided in the current year.

121 DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

Darren McMahon and Ruth Blakey discussed the work of the Detached Youth Project from April to August 2019. Overall they are very happy with the project, good feedback has been received and working with young people with mental health issues has increased their self esteem. Sessions are well attended, with the Youth Project being the highest attended in the area. They praised the 'Dont' be a Dick' Campaign which educated young people on how to deal with their friends who are being anti social.

Members praised the achievement of the project and encouraged them to continue with their good work.

122 STANLEY FUND UPDATE

Members **NOTED** the report from the Deputy Town Clerk in relation to the progress of the Stanley Fund.

The DTC advised that the CDCF will attend a Council meeting to provide a full presentation to Members.

123 COUNCIL ACTIONS UPDATE

The Town Clerk noted the following updates:

- (i) **Road Safety Visor** - Discussions are taking place to bring a proposal back to Full Council.
- (ii) **Stars YC** - Update provided at this meeting.
- (iii) **Pantomime** - To be discussed under Part B.
- (iv) **Civic Hall Decoration** - Actions agreed under Item 8.
- (v) **South Moor Miners Banner** - Work is ongoing installing the banner in the stairwell.
- (vi) **IT / Telephones** - External work issues causing a delay.

124 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC*

**Recording of proceedings was stopped at this point.*

Council **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 item:
Commercial Sensitivity.*

125 RECOMMENDATIONS OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Pantomime - Members **AGREED** that the Town Clerk is to chase further information required and bring this back to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

126 BUDGET FIRST DRAFT

The Town Clerk was tasked to bring a more detailed budget to the Finance & General Purposes Committee. Members noted that this will be a difficult budget to set due to lots of unknown factors.

127 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

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