

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held at Stanley Civic Hall, Front Street, Stanley on Tuesday 28th July 2015 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr J Nicholson* Cllr C Bell Cllr J Charlton Cllr D McMahon
Cllr W Nixon Cllr T Davinson Cllr L Elliott Cllr D Mills
Cllr M Wilkinson Cllr B Nair Cllr C Thompson Cllr D Tully
Cllr D Walker Cllr R Harrison Cllr L Marshall Cllr D Marshall
Cllr R Ferris

*Chairman

OFFICERS: Alan Shaw (Town Clerk)
Derek Shingleton (Finance Manager)
Nicola James (PA to the Town Clerk)

STC.44-15 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllrs A Clegg, G Graham and C McKee were accepted by the Council.

STC.45-15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Bell declared an interest as Chair of the Traders Association. Cllr Charlton declared an interest as a member of Durham County Council.

STC.46-15 PROCEDURAL AND APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman expressed her thanks to Cllrs D McMahon & D Mills and the rest of the Moria Con team for arranging an incredibly successful event that had brought a real buzz to the town and raised the profile of both Stanley Town Council and the Civic Hall within the region. She congratulated them for a wonderful job.

STC.47-15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance. No written questions were submitted prior to the meeting.

STC.48-15 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr B. Nair, seconded by Cllr C. Bell and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23rd June 2015 be approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

Minute #STC.34-15 “**RESOLVED** that the Council continue their subscription with NEREO until the Town Clerk can explore alternative providers”

STC.49-15 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 2nd June 2015 be received.

The minutes of the Crime and Community Committee held on Safety on 3rd June 2015 be received.

The minutes of Communications and Events Committee held on 9th June 2015 be received.

The minutes of Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 16th June 2015 be received.

STC.50-15 COMMUNICATIONS FOR DECISION

(i)(i) Closure of St Aidan's Church, Annfield Plain

enquiries Following a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr L. Marshall, seconded by Cllr D Walker and **RESOLVED** that Council have no objection in relation to the closure of the Church. Members requested the Clerk to make enquiries with the Diocese as to what their plans were for the Morrison Busty Memorial in the grounds of the Church after the closure.

(i)(ii) Highways Consultation

relation Following a discussion, **RESOLVED** that Council has no objection in relation to the proposed de-restriction of speed limits on the A693.

STC.51-15 COUNCIL IT EQUIPMENT - MEMBERS

Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr L. Marshall, seconded by Cllr D. Walker and **RESOLVED** that members should be issued with iPads and required accessories (cases, keyboards etc) and future Council Agendas and papers would be disseminated by electronic means. The purchase of this equipment is to be funded from underspending in other areas.

STC.52-15 CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr W. Nixon, seconded by Cllr C. Bell and **RESOLVED** that Council adopt the recommended Chairman's Award Scheme Policy, but the Policy be amended to allow up to 3 awards from the 10 shortlisted nominations, with the remainder receiving certificates.

STC.53-15 REQUESTS FOR GRANT FUNDING

(i) South Moor Juniors FC

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that Council would decline the request for funding.

(ii) **Joan Dodds**

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that Council would decline the request for funding.

STC.54-15 REVIEW OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS

The Town Clerk presented his report to Members. It was proposed by Cllr D. Marshall, seconded by Cllr B. Nair and **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be authorised to review the areas detailed in the report, with recommendations to be brought forward to Council for consideration in September. It was further **RESOLVED** that Council should set a medium term objective to bring its policies and procedures up to the standard required by the Local Councils Award Scheme Quality Gold Standard.

STC.55-15 REVIEW OF COUNCIL FINANCE IT

It was proposed by Cllr D. Mills, seconded by Cllr B. Nixon and **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be authorised to procure the RBS financial system and migrate the current year accounts to it.

STC.56-15 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 that the Council would exclude the press and public on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

STC.57-15 STAFFING MATTERS

Mills, (i) **Assistant Manager** - Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr D. seconded by Cllr R. Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the Council would **APPROVE** the terms of the settlement proposed in the report of the Town Clerk and delegate authority to the Clerk to progress the matter.

Cllr C Bell left the meeting at 8.30pm.

R. (ii) **Civic Hall Manager** – It was proposed by Cllr W. Nixon, seconded by Cllr Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the Civic Hall Manager would be awarded an honorarium temporarily to bring her salary to equivalency with Spinal Column Point 32. This arrangement will be reviewed after the Business Plan for the Civic Hall has been put to Council for consideration.

STC.58-15 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 22nd September 2015, 6.30pm, Stanley Civic Hall