

MINUTES of the EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCILHeld via **Microsoft Teams** on **Tuesday 27th October 2020** at **6.30pm**

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

*Chairman

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

ABSENT: Cllr J McMahan

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Mayor made the following announcement.

Good evening everyone and welcome to our first Teams remote meeting of Stanley Town Council. This meeting is taking place on Tuesday 27 October 2020 at 6.30pm and is streamed live to YouTube. I am Councillor Carole Hampson, Mayor of Stanley, and I will be chairing the meeting tonight. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Members, Officers, members of the public and media who are watching this live stream.

Before I commence with the formal business on the agenda, I would like to cover housekeeping issues for us all to follow.

For those taking part in the meeting could you please only speak when invited to speak by myself as chair, keep your microphone on mute at all times unless invited to speak. If you wish to speak please use the raise hand function. Once invited to speak, please introduce yourself with your name and position unless you have already introduced yourself earlier in the meeting. If you are having issues with connectivity, try switching off your video and use the audio function. If connectivity issues continue, you may have to leave the meeting and re-join to get a better signal, or you can call one of our Officers, their phone numbers were circulated at the end of the meeting etiquette email we all received. If a vote is needed, a roll call of Councillors names will take place. After your name is called please unmute your microphone and state if you are for, against or abstain, then mute your microphone again.

Please follow these simple rules as it will help us run the meeting as efficiently as possible.

I will be pausing briefly when questions and comments are being invited to allow members to register their intention to speak.

As I have mentioned this is our first Teams meeting of the Full Council so please be patient should we encounter any issues. Thank you.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Cllr J Clark were accepted by Council.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor made the following announcement:

The Coronavirus pandemic is without doubt one of the biggest challenges many of us have had to face in our lifetimes. Things have been, and also remain, very difficult indeed. I would like to express my condolences to all those who have lost loved ones and been impacted by COVID. It is truly inspirational and a testament to the people of Stanley and the surrounding areas, the way in which our communities, local groups, organisations, charities and businesses have responded to the pandemic. Teams of volunteers have responded in a whole host of ways, from making and delivering meals, collecting prescriptions, walking dogs, delivering shopping and running foodbanks which have been a much needed lifeline for so many. I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to all of our communities for their amazing efforts. I would also like to place on record thanks to our new Town Clerk, James Black, and the rest of our staff for their hard work. I would like to make a special mention to those working in the NHS, care sector and all front-line services - we are all so very grateful and proud of you. I would like to place on record our congratulations to those in our area who were acknowledged in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, published earlier this month.

Myself and our Deputy Clerk, Alan Tubman, attended the Louisa Morrison Memorial at noon on 23rd August where I laid a wreath on behalf of Stanley Town Council in remembrance of those who lost their lives. There was no service held.

Prior to exclusion of press and public in item 13, I will be announcing the time, date and venue of the next meeting.

Please stay safe, be kind and keep looking after each other.

4 LEADER'S STATEMENT

The Leader of the Council, Cllr L Timbey, made the following statement:

Firstly, I would like to welcome our new Clerk, James Black, to Stanley Town Council, he's only been in place a few months but he has been very enthusiastic and he is getting things sorted. I hope he has a long and successful career with Stanley Town Council.

COVID is still with us and is having a massive social and economic effect on everyone. I would like to thank all the community groups for all the hard work and support given by them to the community during this pandemic. I thank the volunteers of Annfield Plain and Catchgate Community Centre, PACT House, South Stanley Partnership St Stephens Church and Quaking Houses Village Hall for setting up programmes to feed children during this half term. This highlights the Governments lack of knowledge of the impact of their decisions that they make on the families of the Stanley area. I give an open invite to Boris Johnson and the Tory MPs of County Durham to come and visit any of these groups and see the hard work of these volunteers and see first-hand effect of not giving free school meals over the half term and Christmas holidays. The economic effect of COVID to Stanley Town Council has been hard, but we will continue to support our voluntary sector

throughout this pandemic. Setting our own budget will not be an easy task but we will explore every option to set a balanced budget. Decisions will be made that will not be easy, but they will be made in the best interests for the people of Stanley.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr J Stephenson, seconded by Cllr M Davinson and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the following meetings be **APPROVED** and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record:

- (i) Extra Ordinary Council meeting 25th February 2020
- (ii) Ordinary Council meeting 25th February 2020
- (iii) Extra Ordinary Council meeting 1st July 2020
- (iv) Extra Ordinary Council meeting 28th July 2020

7 COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr L Timbey and **RESOLVED** that Council **RECEIVE** the minutes of the Finance & GP Committee held on 10th March 2020.

8 FULL COUNCIL 24th MARCH 2020

Due to COVID 19, the Council meeting scheduled for 24th March 2020 was unable to go ahead. It was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, seconded by Cllr J Stephenson and **RESOLVED** that the decisions made around the following (further detail in Attachment F) are to be ratified and the minutes be accepted:

- (i) Emergency funding - the set up of a Community Support Fund
- (ii) Measures taken in relation to staffing and events
- (iii) Delegations of authority
- (iv) Town Clerk recruitment

9 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the following schedule of meetings be approved:

Finance & General Purposes Committee - 2nd Tuesday of the month
Full Council - 4th Tuesday of the month
All meetings will be held at 6.30pm, via Microsoft Teams until at least June 2021.

The Town Clerk was also tasked to look into how the Town Council could hold the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual General Meeting online.

10 COVID 19 RESPONSE UPDATE

The Deputy Town Clerk discussed the report provided to Members in relation to the Town Councils response to COVID-19.

(The meeting was adjourned here for 2 minutes to adjust the YouTube live stream)

It was proposed by Cllr D Marshall, seconded by Cllr J Kane, and **RESOLVED** by unanimous recorded vote that the report be **NOTED** and that the Town Council should request support from CDALC and our MP in an effort to apply for financial help from the government to enable us to go on and support our community in the way we have during this very difficult time. Officers should develop a bid and submit on behalf of the Town Council and ask our MP Kevan Jones and CDALC to support us in making this bid. (Cllr C Marshall could not cast a vote due to technical issues)

11 JUST FOR WOMEN

Just For Women sent the Town Council (as landlords of St Josephs House) a request to replace the wooden shed they currently have with a garden room. It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous recorded vote to approve their request. (Cllr C Marshall could not cast a vote due to technical issues)

12 REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

The Town Clerk discussed the current position regarding remembrance events in 2020. It was **AGREED** that the Town Council would release a statement in relation to COVID regulations and wreath laying.

13 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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:
Consideration of personal information in respect of nominated person.*

14 TOWN MAYORS AWARDS 2020

Members were provided details of nominations received for the 2020 Town Mayors Awards. It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** by unanimous recorded vote that all nominations be **APPROVED**.

15 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 24th November 2020, 6.30pm, via Microsoft Teams