

1st April, 2014

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held in the Methodist Church Rooms, Castle Street, Dursley at 7 pm on Tuesday, 1st April, 2014.

Action Summary:

9153.6	Electric Garage, Prospect Place	9154.3	Youth Centre for Dursley
9153.7	Stroud District Local Plan: Prelim. Draft Charging Schedule	9154.4	Dursley & District Comm.Assoc.
9154.2	Register of Community Assets	9155.2	Appt of Trainee Admin Assistant
		9155.3	Appt of Project Administrator

PRESENT

Cllr J Ball, Town Mayor
Cllr C Nelmes, Deputy Mayor

Councillors: J Bird, S Creswick, F Firth, T Frankau, V Harding, M Laybourne, B Marsh, A Stennett and R Blackwell-Whitehead.

Also present: County Councillor S Lydon, District Councillors D Cornell and G Wheeler, Town Clerk Mrs H Bojaniwska and Mrs S Ginn, Clerk's Assistant.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 9142

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors N Grecian (personal), M Nicholson (work) and L Patrick (personal).

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 9143

The Mayor declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda items 9.1 (Minute 9150.1) and 13.4 (Minute 9154.4 below) and would withdraw during consideration thereof.

Prior to discussion of the item, Councillor Harding declared a personal interest in agenda item 13.3 (Minute 9154.3 below).

TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9144

No requests for dispensations were received.

VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR CENTRAL AND HIGHFIELDS WARDS 9145

No applications had been received to fill the above vacancies.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR REQUESTS
FOR DISPENSATIONS 9146

None were received.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS 9147

County Councillor's Report

Councillor Lydon's report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and covered, inter alia, the possible closure of Lister-Petter and recent redundancies; the appointment of John Kay as the new Highways Manager for the area; poor performance of key health services in the county and issues relating to Cam and Dursley Station.

District Councillors' Reports

Councillor Marsh reported on plans to enable tenants to obtain a credit rating, and the sheltered housing schemes.

Councillor Wheeler reported that Lister Petter was put into administration on 28th March after a further 20 redundancies were announced earlier. Council awaits further developments. The Examination in Public of the new Stroud District Local Plan is currently being held and will look at future housing numbers in the Plan, which if approved by the Inspector, will help combat applications for potential developments in Dursley.

Councillor Cornell reported that an update on the Littlecombe development was given to the Strategy and Resources Committee; a new Master Plan for the site is being drawn up for consultation; 18 affordable homes are currently being provided on site with more available in the next phase; approximately half the site will remain green space and the river entirely opened up. Councillor Cornell noted the need for more allotments in Dursley which could potentially be accommodated on the Littlecombe site. Completion of the Littlecombe site is estimated in five year's time.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 9148

It was noted that correspondence had been received relating to the Dursley & District Community Association which would be considered under agenda item 13.4 (Minute 9154.4) below.

MINUTES 9149

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4th March 2014 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings at that meeting.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

9150

9150.1 Council's Accounts 2013/14

The Mayor withdrew during consideration of the following item.

- (i) IT WAS RESOLVED that the schedule of orders for payment made since the last meeting (Appendix A), prepared by the Responsible Financial Officer and circulated to members, be authorised and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor rejoined the meeting.

- (ii) Income received since the last Council meeting (Appendix B) had been circulated to members and was noted.
- (iii) The monthly management/budget report had been circulated to members and was noted.

GREEN SPACES

9151

9151.1 Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9151.2 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on 18th March 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on 18th March 2014.

9151.3 Update on Projects

- (i) War Memorial Recreation Ground play equipment upgrade – the Committee Chairman reported that a specification was being drawn up and play equipment suppliers would be invited to tender. Outdoor gym equipment would be included, as confirmation had been received from the District Council that Section 106 monies could be used from the Union Street development for its provision and an application for this money had been made.
- (ii) Lease of Highfields Playing Field – the Committee Chairman stated that Council is still waiting for the flooding issue to be resolved.
- (iii) Repairs to Kingshill Play Park wall – The Clerk reported that having formally complained about the delay in response from the Conservation Officer, Council was subsequently informed that

Listed Building Consent would be needed to undertake further repairs to the wall. An application has been submitted and will come before the Planning Committee shortly.

- (iv) Transfer of ownership of Union Street Green – The Clerk reported that the matter is being dealt with by the District Council's solicitor.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9152

9152.1 Report of the Chairman of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Committee Chairman complimented Dursley in Bloom on its replanting of the flower tubs within the town and reported that a workshop organised by Hidden Britain will be held on 9th April in the Town Hall to look at the town's assets and how they can be improved upon.

PLANNING

9153

9153.1 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9153.2 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 18th March, 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the above-mentioned meeting.

9153.3 Neighbourhood Development Plan project

Councillor Bird, Chairman of the Steering Group, reported that the meeting on 12th March was well attended, each member of the Group is in the process of gathering data and an application for £7,000 grant funding has been approved. The next meeting will be held on 9th April.

9153.4 National Planning Policy Framework

Arising from the February Council meeting Council had written in support of the District Council's view to call upon the Government to amend the National Planning Policy Framework by writing to Secretary of State, Eric Pickles. A response had been received from the Department for Communities and Local Government, copies circulated to members and the contents noted.

9153.5 Variation of Condition 21, Application S13.0458/VAR, Lister Petter

The Town Clerk had attended the Development Control Committee meeting at Ebley Mill relating to the above application to vary the condition to build the spine road once 100 homes have been built to 130. The Town Council had

objected on grounds relating to the completion of improvements to the junction of Kingshill Lane with Lister Road at the bottom of Kingshill Lane and the junction of Kingshill Lane with Kingshill Road and had made representation on this basis. The advice of the Planning Officer at the meeting was that the developer would still be required to make the improvements to the junctions regardless of whether or not the Condition was changed, and on that basis, permission was granted.

9153.6 The Electric Garage, Prospect Place – S.14/0085/FUL

Council considered an invitation to attend the Development Control Committee meeting on 8th April relating to the above planning application and after due consideration IT WAS AGREED to decline the invitation.

9153.7 Stroud District Local Plan: Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule

The above draft and the Clerk's notes on the above had been circulated to members with their agendas.

After consideration and some discussion, the Mayor moved, the Committee Chairman seconded and IT WAS RESOLVED to (i) respond in line with the recommendations outlined in the Clerk's paper and (ii) regarding a proposed instalments Policy, to question whether there is a Policy in place for dealing with insolvency.

POLICY AND FINANCE

9154

9154.1 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9154.2 Register of Community Assets

Letters of objection to Council's nomination of the Old Magistrate's Court and Dursley Police Station for inclusion on the above Register had been received from Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucestershire Constabulary respectively and copies circulated to members.

Councillor Creswick supported the comments made and moved both applications be withdrawn. Councillor Harding seconded and IT WAS RESOLVED.

9154.3 Youth Centre for Dursley

At this juncture, Councillor Harding declared a personal interest as a Church Elder.

Arising from the March Council meeting regarding the retendering, the Clerk provided a brief résumé for the benefit of members, advising that having

amended the specification and reaching agreement with the Church over the allocation of various items within the specification, Council still remains within budget and the Church will be able to meet the extra costs required for electrical rewiring, heating and new windows. One or two costings remain to be firmed up, but the Group is now in a position to confirm it has a suitable contractor who can provide on budget. The Clerk advised that there is now a need to strengthen the original partnership agreement drawn up between Council and the Tabernacle Church to provide for a longer agreement period to prove the Church's willingness to work with the Town Council long term and a letter confirming this had been received from the Tabernacle.

The next stage is to hold a pre-contract meeting with the contractor with a view to signing off the contract and the Committee Chairman moved the Clerk be authorised to attend the pre-contract negotiations and subject to a satisfactory outcome, to sign the contract with the chosen contractor. The Mayor seconded and IT WAS RESOLVED.

The updated budget and risk assessment circulated to members were noted.

Council's gratitude to the Clerk was recorded for the considerable time she had spent on the project over the last few weeks.

9154.4 Dursley & District Community Association, Grant Application

At this point, the Mayor withdrew from the meeting and the Deputy Mayor took the Chair.

Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March between the Association and Town Council representatives had been circulated to members along with copies of the Community Association's Grant Application, and additional correspondence received since the issue of the agenda and mentioned under paragraph 9148 above.

The Committee Chairman stated that the above-mentioned meeting had been difficult but positive. Disappointment was expressed that a year had passed with little progress made, but she confirmed that action had been taken since the meeting. It was noted that the Committee has stated that if the Community Association does not receive a grant from the Town Council, it will fold.

Comment was made that the list bookings and users of the Centre which had been provided is not up to date.

After further discussion the Committee Chairman moved that the grant is approved but paid in quarterly instalments with conditions/targets set and achieved prior to each instalment being paid, with the conditions to be imposed considered at the next Policy and Finance Committee meeting. A meeting would subsequently be arranged with the Committee to look at the

proposed conditions. Councillor Firth seconded the motion and IT WAS RESOLVED

The Mayor rejoined the meeting.

9154.5 Our Place Project

The Clerk reported that Council has successfully been awarded £3,000 towards the project and the next stage is to draw up a delivery strategy which must be submitted by the beginning of May 2014. There is potential to receive a further £30,000 and Council could realistically receive £20,000. Other sources of funding are also being considered.

9154.6 Councillors' Reports

- (i) WW1 Centenary Meeting, 5th March – The Mayor reported that the meeting had been well attended; a lot of suggestions were put forward for commemorating the centenary of the commencement of World War One on 4th August 2014; a provisional programme of events was agreed subject to confirmation that venues will be available and it was felt that events should be held on Sunday 3rd August to allow for greater public participation.

The minutes of the meeting would be circulated and a further meeting would be arranged to finalise details of events to be held.

- (ii) GL11 Stakeholders' Group, 10th March – The Mayor had nothing new to report.
- (iii) Road Safety Liaison Group, 12th March – Councillor Frankau reported that there is concern regarding the number of young people killed in road traffic accidents in recent months and it is proposed to go into schools.
- (iv) Chartered Parishes, 13th March – Councillor Blackwell-Whitehead reported that the Area Highways Manager attended the meeting and reported that despite the mild winter, a higher than usual number of salt runs (54) had been employed and 151 incidents of tree damage were reported on 14th February alone. Flooding funds are available from Government and the County Council and the new highways contract commenced 1st April 2014. The contact number for potholes is 08000 514 514 and was noted by Council.
- (v) Dursley & District Community Association, 19th March – This meeting had been discussed under paragraph 9154.4 above.
- (vi) Dursley in Bloom, 24th March – Councillor Harding reported that a working party will be tidying the Garden of Remembrance at Dursley Cemetery on 2nd April. She expressed anger at removal of the

daffodils from two of the tree planters in Castle Street and had contacted the Gazette.

- (vii) Cam & Dursley Greenway, 28th March – Councillor Blackwell-Whitehead reported that there was a recap on the past history of the Greenway/Cycleway project and future plans; those present have formed the Steering Group to take the project forward but no Chairman was elected. The aim is to provide a Greenway from Uley through to the A38 at the Slimbridge junction to link with the National Cycle Network, but for the present concentration will be on Dursley through to Cam and the train station. Councillor Blackwell-Whitehead urged Council to support the project.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9155

9155.1 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

In the absence of the Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman, no report was received.

9155.2 Recruitment of a Trainee Administration Assistant

Further to the March 2014 Council meeting, copies of the letter of appointment of the above trainee had been circulated to members with their agendas and the contents noted.

The Clerk reported that the trainee will start on 14th April 2014 and excellent references had been received. The Clerk reassured members on the appropriateness of the salary offered.

9155.3 Appointment of a Project Administrator

Council confirmed the appointment of a Project Administrator on a 12-month contract on a self-employed basis, following interviews held on 28th March 2014. Details of the appointee had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was noted that Ms Andrews was available to start immediately subject to references.

HIGHWAYS

9156

9156.1 To receive a report from Council's Highways Representative

Councillor Frankau, Council's Highways Representative, had no matters to report.

1st April, 2014

Council

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

9157

9157.1 To receive a report from Council's Police Representative

Councillor Harding as Council's Police representative had no matters to report.

CLERK'S REPORT

9158

9158.1 Clerk's Report

Copies of the Clerk's Report had been circulated to members.

9158.2 Monthly Area Inspections and Audit Checks

Details of Councillors scheduled to undertake area inspections and audit checks in April/May 2014 had been included on the Agenda and were noted.

2014 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE DURSLEY TOWN MEETING

9159

Further to the March 2014 Council meeting it was noted that Dursley Primary Academy and Rednock School have accepted the Council's invitation to attend the Annual Assembly on 29th April 2014 as guest speakers.

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Town Mayor

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Date