

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

O Milburn*	L Ferry	D Tully	A Hanson	G Binney
A Clegg §	S McMahon	J Stephenson	M Thompson	J Kane
	J Nicholson	J McMahon		

* Chairman § Vice-Chairman

OFFICERS: Dianne Rickaby (Locum Town Clerk – LTC)
 Ann Barry (Responsible Finance Officer - RFO)
 James Harper (Environment Services Team Leader - ESTL)
 Karen Snowdon (PA & Business Support Officer)

GUEST

SPEAKERS: Stacey Dobson Karbon Homes
 Paul Moralee Karbon Homes

PUBLIC: W Nixon

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

35/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members **RECEIVED** apologies from Cllrs K Wilson, C Marshall, C Bell, H Clark and C Hampson. Cllrs A Jones and M Martin were absent.

36/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Allotments – Cllr Nicholson

37/23 KARBON HOMES

Stacey Dobson gave a power-point presentation on the background of Karbon Homes and their new project/purchase of the Old School building along Front Street in Stanley.

An open discussion was held and even though the project is in the early stages, STC would very much like to be involved and it is a welcomed opening to work together. SD confirmed that the site will be filled with mixed opportunities for all the community; similar to Chester-Le-Street's success.

38/23 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

None.

39/23 LEADER'S STATEMENT

None.

40/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of the public attended this evening's Council Meeting.

No letters were received from the public.

41/23 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Reference was made to J Kane being marked as absent in the previous Ordinary Full Minutes (27.06.2023) in which he had sent in his apologies. This was **NOTED**.

It was then proposed by Cllr J Stephenson and seconded by Cllr A Clegg that the Minutes of the Ordinary Full Meeting of 23rd June 2023 be **APPROVED** as a true record.

The Mayor signed the Minutes.

42/23 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & BANK RECONCILIATION

The report was proposed by Cllr Binney and seconded by Cllr Kane that the Council **APPROVE** the schedule of payments and receipts, and **NOTED** the bank reconciliation for June 2023.

43/23 QTR1 MONITORING

The RFO presented QTR 1 Monitoring report projecting an underspend against budget. There are still several unknowns at this early stage in the year, with additional spend and savings relating to the office move, are expected.

44/23 LCTRS GRANT

On referring to attachment E.1/2 the RFO noted that the Grant will be reduced by 50% over 2 years. If the proposal goes ahead STC will see a reduction of £27,887 each year for the next 2 years equivalent to 2.6% increase in precept to maintain a standstill position.

The Deputy Mayor, LTC and RFO attended the seminar last week. If there are any comments or feedback on this subject, please let the LTC know so it can be brought up in the next Grant Forum.

(Attachment E.2/2 on CDCF was referred to in short with the LTC noting that financial regulations will be updated in September.)

45/23 BUILDING UPDATE

Referring to the LTC's report of yesterday, she recapped the background and gave an overview of suitable offices, and how the conclusion to Greenhouse Business Centre came about.

With the Lead Councillor and the LTC having full authority on this decision, the contract at Greenhouse has been signed. As the last event at Civic Hall is the end of July, STC can design and decide how best to promote the move, through media, internet and leaflets.

It was **NOTED** that the office move will take place within the next few weeks however, it was **CONFIRMED** that there would still be a staff presence at Civic Hall which will be maintained until the end of the contract with DCC.

If Councillors wish to visit Greenhouses, it is an open building – however we would ask that Councillors and members of the public call ahead, if possible.

46/23 POLICIES & PROCEDURES UPDATE

Apologies but these Policies need to be discussed at a Working Group of which a meeting is to be set up primarily. Cllr Hanson confirmed a 3 / 2 split; Cllr Clegg and Cllr Nicholson both wished to be part of this group.

47/23 EVENTS UPDATE

The ESTL went through the list of events held in July as being several dance shows, Confidence UK and timeless theatre events.

The outdoor events for Play in the Park are programmed for :

Saturday 5th August – Oakies Park
Wednesday 9th August – Greenland Primary
Saturday 12th August – Tanfield Park
Saturday 19th August – Annfield Plain
Wednesday 23rd August – Craghead

and

Miners Sunday 20th August 2023
Louisa Morrison Pit Disaster Memorial 23rd August 2023

The Northumbria in Bloom judges were well received and enjoyed the show that was put on for them, including a Tanfield Train ride. Besides the Portfolios, a BOB booklet was handed out as a keepsake. This booklet is to be added to the Library. A copy was also circulated for all Councillors to view.

The LTC congratulated the ESTL and his team on how hard they had worked on this event.

48/23 ALLOTMENTS

STC are still waiting for legal elements from DCC.

49/23 DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

The policy needs to be approved so the process to relinquish assets can commence. A copy of the DCC assets will be **NOTED** and a detailed spreadsheet has been created to log all details.

After a short discussion, a show of hands by everyone in **ACCEPTANCE** was given.

50/23 MEMBERS INITIATIVE FUND

The ESTL gave a short explanation following the question raised by the public at a previous meeting. This will be discussed at the next Budget settings, if Council would like to bring the Fund back.

51/23 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 26th September 2023 at 6.30pm : venue TBA

52/23 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

53/23 STAFFING UPDATE

54/23 RECRUITMENT – new Town Clerk

The meeting finished at 20.15 hours.

SIGNED



Cllr Olga Milburn
STC Town Mayor