

4th November, 2014

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held in the Methodist Church Rooms, Castle Street, Dursley at 7pm on Tuesday, 4th November, 2014.

Action Summary:

9279	Letter to County Council regarding the Amey contract	9286.4	Seek clarification on Dursley in Bloom grant application.
9283.2	Play area upgrade – Option 2 selected with seating from Breakheart Community Project	9288.1	Council to appoint Deputy Highways Representative

PRESENT

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

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

Also present: Mrs H Bojaniwska, Town Clerk; Mrs L Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk; Gazette Reporter, Stuart Rust

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 9273

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors T Frankau (personal), J Bird (work) and V Harding (personal); County Councillor S Lydon and District Councillor G Wheeler.

COUNCILLOR ABSENCE 9274

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the continuing absence of Councillor Frankau, in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 s85.

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 9275

The Mayor declared a personal interest in agenda item 10.1 (Minute 9282.1 (i)), as Chairman of the Royal British Legion (Cam and Dursley Branch) and a personal interest in 14.3 (Minute 9286.3), as Treasurer of the Youth Centre Management Committee.

Councillor Creswick declared a personal interest in agenda item 14.4 (Minute 9286.4), as Treasurer of Dursley in Bloom.

TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9276

No requests for dispensations were received.

VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR HIGHFIELDS WARD 9277

None were received.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9278

None were received.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS 9279

County Councillor's Report

The Town Clerk read out Councillor Lydon's written report on: non-delivery issues with the Amey highways contract; the Community Empowerment Chest and Youth Fund; the meeting with traders regarding Parsonage Street highways issues; issues with the local health services; proposed cuts to the adult and social care budgets; a defibrillators campaign and changes to bus timetables and services.

District Councillors' Reports

The Town Clerk read out Councillor Wheeler's written report on: the boundary review with Dursley retaining its current boundary, represented by 3 ward councillors; vehicle speeding on the Highfields estate and possible use of 20mph limit; the Stroud Ambitions 2014 careers event on 12th November 2014 and the South West Procurement Portal.

IT WAS RESOLVED to write to Gloucestershire County Council seeking an explanation as to why the contract with Amey is not working satisfactorily.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 9280

There were no representations from the public.

MINUTES 9281

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7th October 2014 were signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE 9282

9282.1 Council's Accounts 2014/15

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

(ii) Income received since the last Council meeting (Appendix B) was noted.

(iii) The monthly management/budget report was noted.

GREEN SPACES

9283

9283.1 Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9283.2 War Memorial Recreation Ground Upgrade

(i) To receive an update on plans for the new playground following meetings with supplier.

The Committee Chairman explained revisions to the plan following a meeting with the supplier Sutcliffe. Two detailed quotations, Option 1 and Option 2, from Sutcliffe were considered, one with seating and one without.

It was noted that Breakheart Community Project could provide and install natural seating as part of the playground plan for approx. £1050; substantially less than the Sutcliffe quotation.

IT WAS RESOLVED to proceed with Option 2 at a cost of £90,000 without the seating and attempt to identify funds for natural seating from Breakheart Community Project within the 2014–15 budget.

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

It was noted that the installation of the outdoor gym equipment is expected to be complete by 14th November 2014.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9284

9284.1 Report of the Chairman of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Committee Chairman reported on: Dursley in Bloom and proposals to install tall hanging baskets on Castle Street; plans to establish a community-led Tourism Group and an idea to start a small scale music festival.

9284.2 To receive the Minutes of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee held on 14th October 2014.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the minutes.

PLANNING

9285

9285.1 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9285.2 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 21st October, 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

POLICY AND FINANCE

9286

9286.1 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9286.2 To receive the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee Meeting held on 28th October, 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9286.3 Youth Centre Update

- i) The Clerk reported that: the building was handed over today and is ready for furniture; there is a small amount of snagging work to be carried out, the railings will be finished and the bay windows redone; existing youth work is expected to be delivered from the centre quickly; the final accounts have yet to be drawn up and the work is expected to be close to budget.

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and those Councillors involved directly in the project for all their hard work.

It was noted that an open evening will be arranged for all Councillors to tour the new centre.

- ii) The updated budget and risk assessment was noted.

9286.4 Dursley in Bloom (DiB) Grant Application

A grant application for £750 from Dursley in Bloom (DiB) was considered.

Questions were raised regarding the breakdown of project costs and the overall amount being requested.

IT WAS RESOLVED to request clarification on project costs from DiB and consider a revised application at the Council budget setting meeting in November.

Councillor Ball abstained from the vote.

9286.5 Councillors' Reports

- (i) **Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group** (8/10/14) – It was noted that: a draft vision and objectives have been drawn up; discussions regarding a survey at the Cam and Dursley Rail Station are ongoing; the group is looking for a volunteer to lead on the transport topic and the Great British Takeaway won the £25 prize raffle for the Business Survey.
- (ii) **Local Plan Technical Workshop** (14/10/14) – The Town Clerk reported on: the workshop presentation which covered the new figures (approx. 1700 extra homes); the Housing Needs Assessment and the next stages of the Local plan process including the continuation of the hearing in January 2015 and start of the site allocation in March 2015.
- (iii) **Local Transport Plan Workshop** (22/10/14) – In the absence of Councillor Bird no report was received.
- (iv) **SOSYP** (22/10/14) – The Town Clerk reported on: a proposed project to engage young people in surrounding villages through a music based event; the nearing end of the existing 3 year contract and the need for Council to discuss the future.
- (v) **Festive Working Group** (22/10/14) – Councillor Firth reported on: the arrangements for festive lighting and the main tree; the celebrity guest, actress Susan Lynch; the pantomime theme and purchase of an event gazebo.
- (vi) **SLCC branch meeting** (23/10/14) – The Town Clerk reported on: discussions regarding the future of the SLCC as the professional body and union for Town Clerks.
- (vii) **Youth Centre Management Committee** (23/10/14) –The new Committee structure was noted as follows: Councillor Nelmes is Chairman, the Mayor is Treasurer, Carole Allen is Secretary, Liz Swanick is Vice Chairman, Councillor Marsh and Simon Helme are Committee members.
- (viii) **Walkers are Welcome** (27/10/14) – Councillor Grecian reported on a successful 2014 Dursley Walking Festival; 250 walkers attended, with a third giving feedback; the date for next year's festival is 2nd–4th October 2015; other walking events will take place over the coming year including the launch of the Lantern Walk.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9287

9287.1 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

The Committee Chairman reported that a meeting of the Staff Committee will take place on 5th November 2014.

9287.2 To receive the minutes of the Staff Committee Meeting held on 30th September 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

HIGHWAYS

9288

9288.1 To receive a report from Council's Highways Representative

In the absence of Councillor Frankau, Council's Highways Representative, no report was received.

IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint a Deputy Highways Representative at the next Council meeting to cover absence.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

9289

9289.1 To receive a report from Council's Police Representative

In the absence of Councillor Harding, as Council's Police Representative, no report was received.

CLERK'S REPORT

9290

9290.1 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted.

The Mayor reminded Councillors to attend the Remembrance Parade on Sunday 9th November at 2:30pm.

9290.2 Monthly Area Inspections and Audit Checks

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

The meeting closed at 8:00 p.m.

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Town Mayor

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Date