
MINUTES of the FULL COUNCIL of STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL held at Stanley Civic Hall on Tuesday 28th February 2023 at 6.30pm

O Milburn* G Binney H Clark L Ferry A Hanson
C Hampson A Jones D Tully J Stephenson C Bell

*Chairman § Vice-Chairman

OFFICERS: Helen Richardson (Town Clerk)
Ann Barry (Finance Officer)
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.

179. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members **RECEIVED** apologies from Cllrs A Clegg §, K Wilson, J Kane, J McMahon, S McMahon, M Thompson and J Nicholson. Cllrs C Marshall, D Fall and M Martin were absent.

180. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Board members of AAP to **NOTE** that some matters in this meeting may be contradictable.

181. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the recent death of the Cllr Beaty Bainbridge, the Chair of Durham County Council, the Deputy Town Mayor sent condolences to her family on behalf of Stanley Town Council.

182. LEADERS STATEMENT

Cllr J Stephenson confirmed that she had not prepared a statement as most items for discussion were already on the agenda.

183. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

184. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr G Binny and seconded by Cllr A Hanson and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 24th January 2023 be **APPROVED** and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

185. RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that Council **RECEIVE** the minutes from the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 13th December 2022.

186. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & BANK RECONCILIATION

Council **APPROVED** the payments for both December 2022 and January 2023 and the bank reconciliation for December 2022 and January 2023 were **NOTED**.

187. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS

The Town Clerk read paragraph 12 highlighting one issue in which The Policy Working Group had not met to review policies and was to be reinstated. This was **APPROVED** and that 2 more Councillors were to join the working group. An email is to be sent out by The Town Clerk for further interest.

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

188. TANFIELD LEA MEMORIAL

It was **NOTED** that there would be no cost to us for building the new memorial, however if it was damaged then each claim has a £100 fee, which would be payable by Stanley Town Council. Confirmation on who would upkeep the said memorial is still to be decided. The Town Clerk is to have a further meeting with AAP.

189. ST CUTHBERTS CROSS

As above and, a suggestion was made that perhaps DCC maintain the outer pathways and STC maintain the grass area, with Bloom team concentrating on the flowers. The seating structure requires more clarification and overall it was felt that this structure would be too large to take on, both in staffing and costs for maintenance. Again, it was **CONFIRMED** that The Town Clerk is to have a meeting with AAP, and in addition, for contingency funding to be requested. .

190. BUILDING UPDATE

The Town Clerk referred to the report on the Civic Hall and that the heating is now back on; however it is **NOTED** that the engineer confirmed this is only a temporary measure. The Town Clerk **CONFIRMED** that we are still waiting for information from the DCC as our 12 months' notice has been served.

The Town Clerk also **CONFIRMED** that both casual and permanent staff are aware that the notice period has been given and that DCC HR will advise in time, in relation to the re-structure.

It was **NOTED** that we need to move further along with plans on the new premises – the owners of the building were awaiting information from the surveyors report they had requested; a further report will be available at next month's meeting, or sooner if to hand.

191. EVENTS

It was **AGREED** to roll over the contract to Alan Hillary Events for 2023/2024.

For the Events team in Civic Hall, questions were raised about the portion of staff being 2 x vacancy covering and 1 x long term sick covering (16 hours). The Town Clerk pointed out that this was within Budget.

The Town Clerk **SUGGESTED** a street party in the Civic Hall to mark the King's Coronation in May, which was **APPROVED** by the Finance and General Purposes Meeting earlier this month. Funding will need to be applied for by the Town Clerk.

192. ALLOTMENTS

The Town Clerk met with the various Allotment Associations last week and several concerns were raised. On the 15th March a meeting with DCC is being held and feedback will be given at the next meeting, with the main subject of assets, staffing and budget re Allotments. It was **NOTED** that there was a specific concern in relation to East Stanley.

It was highlighted that New Kyo Partnership in particular have received lots of different letters and it was **CONFIRMED** that a copy of each is to be given to The Town Clerk, for reference.

Following discussion's it was agreed that the workshop diarised to discuss Council priorities should be cancelled and rearranged once further information regarding allotments is sought, if these are to be a priority moving forward.

193. DATE, TIME, AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

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

194. 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.

195. EVENTS

The Clerk updated the meeting in relation to an issue that had arose in reference to an event that had been booked for a future date. The Council **NOTED** the information provided by the Town Clerk. [REDACTED]

196. STAFFING

The Council were updated in relation to staffing.