

STAVELEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an ORDINARY meeting of Staveley Town Council held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 14 February 2023 at the Speedwell Rooms.

Present:

Councillors	P Wilson (Chair)	C Jackson	D Parsons
	B Bingham	P Jacobs	D Rhodes
	D Collins	J Kay	K Thornton
	B Dyke	C Ludlow	
	R Holwell	P Mann	

In attendance: S Doherty, Town Clerk & RFO, approx. 40 members of the public and PCSO James Birch

1097/SD/22 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors D Denton, J Mann, R Perry and E Tidd.

1098/SD/22 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors B Dyke, C Ludlow, D Collins, P Mann, K Thornton and B Bingham declared personal interests in agenda Item 8 – Draft Budget and Precept Setting 2023-24, as Borough Councillors and specifically in relation to the setting of the precept and discussion of a loan offer from the Borough Council on which they would also have to make a decision at the Borough Council. They all remained in the meeting but took no part in the discussion and voting thereon.

1099/SD/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 10 January 2023 and 31 January 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

1100/SD/22 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded Councillors about their conduct towards officers in meetings and was disappointed to have to remind Councillors that if they had a grievance against the integrity and impartiality of an officer there were grievance procedures to take which did not include posting such things on social media. Whilst he understood that the post had been removed, he believed that the damage had been done and asked if any Councillor wished to offer a public apology to any officer of the Town Council. No apology was forthcoming.

The Chairman then read through the questions and responses from the last meeting. The answers had been prepared by the Town Clerk and were accurate at the time of writing. He would

go to each leader of the groups to ask if they had anything to add as there was not time for a full debate on each one.

One of the questions was not recorded correctly and so the Chairman asked for the question to be submitted in writing as it was difficult to hear across the hall and the Clerk would provide an answer immediately to be read at the next meeting.

The Chairman announced that, following discussions at a previous meeting, the Town Clerk had booked the Speedwell Rooms for 29 March 2023 to enable public input regarding the financial problems experienced by the Council. Full details would be issued in due course.

1101/SD/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The Chairman asked for questions to be submitted for answers to be provided at the next meeting as before.

1102/SD/22 REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

There were no reports from the Borough or County Councillors, but, being in attendance, the Chairman invited the PCSO to give a report.

The PCSO gave a brief update on local crime statistics and answered questions to specific concerns raised regarding Morrisons and Anti-Social Behaviour at night and 'egging' of windows at Inkersall.

1103/SD/22 RESPONSE TO PUBLIC QUESTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

This item had been dealt with under Chairman's Announcements.

1104/SD/22 DRAFT BUDGET AND PRECEPT SETTING 2023-24

Councillors reviewed the draft budget as presented by the Town Clerk and queried a couple of lines regarding the wedding licence and the bar stock as well as the increased income for the Speedwell Rooms. Clarification was provided.

Discussion was held around the provision of a loan and the Town Clerk advised that she could not recommend this as it was not guaranteed at the point of setting the precept and meant that the Council was at risk of setting an unlawful budget and precept. A member confirmed that the independent advisor had suggested that a loan in isolation was not the answer to the problem.

Queries were raised in relation to the expected grant income and CIL funding and it was advised that these should not be used for securing the council's liquidity as they were granted for a specific purpose. The Chairman asked the Town Clerk to bring back a report on CIL funding and how it could be used.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the Staveley Hall Extension project be cancelled and the bid to the town deal fund be withdrawn and that the expenditure to date in progressing to planning permission stage be confirmed and honoured. The Town Clerk to inform the Town Deal Programme Manager and withdraw the planning application.
- b) That the Town Clerk be authorised to seek sponsors and grant funding for the provision of hanging baskets and Christmas lights.
- c) That the Town Clerk be granted authority to seek buyers for surplus office furniture, the air hall and the 2 steel storage containers to the rear of the Speedwell Rooms.
- d) That the draft budget for 2023-24 be approved.
- e) That the Council take the loan as offered and increase the precept to no higher than inflation (currently 10.5%), subject to confirmation of the loan by Chesterfield Borough Council.
- f) That the 5-year plan for financial stability, to be updated to reflect the revised loan terms, be adopted.
- g) That discussion on a strategy working party be deferred to the Annual Town Council meeting in May.

The meeting terminated at 7:40pm.

Signed: _____