

MINUTES of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held at The Venue, Stanley on Friday 22nd March 2019 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: C Hampson* C Marshall D Marshall J McMahon
L Timbey H Clark J Tully D Tully
J Stephenson J Nicholson M Davinson

*Chairman

OFFICERS: Alan Shaw (Town Clerk)
Nicola James (Senior Administration Officer)
James Harper (Operations Manager)
Alan Tubman (Deputy Town Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: 80 members of the Public, Rt Hon Kevan Jones MP, Insp Dave Stewart and Michelle Cooper (CDCF)

1 WELCOME ADDRESS FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

In the absence of the Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting for 2019. She noted she was pleased to see so many in attendance.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Joe Wilson (Tanfield Lea Community Centre), Olga Milburn (DCC Councillor), Patricia Cockburn, Maria Farrell (Tanfield Lea School), Belinda Snow and The Activity Den were received.

3 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 17th April 2018.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting on 17th April 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

4 WELCOME FROM THE LEADER OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

The leader of Stanley Town Council made the following welcome:

As Leader of Stanley Town Council could I welcome you all this evening. Unfortunately, our Mayor Alex Clegg cannot be present - it is a difficult time for Alex due to his health problems. He has done a sterling job as the Public Face of Stanley Town Council. On behalf of the Town Council I would like to record our appreciation for the work he has undertaken.

Our aim is to offer a better deal for the people of Stanley. It has been a challenge to bring the Council onto a firm financial foot. The Council now has a Medium Term Plan in place to establish a successful and financially stable Council. This has involved introducing a fully costed staffing structure with evaluated Job Descriptions, all Staff and Trade Unions have been involved in the process. The Council have introduced a Living Wage Policy for all Staff and signed The Dying in work Pledge and we ensure all Staff are involved in Council Development, their views matter.

The Environmental Caretakers are back in house, they are doing a great job tackling local environmental projects and are working hard to improve the area. We have employed Stanley's own Neighbourhood Wardens, complimenting the Service already provided by Durham County Council.

A full programme of Community Activities has been provided by the Council
Play in the Park - Fun for all the Family
Ever popular Firework Display attended by 6000 (thousand)
Armed Forces Day
World War I Commemoration
In Bloom
Christmas / lights
Christmas Carol Service

The Council is giving support to Local Organisations Including Investment in Youth/ Children. The Council has taken a brave step- We are for the first time developing a Long Term Plan on Grant Funding which will allow funding of core costs for organisations such as Cricket Clubs, Football Clubs, Village Halls in a straight forward none bureaucratic way which the Council will be a partner but not fully control. The Council is committed to ensuring that funding is available year on year for voluntary organisations who contribute so much to the success of Stanley. To achieve this a Stanley Fund has been set up with several people providing money for the project, including our MP Kevan Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg, Durham Counties Local Strategic Partnership and this council.

How Groups can get this money will be explained later in this meeting.

We intend to continue to help those in our community who are caught up in austerity financial difficulties by
Funding of Advice Services
Pact House
Just for Women
SHAID
Bring together all identifiable providers in our area to avoid duplication.

The Council has a Civic Hall Task Group undertaking a review of the past year's activity, and looking along with Civic Hall Staff, at a future programme of events in the Alun Armstrong Theatre. Bringing a Cinema to Stanley- Ready to Go
A programme of Live Shows being developed

3 local organisations all benefited from having annual shows in the theatre this year

Stanley Starz
Oxhill Youth Club
South Moor Theatrical Society

The Council continues to look after our heritage Miners Memorials with remembrance services organised and support given to the Miners Banner Groups.
WWI Commemoration Beacon provided on the Front Street which can be used for all celebrations in the Council area.
Support is been given to all War Memorial Services in the Area

We have introduced financial reporting that enable Councillors and the Public to have a clear picture of where the money is going, provides early indications of under/ over budget expenditure so corrective action can be made where necessary.

We are committed to becoming a Quality Status Council in two years.

Then back to the beginning with a review of the Medium Term Plan.

5 OVERVIEW OF EXPENDITURE 2018/19

The Town Clerk outlined a brief overview of the Town Councils expenditure in 2018/19 and advised that there would be a full breakdown in the Annual Report.

6 LAUNCH OF THE STANLEY FUND

Michelle Cooper introduced the new Stanley Fund. This will be launching in April for Community Groups and Charities to apply for the £120,000 funding that is available. Residents, business owners and community groups will be invited to be on the panel along with the Town Council, to help decide where the money will be provided. The CDCF will manage the process, which will include a simple form to be completed, found at CDCF.org.uk.

Rt Hon Kevan Jones MP thanked the Town Council for their contribution towards the Stanley Fund. The fund will enable the work that Community Groups carry out to be sustainable and will support the local area.

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council have invested £50,000 into the £120,000 fund.

7 STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL STRATEGIC GRANT FUND

The Town Clerk noted that the Town Council have introduced a new Strategic Grant Fund in place of previous years Members Initiative Fund. There is £35,000 available in the Strategic Grant Fund which can be provided for projects up to £2000 maximum. This fund will also be launched in April with the first call out for applications being 1 April - 31 May.

8 PLANS FOR 2019/20

The Town Clerk advised of the events and services that the Council will provide in 2019/20 which includes; Play in the Park, Armed Forces, Miners Sunday, Fireworks, Christmas events, Remembrance events, Memorials events, Advice in County Durham,

Detached Youth, Just for Women, PACT House, Stanley in Bloom, Neighbourhood Warden service and Environmental Caretaker service.

9 **OPEN FORUM**

The Deputy Town Mayor opened the floor to questions from the public which included:

Kevin Howe - Has the Town Council thought about taking over the Market in Stanley?

The Town Clerk noted that the contract is coming for renewal in 2021 and that the Town Council could look into it at that time.

Is the Town Council offering anything for children with Special Needs?

Kevin Howe suggested contacting Durham Works. The Deputy Town Mayor offered her support where possible.

Ron Harrison - Is the Council going to bring back the Mini Police?

Insp Dave Stewart advised he will look into this as it is a Police initiative.

Kevin Howe - Has there been a risk assessment carried out at McDonalds re: security?

The Town Council will ask this question.

Pauline Gill - There are safety concerns with youths around the front street.

Insp Dave Stewart noted that since recent events, the Police are prepared for any spikes in ASB in the future. Perceptions are usually worse than the reality.

Allotment queries - these were directed to DCC Cllr Carl Marshall at the close of the meeting.

10 **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting was closed by the Deputy Town Mayor.