

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCILHeld in Stanley Civic Hall on Tuesday 23rd November 2021 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: O Milburn* C Bell G Binney H Clark
K Coulson A Clegg L Ferry C Hampson
A Hanson A Jones J Kane C Marshall
M Martin S McMahan J Nicholson J Stephenson
M Thompson D Tully

*Chairman

OFFICERS: Stuart Wardle (Interim Town Clerk)
Alan Tubman (Deputy Town Clerk)
Nicola James (Events & Administration Support Officer)
Ann Barry (Finance Officer)
James Harper (Environmental Services Manager)

ABSENT: Cllr D Fall

149 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members **ACCEPTED** apologies from Cllr J McMahan.

150 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

151 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor had no announcements. Councillor Alan Jones requested to thank James Harper and the environmental team for their work planting bulbs at Greencroft.

The Deputy Town Clerk noted that the Council had recently had the following events in the Civic Hall – Blooming Good Fun, MMA, Stanley Learning Partnership, dance shows, casino nights, blood donors, DLI art exhibition. Stanley Starz have a pantomime coming up next week – A Little Bit Elfish. In 2022 we will have Cinderella from Timeless, a classical music night, a gospel choir night and fight nights. Outside of the Civic Hall we have recently held our remembrance services, and coming up we have our Christmas Light Switch on on 4 Dec, Panto starts on 15 Dec and on 19 Dec we have our community carol service at St Andrews.

152 LEADER'S STATEMENT

The Leader, Councillor Jeanette Stephenson, gave the following statement:

Evening everyone,
November has continued to be a very busy month. Work this month has been focused on the budget and on the website, as well as the STC pantomime. We have also undertaken a recruitment process and a report from the recruitment panel will be presented tonight for a decision by the Full Council.

Budget

All of us who were able to, attended the budget workshop where we had a great collaborative evening identifying the priorities for the council. This joint work has led to us being able to start to develop our MTP for the council, something we can all agree on to set the direction of travel for the Council. This has also allowed us to develop our budget and we have a report tonight facilitated by the Interim Clerk which will be considered by the Full Council.

Website

At the budget workshop our ITC identified a number of issues with the STC council website which on further investigation threw up a need for urgent action, these issues were about accessibility, security and functionality/design of our website. We have been able to attend to these issues swiftly and now have a plan in place firstly to refresh the current site which was very old and in need of an update and then at a later date have a new site developed, as this is our main means to communicating with our residents. At the end of the meeting we will have the site up on the big screen for people to have a look at the new design, work is still ongoing with regards to content.

Recruitment

We interviewed for the position of Stanley Town Council Clerk on the 19th November. A report will be tabled in Part B for discussion and decision.

Pantomime

The tickets are selling well but anyone who doesn't have theirs please see Alan Tubman our panto guru.

153 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions submitted prior to the meeting and no questions from the floor.

154 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr A Clegg, seconded by Cllr C Hampson and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 26th October 2021 be **APPROVED** and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

155 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr A Clegg, seconded by Cllr G Binney and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on the 12th October 2021 be **RECEIVED** by Council.

156 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & BANK RECONCILIATION

It was proposed by Cllr G Binney, seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the Council **APPROVE** the payment of accounts for September 2021, and **NOTE** the bank reconciliation for September 2021.

157 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Council **NOTED** the Election of Cllr Michael Martin in the Havannah Ward.

Cllr Tully had questioned the costs for by elections, the Finance Officer provided:

January 2018 £10,900

July 2018 £6497

Nov 2019 £6082

158 STANLEY MASTERPLAN

Deferred due to technical issues.

159 CIVIC HALL HEATING

Council requires a report on the building and what is needed. This report would then be submitted to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to try and access funding. The report will cost around £3000. Council **APPROVED** to combine the report with a review.

160 2021/22 & 2022/23 BUDGET UPDATE AND 2022/23 PRECEPT REQUIREMENT

The Interim Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer reported that a summary schedule of issues and priorities had been previously identified from the Members Budget Workshop held on 4th November 2021. These priorities had been refined and presented to Finance and General Purposes Committee for approval on 9th November 2021 and formed the basis of a priority budget to be presented to the Council for consideration for the 2022/23 Financial Year.

The Budget Workshop had proved helpful in determining the current budget position and the priorities for the Council both in the short term and longer term. These priorities had also provided a baseline to which a number of core actions could be undertaken during the 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 would 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).

The Interim Clerk also highlighted a number of key factors that would impact on current and future budgets i.e. inflation estimated at +5% and energy costs increasing +33%.which would impact across all areas of expenditure.

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		

Following detailed consideration it was proposed by Cllr J Stephenson, seconded by Cllr G Binney and **RESOLVED** unanimously that:

- i. the recommended priorities outlined above be adopted by the Council for the revised 2021/22 budget and to be included in the 2022/23 precepting requirement;
- ii. the Council agree to include an additional budget provision of £19,971 and to increase its Precept to £818,813.00 (2.5% increase) accordingly to support the above priorities and the development of a robust Medium Term Financial Plan for the Council;
- iii. it be noted that, the above increase would be offset as there had been a proposed increase in LCTRS grant of £2,528 from £105,597 (2021/22) to £108,135 (2022/23) and an increase in the Council Tax Base from £7,901.90 to £7,998.80
- iv. it be further noted that, the resultant Band D Council Tax charge would increase by £1.28 (1.26%) to £102.37 (2022/23) compared to £101.09 (2021/22)

161 CHRISTMAS OPENING/CLOSURE 2021/22

Council **NOTED** that the offices will be closing on 24th December 2021 and will reopen on 4th January 2022.

162 RISK REGISTER

Council **NOTED** the updated risk register. It was proposed by Cllr O Milburn, seconded by Cllr J Nicholson and **RESOLVED** that the Council will revisit the risk register in 6 months time.

163 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: *Staffing confidentiality*.

164 TOWN CLERK RECRUITMENT UPDATE

The Deputy Town Clerk noted that after receiving 4 applications for the Town Clerk post, there had been 2 successful applicants invited for interview however only 1 applicant was interviewed in the end.

It was proposed by Cllr J Stephenson, seconded by Cllr S McMahan and **RESOLVED** that the Council offer the position to the interviewed candidate and that the Interim Town Clerk be asked to continue on a month by month basis to ensure a smooth transition.

165 COMPLAINT – ALLEGED BREACH OF COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Council **NOTED** the alleged breach of code of conduct. Cllr C Marshall requested that if the complaint was about himself, the decision be brought to Council under Part A of the next meeting.

166 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 25th January 2022, 6.30pm, Stanley Civic Hall.