



# Stalbridge Town Council Meetings

## Town Council Meeting Minutes

Approved minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024. (Held at The Hub Commencing at 7 p.m.)

### Councillors present at the meeting:

K Garland (Chair), P Hancock, N Penny & N Wardle

### Clerk for the meeting:

T Watson

Apologies had been received from G Carr-Jones (Dorset Councillor).

There was 1 member of the public present.

Open Forum:

J Ralph addressed the meeting concerning the grant application from the Stalbridge History Society.

### 1. To receive apologies

D Andrews, H Hatcher, B Penfold & M Robinson.

### 2. To receive declarations of interest and requests for dispensations (Please notify the Town Clerk prior to the meeting)

P Hancock Item 8 in relation to the Stalbridge Hall grant application. Nonpecuniary as caretaker of Stalbridge Hall.

### 3. To receive the quarterly financial report ending 31.12.23.

The bank balance of £195,363.37 was noted.

**RESOLVED: Quarterly financial report ending 31.12.23 received.**

### 4. To consider the information presented regarding the Council's predicted position at the end of the financial year 31.03.24.

Increased IT costs were noted in relation to members .gov.uk e mail addresses. The cost of the cross post tops and container lining and racking was also noted.

**RESOLVED: There was general agreement to accept the predicted figures presented for the end of the financial year 31.03.24**

### 5. To consider the figures set aside for allocated reserves (capital & general) and give further instruction.

Figure for allocated general reserves £44,745.01.

**RESOLVED: There was general agreement to accept figures set aside for allocated reserves (capital & general).**

6. To consider the figures presented for the budget period 24/25 in forecast income and give further instruction.

It was noted that a sum of £1,000 forecast income from Youth Club subs was included.

**RESOLVED: To accept the figures presented for the Budget period 24/25 in forecast income excluding the precept.**

7. To consider the figures presented for the budget period 24/25 forecast payments and give further instruction.

It was noted that the figure for forecast payments did not include grants. Increase staff costs for admin officer, members election and training, IT and street cleaning contingency were noted.

**RESOLVED: To accept the figures presented for the Budget period 24/25 forecast payments excluding grants.**

8. To consider the grant applications for the budget period 24/25 and give further instruction. **Playing Fields Trust £ 2,500 (maintenance of the playing fields sports facility).**

It was noted that in recent times volunteer numbers at the Playing Fields has reduced and that the Playing Fields Trust carry out a vital role for the community in supporting the local sports clubs and provide an open recreation space for all.

**RESOLVED: To make a grant award of £2,500 for the budget period 24/25 to the Playing Fields for public liability insurance and maintenance of the playing fields sports facility. (Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10 Power to acquire and maintain open spaces)**

**SCARS £500 (running costs)**

It was noted that group meet monthly at the Stalbridge Hall, and members considered their powers and services in relation to the grant application.

**RESOLVED: To make a grant award of £200 for the budget period 24/25 to SCARS to contribute to web site and promotion costs. (LGA 1972, section 137 Power to incur expenditure not otherwise authorised on anything which in the council's opinion is in the interests of the area or part of it or all or some of the inhabitants)**

**Stalbridge Hall £3,500 (Solar panels & battery)**

Members considered the application to be excellent in terms of green energy and reducing hall running costs. The Hall Management Committees contribution and other funding sources were noted.

**RESOLVED: To make a grant award of £3,500 for the budget period 24/25 to the Stalbridge Hall Management committee for solar panels & battery. (Local Government Act 1972, s.133 Power to provide buildings for offices and for public meetings and assemblies)**

**SH Society £2,676 200 (printing 200 copies of the history trial , printing of 20 copies of the Stalbridge Sale book.)**

It was understood that the intended launch date was to be some time in 2025 to coincide with a second sale of Stalbridge exhibition. The viability of the business model was questioned in terms of the small number of book copies (20) and there was no provision in the grant application for upscaling. It was understood that the History Societies intention was for the book to be not for profit. In relation to this it was questioned how any future printing of the book would be funded.

**RESOLVED:** To make a grant award of £1,800 for the budget period 24/25 to the SH Society as a contribution towards the graphic design, artwork, typesetting & print set, subject to provision of a proof by January 2025. (Local Government Act 1972, s.144 Power to contribute to encouragement of Tourism)

**St Marys PCC            £ 8,495 (Churchyard grass & hedge cutting)**

It was noted that amount applied for represented a 25% increase on the 23/24 grant and only one quotation had been supplied. Members considered a 3% uplift on the 23/24 grant to be appropriate.

**RESOLVED:** To make a grant award of £6,500 for the budget period 24/25 to St Marys PCC, contribution to Churchyard grass & hedge cutting. (Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10; Local Government Act 1972, s.214; Parish Councils and Burial Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970, s.1; Local Government Act 1972, s.215(6))

**9.        To resolve the level of the precept 2024/2025.**

It was noted that the tax base figure had increased by 1.6% meaning that the total charge was being shared by more properties paying full council tax. The previously reviewed forecast income and expenditure was considered in relation to the tax base precept toolkit, which illustrated the effect of any precept change on a Band D equivalent charge.

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously agreed to make a precept demand for the period 24/25 of £148,000, which equates to an increase of £9.48 per annum (0.79 per week) on a Band D Equivalent Charge for the Town Councils part of the council tax.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed.....

Chairman