**MINUTES** of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES MEETING of STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL** held at **Stanley Civic Hall** on **Tuesday 10th May 2022** at **6.30pm**

**PRESENT**: G Binney\* H Clark A Clegg ∞ A Hanson § D Tully J McMahon L Ferry J Nicholson

 J Kane

\*Chairman § Vice-Chair Person ∞Ex-officio

**OFFICERS**: Helen Richardson (Town Clerk)

 Ann Barry (Finance Officer)

 Michelle Robertson (Events & Admin Support Officer)

 Peter Burns (Facilities & Events Officer

Cllr Binney welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed the meeting was being recorded and will be downloaded to YouTube for a period of at least 6 months.

**267** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr O Milburn and Cllr. S McMahon.

Cllr. A Jones was absent.

# 268 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

**269** **PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

No announcements from the Chair.

The Town Clerk requested the committee accept an apology for the error in the presented Agenda for 10th May 2022 meeting. First paragraph has the incorrect date. The correct Agenda was however posted to the website and in external notice boards.

The Town Clerk requested Councilor’s be aware ATTACHMENT E – Reserves has been removed from the agenda and will be discussed at the building review workshop on 11th May 2022.

The Town Clerk would like to clarify how the £192,646 year end, which is a significant surplus as a result of the Town Clerk resignation, which led to the lack of action on progressing items which would normally have incurred costs.

£60k - Civic Hall Project & Maintenance Budget.

£35.5k – Regeneration; in relation to the Stanley Master Plan.

£28k - Money Advice Service

£10k - across several Civic Hall nominal codes.

£30k - in relation grants.

£30k - Ticket Sales income underbudgeted due to COVID-19.

# 270 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

**271** **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Cllr. J Nicholson pointed out, for clarity, an inaccuracy in the minutes of Finance & General Purpose meeting which took place 12th April 2022.

Point 251 notes - “Cllr J Nicholson would be happy for each counsellor to have a funding pot of £1K each for their Ward and the rest go back into County Durham Community Foundation.”

Agreed that the minutes would be updated to reflect the accurate statement, as below.

“Cllr J Nicholson suggested she would be happy for each councilor to have £1000k each, 20 councilors would be £20k which would not be difficult for the council to manage. The surplus of £30k would then go back to Stanley Town Council Funds, which would be the beginning of a maintenance budget”.

It was proposed by Cllr. A Clegg, seconded by Cllr. L Ferry & **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 12th April 2022 be **APPROVED** and signed as a correct record.

**272** **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & BANK RECONCILIATION**

Cllr. H Clark queried how we reconcile the bank account on a monthly basis, as cannot follow the movements.

Finance Officer explained how to examine the reports, what information the Councillors should be looking at and where this can be found.

Cllr. H Clerk responded querying if this information is available online to view and for more clarity.

The Town Clerk suggests that the transactional information be redacted going forward, so this does not distract from the important information.

The Chair suggest a short statement is added so councilors and public understand what they are looking at.

It was proposed by Cllr A Hanson, seconded by Cllr. A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the committee **APPROVES** the payment of accounts for March 2022 and **NOTES** the bank reconciliation for March 2022.

**273 ACTION LOG**

The Town Clerk explained an Action Log had been created to track actions discussed at both Finance & General Purpose and Full Council meetings going forward, giving a full explanation how this is expected to be implemented.

There are currently two action points on the log.

1. Discussion with Durham Police regarding the two Police Vans.

**UPDATE** - this is still ongoing, the Town Clerk has been speaking to the accountant for the Police and Crime Commissioner, they are looking into either funding it or making it possible to remain as it is now, if this was the case, Stanley Town Council would not need to provide further funding for the current vans. The Police and Crime Commissioner is looking to see if there were any possible grants to support this and find a way forward for the satisfaction of both parties.

1. In relation to the actions regarding the Stanley Community Fund, the Town Clerk confirmed the a representative had been asked to come to a meeting following their report and further request for funding. This had not happened and Councillors had been asked to forward any questions that they had to the Clerk who would forward them to the Fund for response, this had happened but given the further funding request, Councillors wished for a representative to attend. The Town Clerk confirmed she would go back to the Fund and ask for their attendance at Full Council in June.

The discussion was **NOTED**.

# 274 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

 Streaming and recording of the meeting stopped at this point.

**275**  **INSURANCE UPDATE**

Committee is requested to **NOTE** the report.

# 276 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

 Tuesday 14th June 2022, 6.30pm, Stanley Civic Hall.