

7<sup>th</sup> October, 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, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2014.

### Action Summary:

9265.3	Play area upgrade – appoint Sutcliffe as supplier	9268.4	Grant awards
9267.3	Parking Study for Dursley	9268.6	Appointment of Trustees for Youth Centre
9267.4	Support pre-planning application for Dursley Pool	9268.6	Draft License for Youth Centre

### 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 and P Hayes.

Also present: Mrs H Bojaniwska, Town Clerk; Mrs L Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk; Angela Gillingham, Dursley Pool and Sports Centre Manager and staff member; District Councillors D Cornell (from item 9) and G Wheeler (from item 10.3).

### TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

9256

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors T Frankau (personal), R Blackwell-Whitehead (personal) and M Nicholson (work).

### MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

9257

The Mayor declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 12.5 (Minute 9267.5) and 13.4 (Minute 9268.4).

Councillor Harding declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 12.5 (Minute 9267.5).

Councillor Marsh declared a personal interest in agenda item 12.5 (Minute 9267.5).

### TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

9258

No requests for dispensations were received.

VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR HIGHFIELDS WARD 9259

None were received.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9260

None were received.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS 9261

County Councillor's Report

In the absence of County Councillor Lydon, no report was received.

District Councillors' Reports

The Town Clerk read out Councillor Wheeler's written report on: the budget for 2014/15 and the need to make savings; promoting jobs and growth in the district and updates to the Jobs and Growth Plan; Littlecombe and the start of demolition work at the end of the year; the ward boundary review and growth in the number of electors in Dursley wards.

The Town Clerk read out Councillor Cornell's written report on: concerns relating to the loss of long stay car parking in the town and the options that are being explored; the success of the Stroud Council Housing Forum in its first year; recent changes to sheltered housing; affordable housing on the Littlecombe site and joint work exploring the possible creation of a Stroud District Money Forum to support and signpost vulnerable people.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 9262

There were no representations from the public.

IT WAS RESOLVED to bring forward and consider item 12.4 'to consider a response to a pre-planning consultation on Dursley Swimming Pool' (Minute 9267.4) at this point in the meeting.

The Mayor, Councillors Firth, Grecian and Marsh all spoke in favour of the proposed extension of the facility and the positive benefits it will bring to the town. It was noted that the footpath from the pool car park to the War Memorial Recreation Ground will be retained.

IT WAS RESOLVED to support the proposed plans.

Councillor Stennett abstained from the vote.

MINUTES 9263

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014 were signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE 9264

9264.1 Council's Accounts 2014/15

- (i) IT WAS RESOLVED that the schedules of payments (Appendix A) be authorised and signed by the Mayor.
- (ii) Income received since the last Council meeting (Appendix B) was noted.
- (iii) The monthly management/budget report was noted.

GREEN SPACES 9265

9265.1 Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9265.2 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9265.3 War Memorial Recreation Ground Upgrade

- (i) To consider revised plans for the new playground following public consultation and meetings with suppliers.

Revised plans and further details from suppliers HAG and Sutcliffe were considered.

It was noted that the suppliers had not included any skate park equipment in the revised plans. It was suggested that given budget constraints, this could be developed in the future as a separate project with young people.

It was considered that the Sutcliffe plan offers best value for money and includes more inclusive play equipment. Concerns were raised about the design of the zip wire platform; other possible inclusions were discussed including a 'spider' climbing frame and natural seating from Breakheart Quarry.

IT WAS RESOLVED to work with Sutcliffe as the preferred supplier and negotiate and agree the final plans.

(ii) Progress report on installation of outdoor gym equipment.

It was noted that work had started on the installation of the outdoor gym equipment, the work is expected be finished by the end of the week; the final location of the equipment was agreed following consultation with residents, Police, the Swimming Pool and football clubs.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9266

9266.1 Report of the Chairman of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Committee Chairman reported on: the festive lights and a celebrity guest for the switch on event; the upcoming Committee meeting at which issues with street cleaning in the town centre would be discussed.

PLANNING

9267

9267.1 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9267.2 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9267.3 To receive a report on a meeting with St Modwen and Stroud District Council concerning the Littlecombe masterplan

It was reported that: the above meeting took place on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014; it is anticipated that the planning application will be submitted before 25<sup>th</sup> December 2014, it may not include the extra care accommodation; the temporary permission for the long stay Long Street car park runs out in February at which time the access road will be lost, several options are being considered including providing temporary access to the car park through the land owned by the Gazette.

The importance of the long stay car parking to the town was discussed; Stroud District Council have indicated that they will come back to Council in the near future with a parking plan; Stroud District Council and St Mowden are willing to work with Council to find a solution.

A quotation to undertake a parking study was considered. It was noted that the study would contribute to this work and that of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint Harris Ethical to undertake a parking study at a cost of £1,500, to be taken from the £15,000 planning advice and assistance budget.

9267.4 To consider a response to pre-planning consultation on Dursley Swimming Pool.

It was noted that this agenda item was taken and resolved earlier following agenda item 7 (Minute 9262) 'representations from the public'.

The Mayor and Councillor Harding withdrew from the meeting.

9267.5 Planning Application S.14/0966/OUT Land at Shakespeare Road/Ganzell Lane

The Town Clerk reported that: the application had been delayed due to additional work on the Local Plan and ecological issues; the Council might consider submitting an additional comment relating to public transport in light of the possible withdrawal of the number 21 bus service, the developers' traffic study assumed that the service would be operating.

The Mayor and Councillor Harding rejoined the meeting.

POLICY AND FINANCE

9268

9268.1 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Committee Chairman reported on recent changes to the Council alarm system and contractor; new alarm fobs have been issued for all premises.

9268.2 To receive the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9268.3 To fill a vacancy arising on the Committee following the appointment of Councillor Blackwell-Whitehead as Vice Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee.

IT WAS RESOLVED to defer the above item to the next Council meeting.

9268.4 To approve the Committee's recommended Grant Awards

i) Small grants to be paid in October 2014.

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the recommended small grant awards.

The Mayor withdrew from the meeting.

ii) Large grants to be paid in April 2015.

Responses from Dursley Festival and Transition Cam and Dursley were considered.

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the recommended large grant awards subject to Council approval of its budget and the following conditions:

- Transition Cam and Dursley must set up a bank account and appoint a Treasurer.

IT WAS RESOLVED to consider a late application (covering up to a 3 year period) from the Citizens Advice Bureau at the next Policy and Finance Committee meeting.

#### 9268.5 Appointment of representative to the Dursley Festival Committee

IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Firth as the representative on the Dursley Festival Committee.

#### 9268.6 Youth Centre Update

i) The Clerk reported that: the building is expected to be handed over on 24<sup>th</sup> October with the opening anticipated for January 2015; work is taking place to resolve an issue with the window glazing and a decision will be made regarding the railings on the ramp; some costs need to be renegotiated.

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 (incl. 3 from Council and 3 from the Church) will be the project team, taking on responsibility for updating the constitution and overall management of the new centre.

IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint Councillors Ball, Nelmes and Marsh as the Council Trustees.

iv) A draft licence for use of the property was considered.

It was noted that the Synod were reluctant to give a lease and that their solicitors had drawn up a licence; the licence is easier to update, renew and extend; it will run for 15 years and ties in with the original Partnership Agreement.

IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint a Solicitor to check the licence.

#### 9268.7 Councillors' Reports

- (i) **Our Place Steering Group** (Sept/Oct) – The Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk reported on: the launch event held on 10<sup>th</sup> October which went well; developing the operational plan and full cost benefit analysis; the appointment of Citizen Engagement to find out what young people need and the work that will take place between now and March 2015.
- (ii) **GL11 Stakeholders** (8/9/14) – The Town Clerk reported on: the station car park issues, the provision of extra car parking spaces and new bus services to connect to Bristol City Centre.
- (iii) **SOSYP Quarterly review** (8/9/14) – The Town Clerk reported on: Summer holiday activities and high attendance in the Dursley area; outreach work that takes place on a Monday and Thursday between 3:30-5:30 and the anticipated transfer to the new youth centre.
- (iv) **Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group** (10/09/14) – Councillor Bird reported on: recent community engagement work; a visioning session scheduled to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> October to start the process of drawing up objectives from the evidence gathered; an anticipated meeting with Cam and Gloucestershire County Council on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014 to discuss the Cam and Dursley Rail Station.
- (v) **Festive Working Group** (24/09/14) – Councillor Firth reported on: the arrangements for festive lighting; the installation of coloured lights on the Christmas tree this year; a pantomime theme and trader involvement.
- (vi) **SOSYP AGM** (25/09/14) – The Town Clerk and Councillor Marsh reported on: the drug service extending work into surrounding villages; plans for a music based event for young people and establishing new links with Katherine Lady Berkeley School.
- (vii) **Walkers are Welcome** (6/10/14) – Councillor Grecian reported on the Dursley Walking Festival which will take place 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and the date for next year's festival which will be 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

#### BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9269

##### 9269.1 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

##### 9269.2 To confirm Councillor Blackwell-Whitehead as the Green Spaces Committee Representative on the Staff Committee.

IT WAS RESOLVED to confirm Councillor Blackwell-Whitehead as the Green Spaces Committee Representative on the Committee.

#### HIGHWAYS

9270

##### 9270.1 To receive a report from Council's Highways Representative

In the absence of Councillor Frankau, Council's Highways Representative, Councillor Harding reported on plans to change the bus services; the number

21 service is going to cease on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014 and the number 61 service will terminate at the Bus Station.

Council noted that Stagecoach is undertaking a review and changes are being made across the network as a whole. Concern was expressed about the loss of connections and lack of accessible, low floor buses.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

9271

9271.1 To receive a report from Council's Police Representative

Councillor Harding, as Council's Police Representative, reported on: the three police priorities which are 1) promoting crime prevention in the form of face to face support 2) working with young people and youth services, 3) Promoting greater multi-agency education work; the mugging incident at The Knapp and a planned 'ride along' to observe a stop and search, which Councillor Harding and the Town Clerk plan to attend.

CLERK'S REPORT

9272

9272.1 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted.

The Mayor congratulated Dursley in Bloom, on behalf of the Council, for winning a Gold award from the Heart of England in Bloom judges. It was noted that this is an amazing achievement in such a short period of time (4 years).

It was noted that the Mayor attended an event at the Dil Raj to celebrate their 25 year trading anniversary in Dursley.

9272.2 Monthly Area Inspections and Audit Checks

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

The meeting closed at 8:30 p.m.

.....  
Town Mayor

.....  
Date