

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held at Stanley Civic Hall on Tuesday 21st January 2020 at 6.30pm

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

*Town Mayor

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

ABSENT: Cllrs J Clark, L Christie & J McMahon

The Town Mayor, Cllr Carole Hampson, asked colleagues to join her in a minutes silence in memory of Ron Hogg, Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for County Durham and Darlington who sadly passed away in December 2019.

174 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Cllrs H Clark, G Wilkinson & C Marshall were accepted by Council.

175 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

176 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor informed members about the various appointments she has attended since the last Full Council meeting which included many Strategic Grant Funding appointments and Christmas celebrations both in Stanley and representing the town at events organised by other local councils.

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 requested those present to either switch off or turn phones to silent mode.

177 LEADER'S STATEMENT

Cllr L Timbey advised Council that since the last Full Council meeting, the Town Council had provided two successful and well attended Christmas events for residents, the Carol Service and the Front Street Christmas Event.

He stated that the highlights of the Front Street event was seeing the kids faces enjoying the show and seeing the Town Mayor dancing on the stage with Father Christmas. He thanked all the staff who worked to put on both of these events.

Cllr Timbey stated that the main item on the agenda tonight is the budget.

"Allowing for the effects of inflation, the budget is as close as possible to a standstill. The new budget prioritises supporting the regeneration of the Stanley Town Council area and the Council are keeping the free events such as Play in the Park and heritage events such as Miners Sunday."

"The budget also allows the Council to continue to financially support groups like Advice in County Durham, SHAID, PACT House, for all those people who need it.

The Council is also working closely with Durham County Council and the LCTRS which is the only scheme in the North East."

As a general update, Cllr Timbey noted that the new broadband and telephones are up and running. He thanked the Civic Hall Working Group for their hard work getting the refurbishment of the toilets and decoration of the Civic Hall underway. Work on the toilets should commence mid March and the decorating which has been approved by the Dementia Friendly Coordinator will commence in February.

Cllr Timbey also noted that there is a report on the details of the NALC Conference that himself and Cllr Stephenson attended. Since the conference, amendments to the Cyber Security Policy and Risk Register were made. Both gained an insight on how to submit an application for the Star Council Awards and would request that Council submit an application based on their findings.

178 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Nothing was received in writing prior to the meeting and no members of the public were in attendance.

179 **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 26th November 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson seconded by Cllr J Kane and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Council meeting held on 26th November 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

180 **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr G Binney and **RESOLVED** that Council **RECEIVE** the minutes of the Finance & GP Committee held on 14th January 2020.

181 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr G Binney and **RESOLVED** that Council **APPROVE** the payment of accounts for December 2019 and **NOTE** the Bank Reconciliation for December 2019.

182 POLICY WORKING GROUP

The Town Clerk advised that the Risk Register presented for approval now has consideration given to cyber security and the assessment procedure has improved allowing risks to be more effectively prioritised.

The Members Allowances Scheme has also been presented which states that if members go outside the Parish on Council business and cannot car share with an officer, they can claim mileage as per the report.

Cllr M Davinson noted that following the December Finance meeting S4 and C5 were also added to the Risk Register.

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr L Timbey and **RESOLVED** that the Council **APPROVE** the Risk Register and that a note be produced on member's allowances and car sharing.

183 EVENTS

The Town Clerk presented a draft Schedule of STC Events for 2020.

It was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the Schedule be **APPROVED** and that the Events Working Group be **DELEGATED** with the responsibility for the delivery of the programme.

The WG should determine the dates for Play in the Park, particularly in relation to the Annfield Plain event(Wed/Sat).

184 CIVIC HALL**(i) Pantomime**

The Town Clerk advised that following meetings with the Pantomime provider and the Finance Committee meeting, a marketing plan for the Pantomime has been prepared which can be implemented straight away.

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the Council should proceed with the Pantomime proposal, the Town Clerk is to prepare the contact on the basis put forward in the proposal with an additional clause to permit the Council to renew for a further year if the Pantomime is successful.

(ii) Cinema

The Town Clerk noted that the reports attached to the agenda provide the detail of films since the cinema was installed, some which sold strongly, some had not. The Council has made a small profit overall and it has been a great opportunity to use the cinema and experiment with the programme.

Cllr Timbey noted that the Cinema was started as a trial and there are lessons to be learned. The staff have put a lot of hard work and determination into making it a success.

It was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, seconded by Cllr B Nair and **RESOLVED** that the Council continue running the Cinema and that a post be created on the establishment to reflect the additional duties and put through job evaluation before the current officer's secondment ends.

185 COUNCIL ACTIONS UPDATE

The Town Clerk noted the following updates:

- (i) **Road Safety Visor** - Members need to decide what to do with this initiative.
- (ii) **Stanley Fund** - The Deputy Town Clerk will arrange a meeting for Michelle Cooper to provide an update to Council.
- (iii) **Civic Hall** - Proposals for the Comms Plan, Community Consultation Plan and Marketing Plans to be brought to February Full Council. .
- (iv) **IT / Telephones** - Work has been completed today.
- (v) **South Moor Miners Banner** - The Deputy Town Clerk has met with someone this week from Help for Heroes who are doing the refurbishment work for free.

186 2020/21 BUDGET (Fourth Estimate)

The Town Clerk presented the latest version of the Draft Budget to members. **(ATTACHMENT L)**.

Cllr J Kane requested a named vote on the budget.

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr B Nair and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the precept for the Financial Year 2020/21 be set at **£777,789** and that the Town Mayor be **AUTHORISED** to sign the precept demand of behalf of the Council.

For:

Cllrs C Hampson, G Binney, D Marshall, A Clegg, M Davinson, B Nair, J Kane, J Pallas, J Stephenson & L Timbey.

Against:

Cllrs C Bell, J Nicholson, J Tully & D Tully.

187 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 25th February 2020, 6.30pm, Stanley Civic Hall