

STAVELEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual meeting of Staveley Town Council held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday, 23 May 2023 at the Speedwell Rooms.

Present:

Councillors	S Bean	C Jackson	D Rhodes
	B Bingham	P Jacobs	K Thornton
	J Bingham	P Mann	E Tidd
	C Chambers	A Ogle	D Wheeldon
	J Collins	D Parsons	P Wilson
	B Dyke	J Ridgway	

In attendance: Mrs S Doherty (Town Clerk) and 18 members of the public.

2324-1 TO ELECT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor P Wilson opened the meeting and called for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Council.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Elaine Tidd be elected Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2023-24.

The Outgoing Chairman congratulated Councillor Tidd and presented her with the Chain of Office. Councillor Tidd took the Chair.

2324-2 THE DULY ELECTED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Tidd signed the declaration of acceptance of office witnessed by the Town Clerk.

2324-3 TO ELECT THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

It was moved but there was no seconder that Councillor Chambers be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council. Further nominations were requested.

Councillor Bingham moved and it was seconded that the Council elect 2 vice-chairs so that the chairman position could be rotated around 3 people. Upon the vote the motion was LOST.

The Clerk's advice was sought and it was confirmed that there was no requirement for the Council to elect a Vice-Chairman if it did not wish to and, should the Chairman not be available for a meeting, the Council would have to elect a Chairman for that meeting.

Councillor Ridgway moved and it was seconded that herself be nominated for Vice-Chairman. Upon the vote the motion was LOST.

It was agreed that this position would be revisited at a later date.

2324-4 TO NOTE THE DELIVERY OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FORMS FROM ALL COUNCILLORS

Noted.

2324-5 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2324-6 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests made.

2324-7 TO ELECT THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Jacobs proposed that a collegiate approach to managing the council be adopted for the year with all leaders on a steering group which would report back and make recommendations to Full Council for decisions to be made by all councillors.

Councillor Dyke felt that this was against standing orders. In response to a query it was explained that there was no legal requirement for the Council to appoint a Leader, only the Chairman. The Clerk confirmed the legal position and explained that the Council could waive standing orders if it felt prudent to do so to enable business to continue.

Councillor Jacobs moved and it was seconded that Standing Orders be waived to allow for non-election of the leader this year. Upon the vote the motion was LOST.

Councillor Ridgway moved and it was seconded by Councillor Bean that Councillor Dyke be elected as Leader of the Council. Upon the vote the motion was LOST.

Councillor Rhodes moved and it was seconded by Councillor Jackson that Councillor Mann be elected as Leader of the Council. Upon the vote the motion as LOST.

Further to the Clerk's advice the Chairman asked for agreement that this item be deferred to a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

This item to be deferred to a future meeting.

2324-8 TO ELECT THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman asked for agreement to defer this item to a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

This item to be deferred to a future meeting.

2324-9 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2324-10 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman stated that this was a new term with new councillors and that it was important for the Council to move forward. She emphasised that whilst councillors may not always agree it was important that they stuck to the decisions that were made and did not go over old ground. She asked that the public not speak during meetings outside of the public speaking time and to avoid asking questions about matters which were to be dealt with in the investigation.

Councillor Jacobs thanked the Chairman for her speech and stated that he hoped that Councillors could now work together to move forward.

Councillor Ridgway expressed her agreement with the statements and agreed that the councillors should be working together. She expressed that Staveley was a fabulous area and the Hall was such a beautiful building that could be made more of.

2324-11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

It was queried whether the investigation had started. The Town Clerk explained that the investigation was in the process of being set up and an independent chair was being sought. There would be an update to councillors later on the agenda to establish what the terms of reference would be and costs etc. A report of findings would be published following the investigation.

It was asked if the Council would be looking at making more of the market and the shops.

It was queried where answers to previous questions would be published. The Clerk explained that the answers would be put on the new website with the minutes.

It was queried what Councillors thoughts were regarding Net Zero. The Chairman stated that the Council could not answer that at this time.

A resident stated that they would like the Council to be more active with regard to the Town Deal money and getting a local business person onto the Board to represent local business interests and support the town centre.

2324-12 REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor B Bingham reported that the Annual Meeting of the County Council was due to be held tomorrow and all key positions would be appointed. He would report back to the next meeting on the outcomes.

Councillor Dyke advised that the Borough Council had put in for planning permission for 9 new council properties in Middlecroft which would be rented accommodation. There were also 2 new bungalows and a house at Court Place, Middlecroft due to be built and additional Council properties on Wensley Way.

2324-13 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND REVIEW OF DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk and RFO.

Councillor Jacobs felt that the Committees should not be appointed for this year because it had no delegated powers to make decisions and it would be better to save the Clerk's time to be utilised on other things such as applying for grant funding to support service provision.

During discussion it became apparent that a confidential discussion needed to be held and so the item was deferred to the end of the meeting.

2324-14 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Clerk reminded councillors that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations had been recently reviewed. These would be periodically reviewed and brought back to Council for discussion on an ongoing basis.

2324-15 REVIEW OF REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL BODIES

Councillors reviewed the report of the Town Clerk and RFO and reviewed the representatives appointed at the last Annual Meeting.

A discussion ensued about the merits of having a councillor who was not a part of the Chesterfield Borough Council administration to be appointed as the STC representative on the Town Deal Board in order to ensure robust challenge to obtain the best outcomes for the people of Staveley. It was suggested that the Town Council give their seat to someone on the Staveley Improvement Team group but the Clerk confirmed that it was a seat offered to a town councillor not a member of the public.

It was asked if the Clerk could find out if a liaison group could be started for the Inkersall Solar farm for ward members.

RESOLVED: That the following appointments be made:

Chesterfield Borough Council Audit Committee

Councillor S Bean

Chesterfield Borough Council Standards Committee

Councillor E Tidd

Hartington Liaison Committee

Councillor B Bingham

Councillor J Bingham

Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

Deferred

Chesterfield Borough Council Parish Liaison Committee

Councillor S Bean

Markham Vale Liaison Group

Councillor J Ridgway

Viridor Liaison Group

Councillor S Bean

Health and Wellbeing (Staveley)

Councillor E Tidd

Netherthorpe Endowment Governors

Councillor E Tidd

Councillor P Jacobs

Derbyshire Law Centre

Councillor K Thornton

Staveley Parochial Charities and Woodthorpe Relief

Councillors P Jacobs and E Tidd

Staveley Towns Board

Councillor E Tidd

2324-16 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Councillors considered the report of the Town Clerk and RFO.

RESOLVED:

A) That it be affirmed that the Council meets the eligibility criteria for the General Power of Competence

B) That the General Power of Competence be adopted

2324-17 CONFIRMATION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR INSURANCE COVER

The Town Clerk advised Council that a three year deal had been entered into last year. The Clerk was working with the insurer to update the schedule and would report back on the cost to the next meeting.

2324-18 REVIEW OF SUBSCRIPTIONS TO OTHER BODIES

Councillors considered the report of the Town Clerk and RFO.

RESOLVED:

That the Council maintains the EMLawshare and SLCC subscriptions

only for the 2023-24 year.

2324-19 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2023-24

Councillors considered the report of the Town Clerk and RFO. In view of the decision regarding committees having been deferred to the end of the meeting the clerk suggested the schedule for those be disregarded and Council consider the Council and Annual Town meeting only.

RESOLVED:

A) That the schedule of Council meetings for the 2023-24 municipal year be approved as set out at paragraph 3.4 of the report.

B) That the Annual Town Assembly meeting be held on 21 May 2024.

2324-20 FINANCE MATTERS

a) To approve the schedule of payments to 30 April 2023.

RESOLVED: That the schedule of payments to 30 April 2023 be approved for payment.

b) To note the budget monitoring reports.

The Town Clerk asked the Council for feedback on the new reports and whether there were any improvements they might like to see. Feedback was taken on board.

RESOLVED: That the budget monitoring reports be noted.

c) To note the bank balances as at 16 May 2023:

- i. Co-op current account: £6,973.60
 - ii. Co-op 14 day account: £35,094.01
 - iii. Co-op Savings account: £62,989.07
 - iv. Petty Cash/Floats: £342.17
- Total funds: £105,398.85

RESOLVED: That the bank balances be noted.

d) Update on CBC loan and clearance of debts

The Clerk updated Council that a total of £254,876.91 had been expended since 1st April 2023 on clearing outstanding debts

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

2324-21 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.

The Council adjourned for a short comfort break at 7:22pm and reconvened at 7:32pm.

2324-22 UPDATE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IMPROVEMENT BOARD

The Town Clerk gave Councillors a verbal update on the progress with setting up the improvement board and seeking Council opinion on what outcomes were wanted in order to form the Terms of Reference for the body. Council was apprised of the costs that would be involved for undertaking the investigation into the historical finances and provided with the CV details of the proposed independent chair of the Board.

RESOLVED:

A) That the Independent Chair, Mr N Taylor, be approved as the lead on the Improvement Board.

B) That the Clerk be authorised to make arrangements to start up the investigation via the Improvement Board and that the costs of upto £20,000 be noted, along with the offers to split this three ways with the Local Government Association and Chesterfield Borough Council, subject to their Cabinet approval being received.

2324-22 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

During the above item it became necessary to consider if the council could complete the remaining business within the two hour time limit.

RESOLVED:

That Standing Order no.3y be suspended for a period of 30 minutes to enable the business on the agenda to be concluded.

2324-23 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND REVIEW OF DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE (CONTINUED)

Councillors discussed staff welfare issues and it was suggested that a prioritisation exercise be undertaken in order to reduce the amount of hours that the Clerk was having to work in addition to her normal hours.

RESOLVED:

A) That Policy Finance and Publicity Committee be appointed for this year to meet bi-monthly, alternating with Full Council meetings.

B) That Leisure and Community Committee be suspended for this year and that Planning Committee be called only where major applications are required to be considered. All minor applications to be circulated to all councillors for comments, with delegated authority to the clerk to submit comments to the Planning Authority on behalf of the Council.

C) That the following committee appointments be made:

Policy Finance and Publicity Committee

Councillors: B Dyke, J Ridgway, E Tidd, P Jacobs, B Bingham, P Mann, C Jackson and C Chambers

Planning Committee

Councillors: B Dyke, A Ogle, P Mann, D Parsons, P Jacobs and K Thornton

Councillor Rhodes left the meeting at 8:02pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:07pm.

Signed: _____

DRAFT