

STOKESLEY TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

A Meeting of the Communications and Events Committee
was held in the Town Hall, Stokesley on Tuesday 3 February 2026

Communications and Events Committee Membership

Cllr Sally Atkinson, Cllr David Cook, Cllr Claire Craster, Cllr Chris Johnson and Gary Yuille plus non-council representatives – Mr Richard Agar and Mrs Sue Thompson.

Present: Cllrs Sally Atkinson, Claire Craster, Cllr Chris Johnson, Cllr David Oxley, Cllr Graham Sowerby (7pm to 7.20pm) and Gary Yuille.

Mrs Julie McLuckie – Town Clerk and Non-Council Members – Mr Richard Agar and Mrs Sue Thompson

1/03/02/26 NOTICE OF MEETING

RESOLVED that the public notice of the meeting had been provided in accordance with Schedule 12, paragraph 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

2/03/02/26 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A representative from the Harlequin North West Morris Dancers provided further information on a request previously submitted via e-mail. The proposal is to bring together various Morris Dancing Groups for a one day event on Saturday 13 June 2026 running from 10am to 4pm. The dance groups (3 or 4 in each group) would perform in agreed areas across the Town with the groups rotating so that they perform in each of the areas and would either start or finish the day with them all performing together. **RESOLVED** that this was agreed in principle subject to formal approval from the Manorial Land Trustees and the dance areas would be agreed prior to the date. The Clerk would contact the Show Field to see if it would be possible for the dancers to park their vehicles on the Show Field for the day.

Cllr Sowerby submitted a proposal of behalf of 'The Spread' to host a 1940s event on Saturday 30 May 2026. The Spread intend to host an event in their venue and wondered if other would like to be involved, this could include utilising areas of the Plain to show vehicles etc subject to approval from the Manorial Lands Trustees. These events prove highly successful and supported in other areas. **RESOLVED** that this be agreed in principle and would be discussed further with the local businesses at their next meeting on 26 February 2026.

3/03/02/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to receive and accept the apologies from Cllr David Cook.

4/03/02/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None declared.

5/03/02/26 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2025

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2025 be agreed.

6/03/02/26 VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE HIGH STREET APPLICATION

Cllr Atkinson thanked everyone for all their hard work and efforts during 2025. **RESOLVED** that the Communications and Events Committee now need to progress the items detailed within the successful bid and meet the targets for each element set within the document.

High Street Improvement (February to April 2026) - £5,000 -

- a. Spring Clean / High Street Tidy Up – **RESOLVED** that this take place on Sunday 22 March 2026 which falls within the Great British Spring Clean Event and to ask all the Businesses to commit to tidying the area in front of their premise on this day. The Clerk to purchase additional litter pickers and gloves for use on the day and for future activities. SPIOTA and the local schools to be approached asking if they will support.
- b. Shop wraps and decoration organised – **RESOLVED** to contact Gareth Bayley to see if he would be available to paint some artwork in unoccupied shop windows subject to approval from the business owners and what this would cost.
- c. Bin storage and dog waste bins ordered – **RESOLVED** that a quote has been requested to house the bins adjacent to the public toilets, the Clerk to contact NYC to see if planning would be required. The cost would dictate whether we could look to install bin storage in other locations. Dog Waste bag units to be purchased and installed in agreed positions, the cost of each unit installed would determine how many we can purchase.

Cycle Repair and Storage (February to April 2026)- £2,200 – **RESOLVED** to purchase repair kits and have them installed. To ensure that all the current cycle storages are secured correctly and are in the most appropriate location. If necessary, purchase additional cycle storage.

PA System (May to June 2026) - £3,500 – **RESOLVED** that Mr Agar obtain a quote for the PA system required and that this be purchased as soon as possible.

Canopy / Sail Installation (May to June 2026) – £20,000 - **RESOLVED** to arrange for a company who installs these structures to visit the site and advise on options ensuring that any installation must be fully removable. The Clerk to confirm what permissions would be required from NYC.

Summer In the Square (June to September 2026) – **RESOLVED** that this would run on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from June to September 2026. Artists to be contacted so that a full programme can be put together and promoted as soon as possible. Sue Thompson had produced a pro-forma for each of the acts to complete so that we have the relevant information to promote them in advance. It was agreed that the square would just be used for the performances this year and would not be open to charity stalls. The businesses that sponsored a banner last year to be approached to ask if they want this to be erected this year at an agreed cost of £30. The cost for a new banner would be £65 for any businesses wanting to have one displayed.

Yorkshire Day – Saturday 1 August 2026 – **RESOLVED** that subject to approval from the Manorial Lands Trustees that an event be held following the Farmers Market on The Plain area. This would be a community event and would involve the local businesses. One proposal was to host a large community picnic event with entertainment. This would be discussed further with the businesses at the next business forum meeting.

Professional Management of Events - £5000 – **RESOLVED** to be arranged.

Equipment Rental for Large Events - £5000 – **RESOLVED** to be arranged.

Marketing - £2000 – **RESOLVED** to produce a leaflet that contains promotional offers from the local businesses to be distributed to local bus tour companies who visit Stokesley, Holiday lets, hotels, shops and other agreed outlets not only in Stokesley and the neighbouring villages but further afield.

Business Workshops - £10,000 – **RESOLVED** that the next local business meeting is scheduled to take place on 26 February 2026 where this will be discussed.

Lantern Workshop and Stokesley Sparkle - £6350 – **RESOLVED** that £3412.19 expenditure has already been spent against this budget allocation. This covered the costs for the additional Christmas Tree and lights in the Old Market Square plus the installation of an external electric socket. It also covers the costs for three lantern workshops. This leaves a balance of £2937.81 which will be used to cover lantern workshops and the tree purchase in 2026.

7/03/02/26 EVENTS 2026

- a. Summer in the Square –**RESOLVED** that these would take place on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month from June to September. Community Care had asked if it would be possible to set up a rowing machine at one of the events, however, it was agreed that it would be better if they utilised the Old Market Square on either a Farmers Market or Makers Market Day when they could utilise the full area. This would be subject to approval buy the Manorial Lands Trustees.
- b. Morris Day of Dance –**RESOLVED** that subject to approval from the Manorial Lands Trustees that this event be hosted on Saturday 13 June 2026 which would be the first Summer in the Square event.
- c. Stokesley Sparkle – Saturday 28 November 2026.
- d. A business owner has requested use of the Plain area on Saturday 4 April (after the Farmers Market) to host an Easter Event. **RESOLVED** that this be discussed at the Trustees meeting.

8/03/02/26 WEBSITE AND PROMOTION

- a. Website Update – **RESOLVED** that the proposed website update be submitted to the Town Council for consideration.
- b. Friday Market Branding and Promotion – **RESOLVED** that the initial branding proposals be submitted to the Manorial Lands Trustees for their consideration.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed Date.....