

4th March 2025

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held in the Community Meeting Room, Fire Station, Kingshill Road, Dursley at 7pm on Tuesday 4th March 2025.

Action Summary:

11270.3	Confirm Rednock Band Fund request subject to conditions.	11272	Town Clerk to work with Cam & Dursley Royal Britch Legion to organise firework rockets for VE Day beacon event.
11276	Set up Energy Contracts with Utility Broker.	11277	Purchase Noticeboard for Long Street Car Park.

PRESENT

Cllr A Stennett (Mayor)

Councillors: L Patrick (Deputy Mayor), T Stride, K Eales, M Patrick, S Creswick, A Rowe, B Schoombie, P Hayes, T White, C Sweet, M Stennett, B Chambers.

Also present: L Wellings (Deputy Town Clerk), A Lyon (Senior Administration Assistant) and Stroud District Councillor B Hughes.

11259 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors D Horn (personal), A White (personal), J Rubin (personal) and County Councillor W Thomas.

11260 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

11261 COUNCILLOR VACANCY – HIGHFIELDS WARD

There were no expressions of interest for the Councillor vacancy.

11262 REPRESENTATIONS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

It was noted that County Councillor Thomas had circulated a written report for information.

District Councillor Hughes gave an update which covered Stroud District Council's approved budget, with over £1million for improvements, including money set aside to help clean up bulky waste and litter (e.g. 240 bins in need of repair); an underspend in the Market Town Vitality Fund in 2024/25, which results in £55,000 being made available for suitable projects in 2025/26; the installation of 6 EV charging points in May Lane car park; the District Councillor's support for the college plans submitted for the old garage showroom at 31 Kingshill Road; ideas to mark the contribution of the Renishaw founder, the late Sir David McMurtry, to

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the area and the latest updates on the work related to 15 May Lane, the flats at Welling Close and the Cambridge Avenue development.

In response to questions, Councillor Hughes agreed to follow up the mural idea for the site hoarding at 15 May Lane, to improve its appearance and also confirmed that the new homes at Cambridge Avenue would be 'social housing'.

In relation to the Cherry Tree at Cambridge Avenue, Councillor Hughes explained that the TPO submitted was unlikely to be granted and, if it was removed, a replacement tree would be planted; Councillor Caton Hughes had suggested planting extra trees on the play area, which members agreed would be nice alongside a bench area.

Members stressed that a replacement Cherry tree should be a substantial size to start, which Councillor Hughes agreed to confirm the size of prior to any planting. It was also suggested that the District Council take cuttings from the Cherry Tree before removal, that could be brought on for planting at town sites (e.g. Cemetery).

Concerns were raised about the length of time taken to deal with plans for 31 Kingshill Road, which was explained, also the loss of parking spaces at May Lane to slow charging EV points and how these points would be managed. In response, Councillor Hughes agreed to find out where the revenue from the EV charging points would go, and what the enforcement process would be.

Councillor Hughes withdrew from the meeting.

11263 UPDATE FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor reported that the Mayoral gown designs had been developed by Rednock students and were ready. These would be delivered to Jacob's House and investigations were underway to identify who might be able to help tailor. Councillors would be given the opportunity to help decide the final design at Council.

11264 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

11265 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 21st January 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

11266 BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

Council's accounts for the financial year 2024/25:

11266.1 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments since the last Council meeting be authorised and signed by the Mayor. The Deputy Clerk agreed to check voucher numbers 700 and 701 to ensure that the payments were for separate skips.

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11266.2 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the bank reconciliation be authorised and signed by the Mayor.

11266.3 The income received since the last Council meeting was noted.

11266.4 The income and expenditure summary reports for 2024/25 were noted.

11267 TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

11267.1 Report of the Chair of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

11267.2 To receive an update on Tourism matters

Councillor Rowe provided an update on tourism activities and the recent Discover Dursley zoom meeting held on 25th February 2025. This included discussion on the development of the new website, a forthcoming strategy review and other activities, including the idea to do a 'Year 2026' promotion for the town, to show Dursley off using its links to Listers. 2026 marks the 100-year anniversary of the Chantry Centre and also the Lister D engine. This could link to other activities across the year, there could be something linked to the Sculpture and Play Trail at Twinberrow Woods, for example.

It was noted that the Pedersen Gathering on 12th April 2025 was being promoted across town; extra copies of the town map would soon be put in the Town Hall noticeboard and also at Long Street Car Park; a leaflet using the map was also being developed and members were invited to submit ideas for this.

11268 GREEN SPACES

11268.1 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 4th February 2025.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting.

11268.2 Report of the Chair of the Green Spaces Committee

The Chair reported that the Management Plans from the Environmental Sub Committee had been agreed and work would start to implement actions in stages.

11269 PLANNING

11269.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 18th February 2025.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting.

11269.2 Report of the Chair of the Planning Committee

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The Vice Chair reported that the plans for the old car showroom site, at 31 Kingshill Road, would be considered at the March committee meeting.

11270 POLICY AND FINANCE

11270.1 To receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on the 18th February 2025.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting.

11270.2 Report of the Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Chair reported that on 18th February 2025 the Committee had approved an urgent funding request of £1,786 to The Engine Hub CIC for Dursley Market and that Dursley Town Council staff were assisting with the new market arrangements.

11270.3 Rednock Band Fund

The Mayor reported back on conversations with Rednock regarding their funding request, to help clarify the specification of the equipment to be installed and its use to support music related activities, which appears to be the case.

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the use of funds totalling £2,600 on condition that the Mayor and Town Clerk have sight of the exact specification/order first and are satisfied it supports music related activities.

11271 BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

Report by the Chair of the Staff Committee

The Chair reported that the 6-month appraisal meetings for staff would take place the first week of April 2025.

11272 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor M Patrick gave an update on local events to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, including church flags from daybreak, 6:30pm bell ceremony, a local deal with fish and chip shops in town, Rednock Swing Band playing under the Town Hall and a national singalong event at St James' Church. It was noted that Cam Parish Council would be lighting the beacon at 9:30pm.

IT WAS AGREED that Council would help support the activities by purchasing the 8 firework rockets, similar to those used for Remembrance Day, and give permission for these to be fired from The War Memorial Recreation Ground from 9:29pm in 10 second bursts to co-ordination with the beacon lighting. The Town Clerk would liaise with the Cam and Dursley Royal British Legion on the details.

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Councillor Eales reported on Littlecombe, including work related to highways and recent developments relating to the acquisition of St Modwen by Miller Homes, which would result in some restructuring/staffing changes.

Councillors L Patrick, T White and Rowe reported back on a recent meeting with the Headteacher of Rednock to discuss the recent concerns raised online by the local community relating to bullying and school behaviour policies. At the meeting Councillors were able to find out more about how the school was responding to the concerns and ensuring appropriate measures were being implemented within the Rednock community.

Councillors raised questions regarding Council grant awards and the evaluation process, **IT WAS AGREED** that the Town Clerk would be asked to consider a future agenda item at Council.

Councillor Rowe reported back on Council's recent Dursley Market meeting with The Engine and chairing the upcoming meeting to discuss the Bergerac twinning idea, which would take place on 20th March at 6:30pm.

Councillor T White reported that 2026 would mark 5 years of Dursley Pride.

The Mayor reported on attendance at the Pancake Race, earlier in the day, expressing how well it went. Councillor T White provided feedback from The Door, who had suggested Council consider running the race after school.

The Mayor would be attending the relaunch of Dursley Market on 8th March. Members suggested getting more local crafters interested through more market promotion.

It was also noted that Kingshill House have appointed two new people as Chair and were interested in exploring the development of links to the Sculpture and Play Trail at Twinberrow Woods.

11273 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Deputy Town Clerk gave an update on the annual Pancake Race, earlier in the day, which had a good crowd, 15 racers and the press in attendance (including TV crew for Points West). It was noted that Festive Dursley had raised £51.71.

It was noted that Goundstaff would be undertaking some playground wet pour training on 10th March, the Street Cleaner would provide some work cover. There would also be some disruption to work patterns on 11th March. Tree removal work was ongoing at Kingshill Cemetery.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that Dursley Town Council had received confirmation that three separate complaints had been received against a Dursley Town Councillor from the Monitoring Officer. These complaints were currently being investigated by the Monitoring Officer and a decision was expected week commencing 3rd March which would be shared in due course.

11274 INSPECTIONS

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The scheduled Councillor inspections and checks for March and April 2025 were noted.

11275 BUSINESS DEALT WITH IN CLOSED SESSION

IT WAS RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

11276 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE UTILITY BROKER IN RELATION TO COUNCIL ENERGY CONTRACTS.

IT WAS RESOLVED to proceed with the contracts and terms as recommended by the Utility Broker. Based on the rates given on the day and circulated to members, this was British Gas Lite contracts - 36 months for gas and 24 months (tbc) for electricity.

11277 TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR A NEW NOTICEBOARD AT LONG STREET CAR PARK.

IT WAS RESOLVED to proceed with the quotation for a powder coated moss green board (18x A4) from Greenbarnes at a cost of £911.51. Councillor Stride voted against.

The meeting closed at 20:27.

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Town Mayor

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Date