

13th May 2021

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the ANNUAL MEETING of the COUNCIL held in Lister Hall at the Chantry Centre, Long Street, Dursley at 7pm on Tuesday 13th May 2021.

Action Summary:

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| 10560.3 | To accept the 3 year agreement quotation for insurance from Zurich Municipal. | 10560.5 | To continue to withhold the 2020/21 second grant instalment payment to Kingshill House & inform the management board of the further information & evidence required. |
| 10560.4 | To re-apply for the Local Council Award Scheme Quality Gold Accreditation. | | |

PRESENT

Cllr S Ackroyd, Mayor
Cllr M Woodward, Deputy Mayor

Councillors: L Patrick, S Creswick, A Stennett, M Stennett, W Thomas, A Whitwell, T White, N Grecian, P Hayes, D Horn, D Savvidou, D Cornell and J Rubin.

Absent: J Ball

Also present: John Kay (Town Clerk), Leah Wellings (Deputy Town Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

The outgoing Town Mayor, Councillor Neil Grecian, opened and presided over the meeting until a new Town Mayor was elected.

ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR 10546

Nominations were invited for the office of Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor Woodward moved that Councillor Ackroyd be elected as Town Mayor for the ensuing year, Councillor Creswick seconded.

No other nominations were received.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Ackroyd be elected as Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor Ackroyd signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Register as Town Mayor and took the Chair.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 10547

There were no apologies for absence.

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MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 10548

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR 10549

Councillor Thomas moved that Councillor Savvidou be elected as Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year, Councillor Cornell seconded.

Councillor Patrick moved that Councillor Woodward be re-elected as Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year, Councillor A Stennett seconded.

A vote was taken by show of hands, the results of which were - 2 votes in favour of Councillor Savvidou and 9 votes in favour of Councillor Woodward.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Woodward be re-elected as Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS 10550

County Councillor Wendy Thomas thanked Councillor Loraine Patrick for her time served as Dursley's outgoing County Councillor, noting how close the election results had been.

District Councillor Doina Cornell congratulated elected councillors and thanked all those who stood and took part in the election process, which went very well.

Councillor Cornell highlighted discussions between Labour, the Green Party and Liberal Democrats to form an alliance at Stroud District Council; the District's Annual General Meeting would take place on 20th May 2021; work on a 3 year plan would take place and cross party support would be sought.

District Councillor Loraine Patrick had yet to attend Stroud District Council meetings, as a newly elected District Councillor, so had no report to give.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 10551

There were no representations.

MINUTES 10552

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6th April 2021 were signed by the Mayor.

MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL'S STANDING COMMITTEES 10553

Membership of Council's Standing Committees was confirmed, and it was noted that the first meeting of each Committee, would be held immediately after the Council meeting, the purpose of which would be to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair.

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(a) Green Spaces Committee (8 members)

Councillors A Stennett, M Stennett, Woodward, Hayes, Horn, White and Grecian (1 vacant place remains).

(b) Town Improvements and Amenities (8 members)

Councillors Savvidou, Cornell, Rubin, White, Hayes, Woodward, Whitwell, Thomas.

(c) Planning (12 members)

Councillors Rubin, Horn, Patrick, Creswick, Hayes, Woodward, Whitwell, Grecian (4 vacant places remain).

It was noted that membership of the following Committees would be confirmed after the above Committees had elected Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen:

(d) Policy and Finance Committee (10 members)

It was noted that membership of the Policy and Finance Committee would include the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and (once elected) the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each Standing Committee plus additional Councillors up to a maximum total of 10.

Councillors Creswick, M Stennett, Patrick and Hayes all offered to take up additional positions if required on the Committee.

(e) Staff Committee (6 members)

It was noted that membership of the Staff Committee would include the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and (once elected) the Chairman of each Standing Committee plus additional Councillors if necessary up to a maximum of 6.

TOWN COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES

10554

Representatives on working parties were elected for the coming year and recorded on the Council's List of Representatives on Working Groups and Outside Bodies.

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

10555

Representatives on outside bodies were elected where necessary for the coming year and recorded on the Council's List of Representatives on Working Groups and Outside Bodies.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

10556

10556.1 Council's Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021

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- (i) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments made to 31st March 2021 be authorised and signed by the Mayor.
- (ii) Income received up to 31st March 2021 was noted.
- (iii) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the bank reconciliation at 31st March 2021 be authorised and signed by the Mayor
- (iv) The final budget summary at 31st March 2021 was noted.
- (v) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the final Income and Expenditure Accounts be authorised and signed by the Mayor.
- (vi) The earmarked reserves at 31st March 2021 were noted.

10556.2 Council's Accounts for the current financial year 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

- (i) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments made since 1st April 2021 be authorised and signed by the Mayor.
- (ii) Income received since 1st April 2021 was noted.

10556.3 General Power of Competence

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the General Power of Competence. It was confirmed that the Council meets the eligibility criteria:

- a) Two thirds of Councillors being declared elected to Council.
- b) A qualified Town Clerk in place.

GREEN SPACES

10557

Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

The outgoing Committee Chairman reported that the Green Spaces Committee would be considering some maintenance and improvement works at the Pavilion in relation to the roof and water heating system.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

10558

10558.1 To adopt the Minutes of the Town Improvements Committee Meeting held on 13th April 2021.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

10558.2 Report of the Chairman of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

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The outgoing Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

PLANNING

10559

10559.1 To adopt the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 20th April 2021

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

10559.2 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The outgoing Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

POLICY AND FINANCE

10560

10560.1 To adopt the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee Meeting held on 20th April 2021

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

10560.2 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The outgoing Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

10560.3 To Consider the Revised Committee Recommendation & Confirm a 3 Year Insurance Renewal Offer with Zurich Municipal

The outgoing Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee confirmed that, following additional questioning and work in relation to the insurance quotation offers, the recommendation to Council was to remain with Zurich Municipal.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Council accept the 3 year insurance renewal offer from Zurich Municipal at a cost of £4449.54.

10560.4 To Consider Re-applying for The Local Council Award Scheme Quality Gold Accreditation

IT WAS RESOLVED to re-apply for the Local Council Award Scheme Quality Gold Accreditation.

10560.5 To Consider the 2020/21 Revenue Grant Second Instalment Payment to Kingshill House

In relation to Council Minute 10545, the response from the Kingshill House Management Board was considered; the Charity Commission had yet to respond to the Council's letter and Stroud District Council had requested further information from Kingshill House, which was awaited.

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The response from Kingshill House was considered insufficient for the purposes of Council making an informed decision whether to release the second instalment of the grant.

IT WAS RESOLVED to continue to withhold the 2020/21 Revenue Grant second instalment payment to Kingshill House. A payment decision would not be made until the Charity Commission had responded to the Council's letter and the Council had received sufficient information and detailed evidence from Kingshill House relating to how the first instalment of the grant had been spent. The Kingshill House Management Board would be informed.

Councillor Horn abstained from the vote.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF 10561

Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

The outgoing Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

CLERK'S REPORT 10562

The Town Clerk reported on staff working arrangements; office staff would continue to work from home on a rota basis to allow for social distancing restrictions which were still in place.

It was noted that Full Council and Committee online meetings were no longer permitted under legislation; while Covid-19 restrictions were in force (until at least 21st June 2021) Council meetings would be arranged to deal with urgent matters only. The June Council meeting would take place as planned.

INSPECTIONS 10563

Details of Councillors scheduled to undertake area inspections and audit checks in May/June 2021 were noted.

The meeting closed at 7:51p.m.

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Town Mayor

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Date