

7<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## **DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held in the Chantry Centre, Long Street, Dursley at 7pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Action Summary:

10750	Award Urgent Grant to Castlegate WI	10753.2	Submit the 2021/22 Annual Return to the External Auditor
10756.3	Engage with solicitor re Town Trust	107640.4	Award Water Services contract to Aquasafe Environmental

### **PRESENT**

Cllr S Ackroyd (Mayor)

Councillors: M Woodward (Deputy Mayor), S Creswick, M Nicholson, A Stennett, J Rubin, A Rowston, M Stennett, P Hayes, L Patrick and T Kinnison.

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk; Leah Wellings, Deputy Clerk and two members of the Castlegate WI.

Absent: A Rowston

### **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** 10746

Apologies were received from Councillors D Horn, T White, D Cornell, D Savvidou and N Grecian (all personal).

### **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** 10747

Cllr M Stennett declared a pecuniary interest as an employee of one of the companies who had quoted for the water hygiene services (Agenda Item 14.4, Minute 10760.4)

### **REPRESENTATIONS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** 10748

Cllr Thomas had supplied a written report prior to Council. Cllr Creswick requested an update on unused sign poles in Dursley.

Concerns were raised about the impact on traders by overzealous parking enforcement officers in Parsonage Street, but it was noted that this hadn't been an issue in recent times. Parking on Whiteway Hill could only be controlled by the police due to any road markings being advisory.

Cllr Patrick requested all Councillors to encourage members of the public to participate in the ongoing consultation of play areas (Stroud District Council maintained only) as funding is available for future upgrades and improvements. This could include Acacia Drive and Cambridge Avenue Play Areas.

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UPDATE FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

10749

The Mayor commented that he had attended the opening of the Vale Hospital Garden for Dementia patients and the Queens Platinum Jubilee Picnic on the Rec.

The Mayor confirmed that Dursley Town Council had received the Gold accreditation for the Local Council Award Scheme following the submission of the updated Strategic Plan. The Council thanked the Town Clerk and staff for the efforts to retain this accreditation.

**IT WAS AGREED** to bring forward agenda item 10.4 and consider the urgent grant application from the Castlegate WI.

POLICY AND FINANCE

10750

To consider the Urgent Grant request from Castlegate WI.

The representatives of the group provided more details on the groups financial position including the percentage of members fees that are claimed by the overseeing County and Central branches of the WI.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to award the grant of £500 to the Castlegate WI organisation. There was one abstention.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

10751

There were no representations from the members of the public in attendance.

The Mayor referred to an email from the Littlecombe Road Safety Group about road safety on the new section of Lister Road which will be open to through traffic in the near future.

It was noted that this road is not adopted and, in some sections, hasn't been constructed. Cllr Thomas agreed to raise the matter with the Development Management section of Gloucestershire County Council. Dursley Town Council have no jurisdiction over this matter but will consider the Community Speedwatch Fund opportunity at the next Policy & Finance Committee meeting.

MINUTES

10752

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Mayor. There was one abstention.

10753.1 Council's accounts for the financial year 2022/23:

- (i) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments since the last Council meeting be authorised and signed by the Mayor. The Town Clerk confirmed the grant payment of £7k to the Dursley & District Community Association had been returned by Lloyds Bank.
- (ii) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the bank reconciliation be authorised and signed by the Mayor.
- (iii) The income received since the last Council meeting was noted. The Town Clerk confirmed that Stroud District Council had incorrectly paid the amount of CIL funding to the Town Council and £1.5k had been returned.
- (iv) The updated income/expenditure summary reports were noted.

10753.2 Council's accounts for the financial year 2021/22:

- (i) It was noted that the Annual Internal Auditor Report had been approved and signed by the auditor. The audit recommendations would be reviewed at the next Policy & Finance Committee meeting.
- (ii) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk and Town Mayor complete and sign Section 1 of the Annual Return – Accounting Statement.
- (iii) **IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the figures in Section 2 and for the Mayor to sign Section 2 of the Annual Return – Accounting Statement.
- (iv) It was noted that the Public Inspection Period for the accounts runs from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

10754

10754.1 Report of the Chair of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

In the absence of the Chair there was no report.

10754.2 To receive an update on Tourism Projects

The Deputy Clerk provided the update:

Visit Dursley Group – First meeting held which was well attended. A list of local annual events has been drafted and available on the Council's website. The group will meet again in August.

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Trail Smartphone App – The first trails will be going live by the end of June including a Heritage Trail in Dursley. There are plans for a ghost trail and inventor/innovator trail in Dursley.

Stroud Market Town Councils Tourism Brief Project – Due to a procurement issue this has had to be re-tendered.

It was noted that one improvement for tourism would be a complete list of local bed and breakfast and accommodation premises. The current list to be reviewed by the Town Council staff.

PLANNING

10755

10755.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting.

10755.2 Report of the Chair of the Planning Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

POLICY AND FINANCE

10756

10756.1 Report of the Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Chair will request at the next committee meeting for the website to be updated.

10756.2 To receive any Councillor reports or attendance at meetings.

Cllr Rubin attended the first site visits for the Dursley Heritage project. The group visited Silver Street, Bull Pitch and St Marks.

The Deputy Mayor attended a tree planting ceremony at Dursley Police Station to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Cllr Kinnison attended the Vale Vision meeting, the future of the What's On publication is being considered due to increase of costs.

The Council noted the recent passing of former Town Councillor Mike Doughty. Mike had been a valuable contributor to Dursley over many years, including supporting Vale Vision, the Sculpture Trail and the Town Trust.

10756.3 To consider engaging with a solicitor to advise on the transfer of the management function of the Town Trust to the Town Council.

**IT WAS AGREED** to engage with a solicitor to establish potential costs and obtain advise on the transfer.

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10756.4 To appoint a trustee for Dursley Youth Centre and representative for Dursley & Cam Youth Service

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Creswick.

**BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF**

10757

Report by the Chair of the Staff Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

**CLERK'S REPORT**

10758

The Town Clerk confirmed that a work experience student from Rednock School would be joining us next week. The Clerk thanked the staff and Festive Dursley volunteers for arranging a very successful picnic event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and consideration would be given to hosting similar events in the future with the potential to obtain a temporary event license to sell alcohol.

The annual health and safety visit would take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June.

It is being planned to deliver the next edition of Dursley Matters newsletter (July) to all properties in Dursley as was done annually prior to the pandemic. Councillors would be allocated one of the delivery areas.

**INSPECTIONS**

10759

The scheduled Councillor inspections and checks for June & July 2022 were noted.

**GREEN SPACES**

10760

10760.1 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting.

10760.2 Report of the Chair of the Green Spaces Committee

The Chair reported that antisocial behaviour and vandalism occurrences had increase at the War memorial Recreation Ground recently. The Town Clerk has contacted the police for additional support.

**BUSINESS DEALT WITH IN COMMITTEE**

10760.3 To resolve to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

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**IT WAS RESOLVED** to carry out the remainder of business in committee due to the confidential nature of the business. There were no members of the public or press present.

10760.4 To consider the quotes for the water hygiene services.

Cllr M Stennett left the meeting.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to appoint Aquasafe Environmental to provide the required water sampling and legionella testing/reporting at Jacobs House, War Memorial Recreation Ground and Kingshill Cemetery for £1470 + VAT. Cllr A Stennett abstained.

The standpipe at Long Street Car Park to be included in the contract.

The meeting closed at 8:05pm.

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Town Mayor

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Date