

DURSLEY TOWN MEETING

29th April 2014

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the ANNUAL ASSEMBLY of the DURSLEY TOWN MEETING held at Dursley and District Community Centre, Rednock Drive, Dursley at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, the 29th day of April 2014.

PRESENT

Councillor J Ball, Town Mayor in the Chair

26 people were present and the names of 12 Local Government Electors are recorded on the attendance sheet.

Apologies were noted from Councillor R Blackwell-Whitehead, Councillor C Nelmes, Councillor V Harding, County Councillor S Lydon, District Councillor G Wheeler, Mr C Cherry (Vale Vision), Mrs L Cherry (Vale Vision) and Mr M Doughty (Dursley Town Trust).

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Assembly of the Town Meeting held on 23rd April 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings at that meeting.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous Meeting.

3. REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR

The Town Mayor reported upon the activities of the Town Council during the past year (Appendix A), including the Christmas lighting scheme and switch on event, achievements and improvements within the town, including grants to local organisations, refurbishment of the tennis courts, new grit bins, new planters and Council's plans for the forthcoming year, including completion of the new youth centre.

The Town Mayor announced the retirement of Mrs Sue Ginn, the Town Clerk's Assistant, after 20 years of service. On behalf of the Town Council, the Town Mayor thanked Mrs Ginn for her hard work and commitment and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

4. REPORTS OF COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Lydon had sent his apologies to the meeting; a written report was made available (Appendix A).

5. REPORTS OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Wheeler had sent his apologies to the meeting; a written report was made available (Appendix A).

Councillor Cornell provided a written report which was made available (Appendix A).

Councillor Marsh presented his report (Appendix B) outlining proposed changes to the district's Sheltered Housing Scheme in light of government cuts.

6. TO MEET WITH HEAD TEACHERS

The Town Mayor welcomed Mr David Alexander, the Head Teacher at Rednock School and Mr Paul Daniels, the Head Teacher at Dursley C of E Primary Academy.

Mr Alexander gave a presentation outlining Rednock School's core values, its approach to teaching, leadership and management; the improvement plan, progress and student achievements.

Mr Alexander praised the hard work of students and staff in achieving excellent GCSE results with 95.2% of students achieving 5 x A*-C, the second best in the county. Core subjects performed exceptionally well compared with national figures. In all, 69.43% of students achieved 5 A*-C grades including English and Maths.

It was noted that student results are moving upwards and the school has a shared vision to become "Good" by 2014 and "Outstanding" by 2016.

In response to a question about the need for students to have iPads, Mr Alexander confirmed that the school has enough laptops to accommodate two thirds of students but is looking at technology needs and exploring the use of smart phones.

On behalf of Dursley, the Town Mayor congratulated Rednock School on excellent results and recognised the important part it plays in the community.

Mr Daniels gave a presentation outlining the journey undertaken by Dursley C of E Primary School following an Ofsted 'Notice to Improve' in November 2011 through to receiving a "Good" rating in 2013 and gaining academy status.

Mr Daniels highlighted the academy's values, a new creative approach to teaching and learning and its achievements; attainment has moved from below national floor targets to well above, and levels of progress are close to "outstanding".

It was noted that that academy's relationship with its sponsor the Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust, has offered many new opportunities; community work continues to be important including involvement in local projects, for example positive parking and Dursley in Bloom.

Mr Daniels took the opportunity to share publically for the first time, the good news that the academy has secured funds of almost £600,000 towards much needed building development and refurbishments; the Academy is very proud of its achievements and being part of the Dursley community.

On behalf of Dursley, the Town Mayor welcomed the good news and congratulated the academy on its achievements.

7. TO RECEIVE PRESENTATIONS FROM GRANT RECIPIENTS

(a) GL11 Community Project

Indigo Redfern, the Project Manager at GL11, reported on the wide range of services offered to the local community, including a varied training and education programme, drop-in social groups, community lunch/cafe and volunteering opportunities; the project recently took over the other half of the building and is looking at ways the space can be used and developed, including offering rooms for hire (e.g. business start ups, artistic work).

On behalf of the project, Indigo Redfern thanked Dursley Town Council for providing grant funding.

(b) Stroud and District CAB

Nick Lee, the Bureau Manager, was not in attendance to provide a report.

(c) Home Start

Angela Lovegrove, the Home Start Coordinator, outlined the charity's work supporting families in the local area who are struggling to cope; a team of 90 volunteers provide support, but more are needed; in 2013 Home Start helped 23 families in the Cam and Dursley area.

On behalf of the charity, Angela Lovegrove, thanked Dursley Town Council for providing grant funding.

(d) Dursley and District Community Association (additional item taken)

Roger Davies, Dursley and District Community Association, presented a report on recent improvement work to the Community Centre roof and ongoing work to improve management processes and marketing of the centre (Appendix C).

On behalf of the association, Mr Davies, thanked Dursley Town Council for continued support.

8. TO DISCUSS TOWN MATTERS GENERALLY

No matters were raised for discussion.

9. LESLIE D GALE AWARD

The Town Mayor presented the Leslie D Gale Award for service to the community to Home Start (Stroud District) in recognition of the valuable work their volunteers carry out with families who need support in Dursley. Angela Lovegrove, the Coordinator, accepted the award on behalf of the charity.

The Town Mayor reported that the Council would like to expand the awards in the future to include the following:

- Volunteer of the year
- Young person of the year
- Sports person/team of the year
- Business of the year

The Town Mayor closed the Assembly and invited those present to join her in some light refreshment and take part in the Neighbourhood Development Plan Survey.

Before exiting the meeting room, Ray Pekala, Chair of the Breakheart Community Project, took the opportunity to inform those present about how the land is being used and developed; he encouraged the community to come and enjoy the space, the fantastic views and facilities on offer, including classroom space, walks and the new yurt café.

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Town Mayor

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Date