

STAVELEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 June 2025 at 6pm in the Speedwell Rooms.

Present:

Councillors:	S Bean	B Dyke	D Parsons
	B Bingham	S Hartley	E Tidd (Chair)
	C Chambers	P Jacobs	P Wilson
	J Collins	P Mann	

In attendance: Mrs S Doherty (Town Clerk & RFO) and 5 members of the public.

2526-30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Bagshaw, A Ogle, C Jackson, D Rhodes. Standing apology for Councillor K Thornton.

2526-31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2526-32 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were a number of queries regarding the minutes but it was determined no changes were required.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 10 June 2025 be approved and signed as a true record.

A recorded vote having been requested the voting was as follows:

FOR: Cllrs E Tidd, S Bean, B Dyke, P Mann, D Parsons, P Wilson

AGAINST: Cllrs B Bingham, J Collins, S Hartley, P Jacobs

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr C Chambers

2526-33 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair had no announcements to make.

2526-34 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A member of the public updated the Council on progress with the extension to the Mastin Moor site.

A query was raised about the date for the Allotments liaison panel and thanks were given for the grant funding received for the art project at Inkersall Allotments.

Borough Councillor B Dyke gave an update on the progress with the pavilion in the town centre and noted that a number of shops had taken up the grants and had replaced their shop fronts. A Local firm had been used to do the works and it was all starting to look much better.

Chairs Initials

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2526-35 END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS

Councillors considered the report of the Town Clerk and RFO. It was highlighted that the target for general reserves had been met and exceeded which the Council could be proud of after the hardwork of the past two years to stabilise the finances.

It was requested that a discussion on the Debtors be held in confidential session at the end of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the report be received and the end of year accounts be approved.
- b) That the Policy, Finance and Publicity Committee be tasked with reviewing the Council's income streams.

2526-36 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2024-25

a) Internal Audit Report

Councillors considered the report of the Internal Auditor and queried the two 'no' answers on the Annual Internal Audit Report (AIAR) in the AGAR.

The Clerk explained that the answer to 'B' was as a result of the Internal Auditor having seen a quote, which was not pursued, and determining that the Council should have put this on contracts finder. The Internal Auditor had not asked the Clerk about this directly so did not have all the facts on the matter and when challenged determined that she would not change the report as she believed that this contract and another separate contract using the same supplier were part of the same contract and together put the Council over the limits in financial regulations requiring the works to be advertised on contracts finder. The Clerk explained that the procurement for the contracts were commenced separately because one required a heritage specialism and the other was generic and they were for two separate sites. Given the Council's recent history there ultimately was only one supplier willing to work with the Council so they were commissioned for both contracts. Individually the contracts did not exceed the threshold one being for £15,000 the other for £23,000. These were billed separately as they were separate contracts as explained above.

The second 'no' was an error as this related to the Council fulfilling its duties as a trustee. The council is not a trustee and this should have been answered 'not applicable'.

Councillors expressed their disappointment with the Internal Auditor's findings and disagreed with her assessment of the matter. However it was also noted that this was ultimately a positive report and that this issue should not take away from the hardwork of the Council and the Town Clerk in improving the operations and the internal audit assessment from where it was two years ago.

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RESOLVED:

That the Internal Audit Report be received but that it be noted that the Council disagrees with the assessment of Objective B and that reasons for this be forwarded to the External Auditor.

b) Annual Governance Statement

Councillors debated the answers as they were concerned about the Internal Auditor's report. The Clerk advised that this was for the Council to assess taking into account the Internal Auditor's report and ultimately the External Auditor would make an assessment based on the facts of the matter. The Clerk's advice was that the Council had met all the requirements of the Assertions and could therefore answer 'Yes' to all except box 9 which should be 'not applicable'.

RESOLVED:

That the answer to all boxes be 'Yes' except for box 9 to be 'not applicable' and that the Annual Governance statement be approved.

c) Accounting Statements

The Clerk noted that the loan figure for last year had been restated in accordance with the instructions of the External Auditor.

RESOLVED:

That the Accounting Statements be approved.

d) Notice of Period for Public Rights

The Council noted the dates for public rights would commence on 26 June 2025 until 6 August 2025. The notice would be published on 25 June 2026.

2526-35 ANNUAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT 2024-25

Councillors considered the draft report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be approved for publication.

2526-36 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised that the date of the next meeting was 23 September 2025.

The Clerk advised Council that the Chief Executive of the Borough Council had requested a meeting to be held in July in order to discuss the Devolution/Local Government Re-organisation progress and commence a consultation period which would occur over the summer period. It was likely to be held in week commencing 20th July 2025 having been delayed from coming to this meeting. Further details would be issued in due course.

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2526-37 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 Chair adjourned the meeting for a short comfort break. The meeting reconvened at 6:50pm.

2526-38 YEAR-END DEBTORS

Councillors sought further information on outstanding debts. The Clerk advised that most of those listed had been paid in April and May, there was only one or two of those listed outstanding which were being regularly chased up. One would likely be recommended for court action and would come back to Council for consideration. It was requested that the Policy, Finance and Publicity Committee review the debt recovery process.

The Chair thanked Councillors for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.05pm.

Signed: _____
Chair

Chairs Initials