**MINUTES** of the **FULL COUNCIL** of **STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL** held at **Stanley Civic Hall** on **Tuesday 24 January 2023** at **6.30pm**

**O Milburn**§ **A Clegg\*** G Binney H Clark L Ferry A Hanson C Hampson A Jones C Marshall S McMahon D Tully J Nicholson

Cllr. C Bell J Stephenson

\*Chairman § Vice-Chairman

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

Karen Snowdon (Events and Admin Support Officer)

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the meeting would not be live streamed via the Stanley Town Council YouTube channel on this occasion.

**151.** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members **RECEIVED** apologies from Cllr K Wilson, J Kane, J McMahon and M Thompson. Cllr. D Fall and M Martin were absent.

**152.** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Town Councillor’s G Binney, A Hanson, C Hampson, C Marshall, S McMahon, J Nicholson and C Bell all declared an interest as County Councillors in relation to agenda item 13 as it was believed the transfer of allotments to Stanley Town Council may have a detrimental impact upon the Town Council.

**153.** **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor updated members on the engagement’s he had attended last month, namely the Carol Service at St Andrews which had been a great success.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the November budget had been agreed which would continue to further support local organisations. The previous agreement to increase the budget by 1% was no longer required as on liaising with those organisations who received financial assistance from the Town Council, Stars Youth and Community CIC had declined the Town Councils very kind offer of support as they felt that following the past investment from the Town Council, they felt their organisation were now able to proceed without it. Therefore the Precept request would be submitted without the 1% rise.

**154.** **LEADERS STATEMENT**

Cllr Jeanette Stephenson thanked all the staff who had gone above and beyond their call of duty in covering the pantomime season and making sure it ran smoothly.

She expressed her disappointment with regards to the failed levelling up bid.

**155.** **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

**156. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr G Binney, and seconded by Cllr C Hampson and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 22nd November 2022 be **APPROVED** and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

**157.** **RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that Council **RECEIVE** the minutes from the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 8th November 2022.

**158.**  **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was proposed by Cllr A Hanson, and seconded by Cllr S McMahon and **RESOLVED** that the payments and bank reconciliation for November 2022 be **NOTED** and **APPROVED**.

**159.** **INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS**

These were **NOTED** and **APPROVED**.

**160.** **QUARTER 2 BUDGET MONITOR REPORTS**

These were **NOTED** and **APPROVED**.

**161.** **NOTIFICATION OF TAX BASE, LOCAL COUNCIL REDUCTION SCHEME**

**GRANT ALLOCATION AND REQUEST FOR PRECEPT 23/24**

Members **NOTED** the correspondence received from Durham County Council.

**162. PARISH MEMBER RECRUITMENT FOR DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Members **NOTED** the correspondence from CDALC.

**163. BUILDING UPDATE**

The Town Clerk confirmed she had met with the Building Working Group and it was **RECOMMENDED** that we move forward with submitting our notice period to Durham County Council on the Civic Hall building and the working group supported the Town Clerk in commencing the task of looking for new premises for the Town Council.

The Town Clerk went on to explain about the Civic Hall issues/staffing structure and that despite the setbacks, the running of Stanley Town Council and the Civic Hall had been maintained. It was requested that a report is produced each month with an update.

It was **AGREED** that the Notice period would be submitted on the 1st February 2023 thus taking occupation up to 31st January 2024. It was also **AGREED** that no large events would be undertaken after the 31st July 2023.

**NEW PREMISES**

The Town Clerk informed the Council that she had viewed a possible new office on Beamish Street, although this property was for let. Consideration would need to be given to whether the Town Council wished to purchase a property or go with the letting option, however it may be that this property could be used as a stepping stone to a future purchasing solution.

**164 ALLOTMENTS**

After an open discussion it was **APPROVED** to “start a conversation” with DCC but it has come to light that a lot more background checks and information needs to be gathered from DCC. The Town Clerk will request a special meeting with DCC to discuss : land ownership – (garages) – funding – staff etc.

**165. EVENTS**

A request for external events to continue with an external company (Hilary Events) for another year due to no staff; this was **AGREED**.

**166.** **DATE, TIME, AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 28th February 2023, 6.30pm, Stanley Civic Hall.

**167.**  **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

To **RESOLVE** that under Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during 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 of excluding the public and press for the consideration of the following items: Discussion falls under the Data Protection Act 2018*

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**PART B**

**168.** **UPDATE FROM STAFFING WORKING GROUP**

**169.** **PANTOMINE UPDATE**

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