

MINUTES of the FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES MEETING of STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL held at Stanley Civic Hall on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: G Binney* H Clark A Clegg L Ferry
A Hanson J Kane A Jones J McMahon
S McMahon O Milburn J Nicholson D Tully

*Chairman

OFFICERS: Stuart Wardle (Interim Town Clerk)
Ann Barry (Finance Officer)
Alan Tubman (Deputy Town Clerk)

138 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were present

139 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

140 PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The meeting will be live streamed via the Stanley Town Council Youtube channel, and will be available for 6 months.

141 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present and no questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

142 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr A Clegg and seconded by Cllr S McMahon that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 12th October 2021 be **APPROVED** as a true record.

143 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND BANK RECONCILIATION

It was proposed by Cllr A Hanson and seconded by Cllr A Jones that all items are taken together and that the Council **APPROVE** the schedules of payments and receipts and **NOTE** the bank reconciliation for September 2021

144 GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

Members **NOTED** the report and the Risk Register, and it was recommended that the TOIL procedure is looked at by the Governance Group as a priority.

145

BUDGET SETTING UPDATE

The Interim Town Clerk provided members with a summary schedule of issues and priorities identified from the Members Budget Workshop held on 4th November 2021.

The priorities had been refined and presented to Finance and General Purposes Committee for approval and the basis of a priority budget to be presented to the Council for consideration for 2022/23 Financial Year.

The Interim Clerk, outlined that the Workshop had proved helpful in determining priorities for the Council both in the short term and longer term. These priorities had provided a baseline to which a number of core actions would be undertaken during current financial year and next year.

Based on the projected outturn from the Councils 2021/22 Budget approximately £60,000 would be available to allocate against the identified immediate priorities

It was suggested that the Council commence work on the following summary of key priorities during the current financial year and that these be developed during 2022/23. These will be used to inform and develop a rigorous and detailed review of the Councils priorities with the necessary information required to develop a sustainable longer term Priority & Medium Term Financial Plan (3-5 years post 2023)

Priority	Priority Budget Recommendations		Budget Allocation
Environment <i>Ensure our environment is clean, accessible and people feel proud where they live</i>	Pump prime new environmental projects	Longer term - Develop 3-5 year STC Priority Plan & MTFP	£5,000
Anti-social behaviour and crime <i>Tackle anti-social behaviour and crime</i>	Better Partnership Working with clear outcomes & achievements		
Establishment <i>Our staff are key to achieving our objectives</i>	Support Staff Team/Immediate Set aside funding for staff resource to meet immediate needs (NB contract short term support pending review to achieve priorities in MTFP) Develop workplan for establishment based on priorities		£20,000
Partnership Working, Community Engagement & Post Covid Community Support <i>Working with our partners and engaging with our community</i>	Develop a robust Community Engagement Plan/Strategy Review STC Strategic Grants programme Review Marketing & Communications Establish Community funding post - Joint (>£20k)		£20,000
Assets (Civic Hall)	Appoint D3 to update Civic report to assist in determining future priorities (>£10k)		£10,000
Sustainability & Climate Change - Carbon Footprint <i>Support climate change measures and reduce STC's carbon footprint</i>	Kickstart establishment of STC approach to Carbon Neutral		£2,000
Other Future Projects	Website Accessibility Introduce Performance Management Framework		£5,000
	TOTAL		

The Town Council had recently received confirmation of the Local Council Tax Relief contribution from Durham County Council which supported the process by an additional £4,000 more than anticipated, effectively adding £4,000 to the budget for 2022/23

Following detailed discussion and questions it was **RECOMMENDED** that the report be approved and that the priority budget recommendations outlined above be recommended to the Council for the 2021/22 budget and to be included in the 2022/23 precepting requirement.

146 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Streaming and recording of the meeting stopped at this point.

147 TOWN CLERK RECRUITMENT GROUP

Members **NOTED** the report, that the shortlisting of applicants for the Town Clerk position had taken place and 2 candidates were to be invited in for interview on Friday 19th November.

148 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 14th December 2021, 6.30 pm Civic Hall, Stanley.