
MINUTES of the FULL COUNCIL of STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL held at Craghead Village Hall on Tuesday 24th October 2023 at 6.30pm

O Milburn* L Ferry D Tully A Jones G Binney
A Clegg S McMahon C Hampson J Stephenson

* Chairman § Vice-Chairman

OFFICERS: James Harper (Environment Services Team Leader - ESTL)
 Alex Ferry (Events & Administration Support Officer)

GUEST

SPEAKERS: Sam Roberts Pryor & Rickett Silviculture

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

76/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members **RECEIVED** apologies from Locum Town Clerk Dianne Rickaby, C Marshall, J McMahon, A Hanson, H Clark, J Nicholson and C Bell. Cllrs K Wilson, D Fall, J Kane, M Thompson and M Martin were absent.

77/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

78/23 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Town Mayor had no announcements but did update members on a recent event she had attended at Tanfield Village. A brass band competition which was an excellent showcase for our area and urged that if we were able to help, she recommends that we do.

79/23 LEADER'S STATEMENT

There is no update from the Leader of the Council.

80/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Cllr O Milburn requested a holding letter be sent to the two members of the public who have contacted STC recently, to acknowledge their contact.

81/23 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was then proposed by Cllr A Clegg and seconded by Cllr G Binney that the Minutes of the Ordinary Full Meeting of 26th September 2023 be **APPROVED** as a true record.

82/23 GREENCROFT FOREST PARK

Sam Roberts from Pryor Rickett Silviculture attended to answer questions from councilors and provide insight into the Forest Park projects impact on our community.

Stanley Town councilors and ESTL expressed their concerns over Anti-Social behaviour In our area, the Forest Park project area could be an appealing location for such activities. STC advised that Pryor Ricketts Silviculture should have a discussion with the local police force, to seriously consider the anti-social behavior in the area particularly around offroad bikes.

STC were also keen to confirm again their support for this project and the positive impact it will have on our community.

Sam Roberts left the meeting 19.02pm

83/23 LOCUM CLERK UPDATE

Apologies received from Dianne Rickaby; update will be circulated to members.

84/23 EVENTS UPDATE

A verbal update was given by the ESTL (Environmental Team Leader) and Events & Administration Support Officer.

Events working group met and had a successful meeting, main discussing point is if members wish for the events to continue with an external contractor or for this to be brought in house, these discussions on going and members will be updated on this in due course.

An additional event, to the council's program, which is being discussed is the 80th Anniversary of D Day, which takes place 6th June 2024. Information which has been circulated from a national event plan for all councils, is to light a beacon at 9.15pm. We are looking at the possibility of this being one single event or making this a bigger event leading up to the lighting of the beacon.

Members agreed further investigations and discussions to take place, councils please feed any thought to the Events Working Group.

Scott Hilary of AH Events has requested the council members to consider a change of date for the Christmas Lights switch on, from Saturday 2nd December to Friday 1st December. Due to the availability of better quality entertainment on Friday, which would include local school choirs.

ESTL' main concern was if DCC were available for the Friday, but they have confirmed they can, we must confirm at time for this.

Members agreed the date can be changed, and stressed advertising needs to be organized in good time.

Events and Admin Support Officer confirmed wreaths for Remembrance Services were ready to be collected.

85/23 NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Report received and circulated to members.

86/23 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & BANK RECONCILIATION

It was proposed by Cllr. G Binney and seconded by Cllr. S McMahon to **APPROVE** the Schedule of Payments and Receipts and **NOTE** the Bank Reconciliation & Bank Balances for September 2023.

87/23 QUARTER 2 BUDGET MONITOR REPORT

Members **NOTED** the report.

88/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The council **RESOLVED** to **RECEIVE** the planning applications and no objections have been made.

89/23 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS & POLLING STATIONS

No comments from members.

90/23 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Members have had an opportunity to view the updated policy draft documents which now show where amendments have been made.

Cllr. S McMahon pointed out that a previously noted error in the Financial Regulations document, Page 10, has still not been amended.

The Chair requested all members keep their copies of policy documents for further discussion.

91/23 TRANSFER OF ALLOTMENTS TO STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr. J Stephen provided an update to the transfer of the Allotments.

Transition discussions with DCC have taken place regarding the different models available to show how this will work in practice.

There is an opportunity for the associations of the allotment holders for each of the different areas to be involved in the model we will use going forward.

We raised that there was insufficient time for STC to be able to take the step of completely taking this on by the 1st April 2024.

Therefore, after some discussion DCC have agreed to support us in the year long transition period. Nothing will change except that they are now our responsibility. It will be put into writing that we will be taking the allotments on, DCC will support us on the admin side. We will develop an Allotments Working Group and, an allotments committee including representatives from each of the associations to feed into the process over the next year. This would mean engagement with the associations, instead of imposing a new model of working.

92/23 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

All opportunities have been circulated to members.

93/23 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 28th NOVEMBER 2023 at 6.30pm: The Green House, Greencroft.
Councilor Surgery will be held **by** at 5:30pm

94/23 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.

Streaming and recording of the meeting was stopped at this point.

Justification of excluding the public and press for the consideration of the following items in Part B as discussion falls under the Data Protection Act 2018.

PART B

95/23 HR COMMITTEE

The recruitment process for Chief Officer is ongoing – interviews will be held 10th November 2023.

The meeting finished at 19.35 hours.

SIGNED



Cllr Olga Milburn
STC Town Mayor