

**MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL**Held via **Microsoft Teams** on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021** at **6.30pm**

**PRESENT:** C Hampson\*                      C Bell                      G Binney                      H Clark                      J Clark (18:36)  
                   D Marshall                      A Clegg                      M Davinson                      J Kane                      C Marshall  
                   J McMahan                      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)  
 Ann Barry (Finance Officer)  
 James Harper (Operations Manager)

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

Good evening everyone and welcome to our remote meeting of Stanley Town Council. This meeting is taking place on Tuesday 19 January 2021 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 the 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. 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 whether you are for, against or abstaining 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.

Please be patient should we encounter any issues. Thank you.

**56                      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**57                      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**58                      TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor made the following announcement:

I would like to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous new year. Wishing you all the best of health, wealth and happiness.

Since our last Full Council meeting, due to COVID restrictions, I have not attended any events. I send my heartfelt condolences to those who have lost loved ones, family and friends during this dreadful pandemic. I urge people to listen and stick to the advice given by our public health team, as this weeks figures show Annfield Plain and South Moor have the highest number of positive COVID cases in the whole of Co Durham. Please stay safe.

It gives me great pleasure to share some good news, as our friend and ex-colleague, Darren McMahon received an MBE in the Queens New Years Honors List for his work with young people and his work at PACT House. If ever anyone deserves this award, it is him. Congratulations Darren, and keep up the brilliant work you do in the community, thank you.

I would also like to thank once again, all those people in our communities who are looking after and supplying a much needed service to all our residents in need, a massive thank you to you all.

The Town Clerk noted that following the latest lockdown, access to the Civic Hall has been restricted to all members of staff who cannot undertake their roles from home, where staff can work from home they must do so, staff working from the Civic Hall must abide by the governments 2 meter guidelines at all times and all meetings internal and external are to be held virtually unless agreed by myself. Finally the use of the environmental services vehicle has been restricted to 2 members of staff at any one time.

The Town Clerk checked that all Members could hear, see and have all the meeting papers with them.

## 59 LEADER'S STATEMENT

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

We are still in unprecedented times because of COVID, we must follow the latest guidance, stay home and stay safe.

We will be discussing the budget later in the meeting, it has been difficult, but it is a balanced budget and we will be able to continue to support our community groups with this budget.

## 60 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

## 61 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 be **APPROVED** and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record:

**62 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr J Stephenson, seconded by Cllr G Binney and **RESOLVED** that Council **RECEIVE** the minutes of the Finance & GP Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**63 DOUBLE TAXATION REPORT**

It was proposed by Cllr B Nair, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** by unanimous recorded vote that the Council do nothing until CDALC provide their feedback on the issue.

**64 STANLEY FUND UPDATE**

Council **NOTED** the attached report.

**65 FLAGS**

It was suggested by Cllr C Marshall that the Council should be explicitly clear that the flag would be flown at half-mast if any of our current or previous serving Members passed away.

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr J Tully and **RESOLVED** that the Deputy Town Clerk look into the cost of good quality flags, how much it would cost for those listed in the report and much it would cost to repair or replace any we have in poor conditions.

**66 ENVIRONMENTAL CARETAKERS & NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS UPDATE REPORT**

Council **NOTED** the attached report provided by the Operations Manager.

**67 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC \* AGENDA  
ITEM 13 ONLY – FULL ORGANISATION REVIEW**

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: *Commercially sensitive information & discussion of personal information.*

**68 BUDGET 2021-2022 (FULL ORGANISATION REVIEW)**

*Please note at 19:34 pm Councillor Helen Clark left the meeting.*

It was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** unanimously that council **APPROVE** the staffing structure and allow the Town Clerk delegated responsibility to move the proposal to consultation stage.

It was proposed by Cllr M Davinson, seconded by Cllr L Timbey that the selection of the three Councillors for the appeal panel be held over until the next meeting.

**69 BUDGET 2021-2022**

It was proposed by Cllr L Timbey, seconded by Cllr J Stephenson and **RESOLVED** by majority recorded vote that:

- The precept for 2021/22 be set at +2.99%
- The Finance & General Purposes recommended budget be amended to take into account a £2,303 error – reduce the Community/Covid-19 Recovery Fund.
- The budget for 2021/22 be approved
- Town Mayor is authorised to sign the precept demand on behalf of the council.
- The deletion of the reserve pots be approved (EM Capital Reserve, EM Reserve Grant Fund, EM Reserve Stanley Masterplan and EM Reserve IT Replacement Fund) with all balances moved back to the general reserve.

**Voting**

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

**Abstain** – Cllrs C Bell, J Clark, J Nicholson, D Tully & J Tully.

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

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, 6.30pm, via Microsoft Teams