

15th November 2022

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held in the Community Meeting Room, Dursley Fire Station at 7pm on Tuesday 15th November 2022.

Action Summary:

PRESENT

Cllr S Ackroyd (Mayor)

Councillors: M Woodward (Deputy Mayor), P Hayes, D Horn, N Grecian, S Creswick, A Stennett, J Rubin, W Thomas, T White, T Stride, M Nicholson, D Savvidou and T Kinnison.

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk and Leah Wellings, Deputy Clerk.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 10839

Apologies were received from Councillors M Stennett, L Patrick and D Cornell (all personal).

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 10840

There were no declarations of interest.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 10841

There were no members of the public in attendance. The Mayor thanked those Councillors who attended the Remembrance Parade on Sunday afternoon.

MINUTES 10842

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 1st November 2022 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE 10843

10843.1 Council's accounts for the financial year 2022/23:

The income and expenditure until 7th November 2022 were noted.

15th November 2022

10843.2 Regarding Councils Budget for Financial Years 2023/24

The draft budget was considered by the Councillors, it was noted that the Staffing Committee would meet on the 13th December to formally agree draft staffing costs for the period.

Councillors highlighted the increased energy costs, higher cleaning costs at the Vibe Youth Centre, impact of increase to staff salaries, inflation and the general volatile national financial situation.

It was noted that any increase to the precept for 2023/24 would be a further squeeze on household budgets and that other local authorities were likely to increase their share of Council Tax. Any increase agreed by Council would be a very low increase.

The revised draft budget would be presented to Council in January 2023 and the precept would be agreed.

10843.3 Regarding Councils Budget for Financial Years 2024-26

The Councillors consider the need to be able to consider projects to improve the Council's carbon footprint in the future budget projections, this could include improvements to Council buildings and vehicles.

It was noted that staff budgets would need to be reviewed due to rising costs of salaries and anticipated future national pay awards.

GREEN SPACES

10844

To consider the use of general reserves for tree works at St Marks Graveyard

IT WAS RESOLVED to carry out the required tree works identified during the annual tree inspection subject to obtaining the necessary planning permission. The quote from Tree Management for £1,571 + VAT was accepted.

POLICY AND FINANCE

10845

To consider the annual closure of the council office for the festive period.

IT WAS RESOLVED to close the office to the public from 12pm on Friday 23rd December to 10am on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

The meeting closed at 7:40pm.

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Town Mayor

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Date