

2nd September, 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, 2nd September, 2014.

Action Summary:

9245	Response to Littlecombe masterplan	9251.4	Acting Chairman arrangements
9248.2(i)	Outdoor gym equipment	9252.2	Trainee Administration Assistant contract
9248.2 (ii)	Play area consultation event		

PRESENT

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

Councillors: S Creswick, V Harding, B Marsh, A Stennett, L Patrick, M Laybourne, N Grecian, F Firth, J Bird, R Blackwell-Whitehead, P Hayes and M Nicholson.

Also present: District Councillor G Wheeler, County Councillor S Lydon, Mrs H Bojaniwska, Town Clerk; Mrs L Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk; Mr R Joseland, St Modwen; Mr C Flannagan, Orgin3; Mr N Stewart, Principal Estate Surveyor at Stroud District Council; Mr D Hagg, Chief Executive of Stroud District Council and 8 members of the public including representatives from the Chantry Centre, South Cotswold Ramblers and Dursley Bowls Club.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 9239

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor T Frankau (personal).

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 9240

The Mayor declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 9.1 (i) (Minute 9247.1).

Councillor Hayes declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 10.2 (i) (Minute 9248.2) as a resident of The Knapp.

TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9241

No requests for dispensations were received.

VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR HIGHFIELDS WARD 9242

None were received.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9243

None were received.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS 9244

County Councillor's Report

Councillor Lydon had circulated a written report in advance on: the Active Together and Highways Funds, the AMEY contract, Social Value, Meeting the Challenge 2, NHS shortages, the Shakespeare Road planning application and Our Place project.

Councillor Lydon is urging Councils to consider supporting an initiative proposed by the Ambulance Service and the British Heart Foundation to install community defibrillators.

District Councillors' Reports

Councillor Wheeler reported on: the ward boundary review, changes to council elections in 2016 and new waste collection proposals under consideration, including a weekly food waste collection and opt-in garden waste collection service.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 9245

It was noted that members of the public were present in connection with agenda item 12.4 (Minute 9250.4), 'to agree a response to proposed changes to the Littlecombe masterplan'.

Letters from Dursley Bowls Club outlining concerns about the loss of existing public long stay parking facilities within the masterplan were circulated with the agenda.

Mr Farrant, Chairman of Dursley Bowls Club, strongly opposed the loss of long stay parking for members, the club is well used by the community and many are reliant on having access to parking spaces close by due to their age and the use of heavy bowls equipment. The Club urged Council to support them in this matter.

Representatives from South Cotswold Ramblers and the Chantry Centre also raised similar objections; the loss of long stay parking would have a detrimental

effect on the number of walkers visiting the town and people attending both day and night time events at the centre on Long Street.

Mr Joseland (St Mowden) explained that the Long Street Car Park was only ever temporary due to the loss of the original car park to Sainsbury's; the land already has consent for development.

It was noted that Stroud District Council own the land which has recently been registered as a Community Asset following an application made by Dursley Town Council.

Mr Stewart (Stroud District Council) confirmed that the Council will be undertaking a parking review of Dursley within weeks. Concerns were expressed that Stroud District Council are failing to listen to and recognise what Dursley needs.

It was noted that Mr Hagg, Chief Executive of Stroud District Council, was aware of concerns about loss of parking in the town and is willing to hold talks with the Council.

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of small business units within the masterplan. In response Mr Joseland (St Modwen) confirmed that the marketing of speculative units has been taking place since 2008 but with no take up, land is still available for business units.

IT WAS RESOLVED to bring forward and consider item 12.4 (Minute 9250.4) at this point in the meeting.

Members considered the proposed changes to the Littlecombe masterplan along with the residents' comments and Town Clerk's report dated 5th August 2014, outlining concerns including lack of employment, loss of long stay car parking, highway improvements at Kingshill Lane and connections from the site to Dursley town centre, as discussed at full Council on 5th August 2014.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the recommendations within the Town Clerk's report and: ask the developer about the issues outlined within it, including connectivity to the town; work with the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group to incorporate relevant questions within ongoing consultation work; set up a meeting with NDP representatives, Stroud District Council and St Modwen to discuss the issues, and engage the services of a planning consultant to assist with negotiations.

It was noted that representations had been received in connection with agenda item 10.2 (i) (Minute 9248.2 (i)), 'responses from neighbours and users of the site to consultation on outdoor gym equipment'.

IT WAS RESOLVED to consider the representations when considering the above agenda item.

MINUTES

9246

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5th August 2014 were signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

9247

The Mayor withdrew from the meeting.

9247.1 Council's Accounts 2014/15

- (i) IT WAS RESOLVED that the schedules of payments (Appendix A) be authorised and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor rejoined the meeting.

- (ii) Income received since the last Council meeting (Appendix B) was noted.
- (iii) The monthly management/budget report was noted.

GREEN SPACES

9248

9248.1 Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9248.2 War Memorial Recreation Ground Upgrade

Councillor Hayes withdrew from the meeting.

- (i) To consider responses from neighbours and users of the site following consultation on outdoor gym equipment

Representations from residents of The Knapp objecting to proposals to position equipment inside the recreation ground hedge were considered.

Residents' concerns about lack of consultation, anti social behaviour, vandalism, safety and close proximity to the football pitches were discussed.

It was noted that the War Memorial Recreation Ground was established for the purpose of public sport and recreation and it was considered that the installation of this equipment is entirely consistent with this intention.

The Town Clerk assured Council that consultation letters were posted or hand delivered to all residents of The Knapp.

It was noted that Council had not received any complaints about gaps in the hedge in the last 2 years; there has been no history of play equipment on the site being subjected to vandalism; issues relating to equipment safety,

vandalism and positioning away from the children's play area had been carefully considered with suppliers when drawing up proposals and the local police have no objections to the construction and siting of the equipment.

In relation to anti-social behaviour it was noted that the site is open to the public 24 hours a day and Council has no means of stopping people going onto it at night. Members felt that the presence of the gym equipment was unlikely to contribute to an increase in anti-social behaviour, which anecdotal evidence suggests is more directly related to excessive alcohol consumption.

IT WAS RESOLVED to proceed with the installation of the equipment which will be of great benefit to Dursley residents, providing an easily accessible means of taking exercise with obvious health and wellbeing benefits. The position of the equipment (items 1, 2, 3) will be reviewed to ensure that it is positioned not to interfere with use of the football pitches. Football teams, other users of the site and maintenance contractors will be consulted before making a final decision on the positions of the equipment and the Police will be asked to carry out more patrols in the area.

Councillor Hayes rejoined the meeting.

(ii) Play area consultation

IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillors Stennett and Blackwell-Whitehead undertake a consultation on the play equipment at the Swimming Pool on a Saturday morning (date to be agreed).

9248.3 Unauthorised use of the War Memorial Recreation Ground

It was noted that Dursley Pool had used the ground without authorisation due to a communication issue which has since been resolved.

9248.4 Update on Union Street Green

It was noted that the Town Clerk is still awaiting a response from Stroud District Council regarding confirmation that the searches were adequate and that the prohibition of buildings on the land does not include future play equipment and structures required for the maintenance of the land.

9248.5 Update on the Lease of Highfields Playing Fields

It was noted that the Town Clerk is still awaiting a response from Stroud District Council regarding work proposals relating to flooding.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9249

9249.1 Report of the Chairman of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Committee Chairman thanked the Vice Chairman for covering her recent absence and had no further matters to report.

PLANNING

9250

9250.1 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9250.2 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 19th August, 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9250.3 Update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) project

Councillor Bird gave Council an update on the above project and the Steering Group meeting on 13th August 2014.

It was noted that: consultation work is well underway, the Business Survey has gone out and the group is awaiting responses; evidence surrounding the various project topics is being compiled by members of the steering group and although work is progressing well the project plan timetable has slipped slightly.

9250.4 Response to proposed changes to the Littlecombe Plan

It was noted that this agenda item was taken and resolved earlier under agenda item 7 (Minute 9245) 'representations from the public'.

POLICY AND FINANCE

9251

9251.1 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9251.2 To receive the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee Meeting held on 19th August, 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9251.3 Youth Centre Update

- i) The Clerk reported that: construction work is six weeks behind schedule but the contractors do not foresee any further big delays; the ramp is being installed, the floors are down and plastering is underway, the second fix will follow; an issue with the size of the internal doors has been resolved and the project is moving along at a good speed.

- ii) The updated budget and risk assessment was noted.
- iii) The Clerk reported on the proposed arrangements for managing the new youth centre. It was noted that the new appointed trustees will be the project team, taking on responsibility for updating the constitution and overall management of the new centre.
- iv) A draft licence for use of the property was considered.

IT WAS RESOLVED to proceed with the draft licence and not to make any changes to the document at this stage in the process.

9251.4 Appointment of an “Acting Chairman” to cover for holidays

It was noted that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be away at the same time and an acting chairman is required for a period of 4 days.

IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Grecian as “Acting Chairman”.

9251.5 Councillors’ Reports

- (i) **Vale Vision AGM** (12/08/14) – Councillor Stennett reported that only 5/6 people attended the meeting and the group is in need of volunteers; the Community Plan is still on the agenda.
- (ii) **Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group** (13/08/14) – A report had already been given under agenda item 12.3 (Minute 9250.3). The item was replaced by **Walkers are Welcome** – Councillor Grecian reported on the Dursley Walking Festival which will take place 10th-12th October 2014. It was noted that the programme is now available at www.dursleywelcomeswalkers.org.uk.
- (iii) **Our Place Steering Group** (18/08/14) – The Town Clerk reported on: the logic chain model submitted for 1st September 2014; the upcoming launch at the Tabernacle Community Room on 10th September 2014; the draft operational plan and the meetings that are being held to encourage other organisations to come onboard.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9252

9252.1 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9252.2 To confirm new contract terms for Council’s trainee administration assistant

IT WAS RESOLVED to consider this item in committee at the end of the agenda due to its confidential nature.

HIGHWAYS

9253

9253.1 To receive a report from Council’s Highways Representative

In the absence of Councillor Frankau, Council’s Highways Representative, the Town Clerk made Council aware of an invitation to attend a Local Transport Plan Workshop on 22nd October 2014; interested members should contact the Council office.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY 9254

9254.1 To receive a report from Council’s Police Representative

The Town Clerk reported on a bonfire that was held on the War Memorial Recreation Ground, the local PCSOs will be asked to monitor for incidents and the ongoing collection of evidence to support a licence review of Capone’s nightclub.

CLERK’S REPORT 9255

9255.1 Clerk’s Report

The Clerk’s report was noted.

The Mayor gave apologies for the forthcoming GL11 and Local Strategic Partnership meetings.

9255.2 Monthly Area Inspections and Audit Checks

Details of Councillors scheduled to undertake area inspections and audit checks in September/October 2014 were noted.

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

Councillor Wheeler and Mr Stuart Russ, Gazette Reporter, withdrew from the meeting. Before withdrawing Mr Russ introduced himself as the new reporter for the Dursley and Cam area, contact details will remain the same.

9252.2 To confirm new contract terms for Council’s Trainee Administration Assistant

IT WAS RESOLVED to confirm the new contact terms for a period of one year.

The meeting closed at 8:25 p.m.

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Town Mayor

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Date