

STAVELEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of Staveley Town Council held at 6.15 pm on Tuesday, 28 November 2023 at Staveley Hall.

Present:

Councillors	B Bingham	P Jacobs	E Tidd (Chair)
	J Bingham	P Mann	
	C Chambers	A Ogle	
	J Collins	D Parsons	
	B Dyke	D Rhodes	
	C Jackson	K Thornton	

In attendance: Mrs S Doherty (Town Clerk), Mr N Taylor (Chair of the Staveley Town Council Improvement Board) and 5 members of public.

2324-56 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors S Bean, J Ridgway and P Wilson.

2324-57 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor D Rhodes declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 13b, Edge Ministries CIL application, as he worked with them closely on community activities.

2324-58 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

2324-59 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that she had attended the festival of Remembrance at the Winding Wheel and extended a thanks to the organiser.

She had also attended the Staveley Town Council Remembrance Sunday Service event and was pleased to see that there seemed to be more in attendance this year than last year.

Councillor B Dyke had attended the Chesterfield Service and laid the wreath on behalf of the Town Council as a past Chairman.

Councillor P Jacobs had laid a wreath on behalf of the Town Council at the Woodthorpe Memorial and commented that there had been a good turnout there too.

Councillor Mann had laid the wreath on behalf of the Council at the Hollingwood memorial.

2324-60 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A member of the public asked a question about the investigation report. It was confirmed that this would be discussed later on the agenda.

2324-61 REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor A Hayes had provided a detailed report (copy circulated prior to the meeting).

Councillor B Bingham updated on financial position of the county council and noted that a full report would be provided at the next meeting as the County Council was due to meet tomorrow. He further notified Council that Alderman June Beckingham had recently passed away and requested a minutes silence.

A minute silence was held.

2324-62 MINUTES OF STANDING COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Policy, Finance and Publicity Committee held on 25 July 2023 and 17 October 2023 be noted.

2324-63 REPORT OF THE STAVELEY TOWN COUNCIL IMPROVEMENT BOARD

The Chairman of the Improvement Board presented the Board's report and findings. He commented that the Council was now in a far more stable position than it had been in previously and impressed upon members that working together and sticking to the plans that it had created were paramount to the Council's future success.

In response to the earlier question in public session the Town Clerk confirmed that member behaviour was a matter for the Monitoring Officer to deal with and that the Council could not issue its own reprimands or sanctions as this was not within its remit.

RESOLVED:

That the report and recommendations be accepted and adopted in full.

2324-64 STAVELEY TOWN COUNCIL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Councillors considered the report of the Town Clerk & RFO.

RESOLVED:

That the Improvement Plan be adopted, subject to the inclusion of additional recommendations from the Improvement Board.

2324-65 DRAFT COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN

Councillors considered the draft plan and the Town Clerk's report. It was confirmed that the feedback received so far would be analysed and fed into future reviews of the plan. The consultation questionnaire would be extended a further month.

RESOLVED:

That the Council Delivery Plan be approved and adopted.

2324-66

DRAFT BIODIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENT

Councillors considered part of the report of the Town Clerk and RFO. It was confirmed that the Council would seek to engage with local groups for any activities agreed as part of an action plan.

RESOLVED:

That the Biodiversity Policy Statement be approved and adopted and a Biodiversity Action Plan be produced in the new year.

2324-67

FINANCE MATTERS

- a) To approve the schedule of payments to 31 October 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the schedule of payments to 31 October 2023 be approved.

- b) To note the Summary of Income and Expenditure to 31 October 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the summary be noted.

- c) To note the bank balances as at 22 November 2023:

- i. Co-op current account: £8,301.83
- ii. Co-op 14 day account: £147,103.82
- iii. Co-op Savings account: £124,630.10
- iv. Petty Cash/Floats: £797.58

Total Funds held: £340,833.33

- d) To note the earmarked reserves report to 31 October 2023
In response to a query the Town Clerk confirmed that the 'general reserve was just what was left in the council's bank accounts that was not allocated via earmarked reserves and that the Council needed to build up the pot over time. By year end it was expected that there would be approximately £60,000 left in the general reserves. However, if Councillors wished for it to be so, a new earmarked reserve named 'Emergency Contingency' could be created and the money transferred in the accounts to show it more clearly.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

2324-68

CIL EXPENDITURE REQUEST

- a) Chesterfield Canal Trust – Aviva Appeal

The Town Clerk explained that an email had been received with an appeal for creating a new canalside environment around the new Trans-Pennine trail bridge at Hartington as part of the restoration of

the Chesterfield Canal. As the canal and improvement of biodiversity had been identified as part of the Council Delivery Plan it was believed that this was a suitable project to bring forward as something to support with CIL monies as it would provide community infrastructure whilst supporting the Council's wider aims.

RESOLVED:

That the project be granted £3,000 of CIL money.

- b) Edge Ministries – Building repairs and food for food bank
Councillors considered the application and raised concerns over the building ownership. It was also agreed that, whilst it was a noble cause, food was not eligible expenditure under the CIL regulations and this was the wrong fund for that element of the application.

During discussion it was agreed to move the remainder of the item to confidential session due to some information which a Councillor felt was necessary to impart.

RESOLVED:

That consideration of this application be deferred pending receipt of a revised application which fits the criteria of the CIL fund.

2324-69 CASUAL VACANCY

RESOLVED:

That the resignation of Councillor D Wheeldon be noted and that a casual vacancy be formally declared.

2324-70 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC – PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

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 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

2324-71 STAFFING MATTERS

Councillors considered the update from the Town Clerk & RFO.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk draft a new job description and person specification to bring to the next Council meeting for approval.

2324-72 TENANT MATTERS

Councillors considered the verbal report of the Town Clerk and RFO. A full discussion ensued.

RESOLVED:

That the tenant be advised that whilst the Council has every sympathy for the current economic circumstances that everyone is facing, a rent reduction cannot be agreed and that they are responsible for the costs of seeking a change of use planning application.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7:35pm.

Signed: _____

DRAFT