

MINUTES of the FULL COUNCIL of STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL held at Stanley Civic Hall on Tuesday 25th April 2023 at 6.30pm

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

* Chairman § Vice-Chairman

OFFICERS: Ann Barry (Responsible Finance Officer)
James Harper (Environment Team Leader)
Karen Snowdon (PA & Business Support Officer)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and **CONFIRMED** that the meeting is being recorded and will be live streamed via the Stanley Town Council YouTube channel.

197. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members **RECEIVED** apologies from Cllrs K Wilson, C Bell and A Jones. Cllrs M Martin and M Thompson were absent.

198. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Helen Clark **DECLARED** declarations of interest for Part B – 16. Apprenticeships.

199. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mayor proudly announced that at the Awards & Civic Dinner, £415 was raised for the charity, Red Sky Foundation.

It was **NOTED** that the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) is standing in on behalf of the Town Clerk for today's meeting, in which she raised the following points and amendments:

- (i) Item 7 - Councilors to feedback on what was discussed.
- (ii) Item 9 - to agree the Audit Plan.
- (iii) Part B - newly submitted papers are to be distributed prior to part B.
- (iv) Part B - one item is to be moved by sequence.

200. LEADERS' STATEMENT

Cllr Jeanette Stephenson had nothing to address, outside of the Agenda.

201. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Three members of the public attended this evening's Council Meeting. They advised that they were unable to find the relevant paperwork on STC's website, in conjunction with live streaming issues. It was **AGREED** that this matter be rectified.

202. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Reference was made to item 7 of the previous Minutes (Part B - 195) in which the verbal update information for Events was not received and therefore it was removed from the Minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr C Hampson and seconded by Cllr A Clegg and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 28th February 2023 be approved as a true record.

203. RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was proposed that Council receive the Minutes from the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 14th February 2023 and be **APPROVED** as a true record.

204. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & BANK RECONCILIATION

It was proposed by Cllr Binny and seconded by Cllr Hanson, and **RESOLVED** that all items are taken together and that the Council **APPROVE** the schedule of payments and receipts, and **NOTE** the bank reconciliation for both February 2023 and March 2023.

205. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS *

The RFO referenced that the Audit Plan report is a recommendation in that we **AGREE** to a one-year audit from Gordon Fletcher until priorities of the Council are agreed. The Audit Plan report was **NOTED** and **APPROVED** and thus be submitted as a one-year audit.

206. BUILDING UPDATE

The ETL **CONFIRMED** that the Beamish Street building / estate agency is no longer available for renting and the Front Street office for renovating would be of a high cost to the Council. The ETL **NOTED** that there are other office properties available on the current market of which will be looked into.

Council considered the report as well and it was **AGREED** further investigation is to be carried out by the ETL and reported back to Council.

Cllr Stephenson **NOTED** that as we already have a Building Working Group, we could expand on this group and utilize, if needed.

207. EVENTS

The ETL gave a verbal update following a meeting of the Events Working Group - this included Play in the Parks, Coronation arrangements, Armed Forces Day, Miners Sunday and Louisa Memorial event.

It was **AGREED** the Working Group provide Council with further information as and when they meet. Careful thought was asked to be considered in regard to Miners Sunday and the Louisa Memorial.

208. ALLOTMENTS

Update noted. It was **AGREED** to continue discussions with DCC and as and when information becomes available, this is to be brought back to the Town Council for consideration.

209. CITIZENS ADVICE COUNTY DURHAM (CACD)

Members **NOTED** the report from CACD.

210. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 6.30pm - Civic Hall Stanley .

The AGM will be combined with the Full Ordinary Council Meeting.

211. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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**212. TOWN CLARK RESIGNATION****213. HONORARIUM****214. APPRENTICESHIPS****215. LGRC****216. HR WORKING COMMITTEE****217. BAD DEBT**

DEFERRED PART A**218. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS ***

219. FUTURE MEETINGS

It was recommended by the RFO to merge the Finance & General Practice meeting with the Ordinary Full Council meeting as an interim arrangement until a new Town Clerk is recruited. This was **proposed** by Cllr Binney **seconded**, by Cllr Clark and **RESOLVED** to accept the merger.

The meeting finished at 20:15 hours and Cllr Milburn thanked everyone for their attendance.
