

MINUTES of the EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on the video communications platforms **Zoom** on **Wednesday 1st July 2020 at 6.30pm**

PRESENT: C Hampson* G Binney H Clark J Clark (18.40)D Marshall
 A Clegg M Davinson J Kane C Marshall B Nair
 J Nicholson J Pallas J Stephenson L Timbey D Tully
 J Tully
 *Chairman

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

ABSENT: Cllr G Wilkinson

231 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies from Cllrs J McMahon & C Bell were accepted by Council.

232 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

233 **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor took the opportunity to make the following announcement.

Since the beginning of the Covid outbreak when our world has been turned upside down, I have witnessed and experienced some of the most amazing, positive and caring things from individuals and organisations across our area. It is lovely to see people working together for the good of the community. I would like to thank each and every one of you because heaven knows where we would be if we didn't have the dedication and kindness from everybody. By no means is it over so please keep up the good work, keep looking after each other and stay safe, thank you.

234 **LEADERS STATEMENT**

Cllr L Timbey made the following statement.

I would like to thank every community group and every volunteer within those groups for the hard work they have put in during Covid-19 and the work they have done to help our community. I am very pleased how successful the community groups have been and how they have all worked together for the benefit of local people.

I'd like to thank all of our staff for the work that they have put in in these difficult times and for keeping the day to day running of the Council flowing. I would like to thank Alan Tubman for his weekly members updates which have kept the Councillors up to date with what is going on in the Stanley area. I would like to give a massive thanks to Ann Barry for completing the year end figures. Ann has worked at STC for

less than a year and has dealt with many changes, but her professionalism and work ethic have been exceptional.

As government guidance is changing and lockdown is relaxing, we need to put in steps for reopening the Civic Hall. The Cinema will reopen on 3rd August, to run for the length of August, with 3 shows per week. We are also contacting regular users of the Civic Hall to see if they would like to come back. Risk assessments have been put into place and these will be explained to anyone booking rooms and government guidelines will be followed.

235 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No questions have been asked from members of the public and no members of the public have joined the Zoom meeting tonight.

236 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS & GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Finance Officer had prepared a report for Council in respect of the Annual Accounts and Governance Statement for 2019/20.

Cllr D Tully asked, will the Council be updating the asset register to reflect the true assets that STC hold and giving the true worth to STC as there seems to be a few omissions?

The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that the asset register is based on last years report plus new additions for this year. A number of member have mentioned that there may be some omissions so the DTC and Finance Officer will work on updating the asset register throughout the year.

Cllr M Davinson questioned if there needs to be a section adding to the risk register about the pandemic, and do we need to update other policies in light of recent events?

The DTC noted that the risk register will need updating and at the end of the pandemic we will be in a better position to work on this in the future.

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

- (i) **CONSIDERED** the attached documents A-G,
- (ii) **APPROVE** the Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20,
- (iii) **APPROVE** the Annual Accounts for 2019.20,
- (iv) **RESOLVE** the Council has in place an effective system of internal control,
- (v) **RESOLVE** the Council has reviewed and updated the Risk Register,
- (vi) **CONFIRM** the Council has arrangements in respect of all insurable risks in place, and
- (vii) **AUTHORISED** the Town Mayor to sign the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Accounting Statement for 2019/20 on behalf of the Council.

237 REVIEW OF EXPENDITURE UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, S.137

The Town Mayor advised that section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 is the power that permits the Council to incur expenditure “*which in their opinion is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants*” where no statutory power exists which would enable the Council to incur such expenditure.

There is a financial limit on the amount of expenditure which can be incurred in a given financial year under this power by the Council which is calculated by multiplying the number of electors in the parish by a “specified amount” which is published by the Government each year.

In the year 2019/20 the limit was £197,421, based on a specified amount of £8.12 and an electorate of 24,313.

The Councils actual expenditure under s.137 for 2019/20 was £176,747. Full details of this is provided in ATTACHMENT H.

A report containing details of the expenditure under s.137 for 2019/20 is attached for the information and consideration by the Council.

Council **NOTED** the report.

For the current year 2020/21, the limit will be £204,155, based on a specific amount of £8.32 and an electorate of 24,533.

238 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged.