

2<sup>nd</sup> December, 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014.

### Action Summary:

9305	S14/0966/OUT - Representation at Development Control Committee 18/12/14.	9309.2	Appointment of Gardiners for Broadwell paving.
9305	Representation at County Council bus service meeting.	9311.4	Appointment of Councillor Creswick as Youth Centre Management Representative.
9307.1	Set up account with Public Sector Deposit Fund.	9312.3	Purchase of new office furniture.
9308.2	Confirmation of 'jungle' play surface.	9313.2	Appointment of Councillor Hayes as 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, R Blackwell-Whitehead, V Harding, M Nicholson, J Bird and P Hayes.

Also present: Mrs H Bojaniwska, Town Clerk; Mrs L Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk; Gazette Reporters, Stuart Rust and Bethany Wash; 4 members of the public

### TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

9299

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors T Frankau (personal) and F Firth (personal); County Councillor S Lydon and District Councillor G Wheeler.

### MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

9300

The Mayor declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda items 9.1 (i) (Minute 9307.1(i)) and 12.3 (Minute 9305/9310.3) and a personal interest in agenda item 13.4 (Minute 9311.4).

Councillors Nelmes, Creswick and Marsh declared a personal interest in agenda item 13.4 (Minute 9311.4).

Councillor Harding declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 12.3 (Minute 9305/9310.3), as a resident of Shakespeare Road.

TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

9301

No requests for dispensations were received.

VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR HIGHFIELDS WARD

9302

None were received.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

9303

None were received.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

9304

County Councillor's Report

Councillor Lydon reported on: the success of Dursley's Festive Lights switch on event; non-delivery issues with the Amey highways contract and his intention to move a vote of no confidence; the lack of engagement by bus companies prior to changing timetables and services; plans to hold an urgent meeting with representatives following the news that Gloucestershire County Council wish to dispose of the short stay Castle Street car park; the Active Together budget and Youth Fund, including a £10,000 allocation to Our Place and £5,000 allocation to the Dursley Youth Centre; consideration of the allocation of £15,000 to reinstate block paving on Parsonage Street; issues with the local health services and proposed County budget cuts for 2015/16 totalling approx. £25m.

Councillor Harding advised Council of her intention to try and get a group of bus users together to raise the importance of accessible buses for a Gazette article.

Councillor Marsh raised the issue of public rights of way and local concern that the County Council appear to have lost all interest in maintaining routes.

District Councillors' Reports

Councillor Wheeler reported on the Local Plan and the Examiner's findings; the process of re-examining the housing numbers and the proposed increase from 2,450 to 3,950 new homes by 2031, 1,350 of which will be to the west of Stonehouse and 150 within the Stroud valleys.

The Town Clerk read out Councillor Cornell's written report on: objections to the Shakespeare Road application and its consideration at the 18<sup>th</sup> December Development Control Committee meeting; a special full council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December to vote on the Local Plan and the proposed increase in housing numbers; walkabouts with the Local Housing Officer and Neighbourhood Warden to identify local problems; changes to the waste and recycling contract

from 2016 and the new sheltered housing staffing structure which is now operational.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

9305

It was noted that members of the public were present regarding the planning application S.14/0966/OUT, Land off Shakespeare Road, Dursley.

IT WAS RESOLVED to bring forward and consider agenda item 12.3 regarding the planning application S.14/0966/OUT, Land off Shakespeare Road, Dursley, (Minute 9310.3) immediately following representations from the public.

The Mayor and Councillor Harding withdrew from the meeting.

Representations were made by 3 members of the public; all expressed strong opposition to the proposed development.

Mr Griffiths, of Shakespeare Road, referred to the objections submitted to Stroud District Council and raised concern about the impact of the recent removal of bus services in the area, the non-sustainability of the development and increase in through traffic.

Councillor Grecian joined the meeting.

Further objections put forward at the meeting included concerns about the lack of employment, the capacity of local health services, inadequate access to the site, the lack of an unbiased bat survey carried out inline with Natural England guidance; plans to join the site to the Highfields sewage system and 'creeping urbanisation up to an area of outstanding natural beauty'.

Planning application S.14/0966/OUT (Agenda Item 12.3, Minute 9310.3)

It was noted that planning application S.14/0966/OUT, Land off Shakespeare Road, Dursley is due to be considered at the Stroud District Council Development Control Committee meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Council considered making a representation at the meeting. It was noted that if Stroud District Council approve the Local Plan on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014 the application could be turned down on the grounds that it is outside of the settlement boundary; recent changes to the bus services call into question the sustainability of the development site.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Town Clerk make a representation at the Development Control Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 based on Council's previous representations and the concerns raised above.

Councillor Marsh declared a personal interest as an acquaintance of the land owner and abstained from the vote.

The Mayor and Councillor Harding rejoined the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED to bring forward and consider agenda item 15.3 regarding issues relating to local bus services, including resident comments (Minute 9313.3), so that County Councillor Lydon could participate in the discussion.

To consider issues relating to local bus services (Agenda Item 15.3, Minute 9313.3)

It was noted that concerns had been raised about the reduction in bus services, the restrictive timetable and use of buses without low floor access.

The Town Clerk gave an overview of Gloucestershire County Council's Equality Policy and the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty. It was noted that objectives relating to accessibility and safety were not being met in relation to the bus services, some of which are subsidised by the County Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Town Council representatives attend a meeting to discuss the current situation on bus routes, subsidies and types of buses used with Councillor Lydon and the Head of Integrated Transport Unit, Gloucestershire County Council (date to be arranged).

Councillor Harding agreed to attend the meeting.

It was noted that issues relating to the short stay Castle Street car park will be discussed at the Council's Policy and Finance Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

Councillor Marsh suggested closing the bus station to create a car park and encourage buses to use the stops at Castle Street as main pick up/drop off points and Highfields/Woodmancote as a turning area.

Councillor Lydon withdrew from the meeting.

MINUTES

9306

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

9307

9307.1 Council's Accounts 2014/15

The Mayor withdrew from the meeting.

- (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.
- (iv) IT WAS RESOLVED to authorise the Town Clerk to open an account with the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

GREEN SPACES

9308

9308.1 Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

The Committee Chairman reported on: a leaking pipe at the allotment site; the transfer of Union Street Green and procedural issues relating to this and the Community Asset of Value process.

9308.2 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the minutes.

9308.3 War Memorial Recreation Ground Upgrade

- (i) To receive an update on plans for the new playground

It was noted that the new play equipment and seating has been ordered from Sutcliffe and Breakheart Community Project respectively; installation work will start on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

The Committee Chairman confirmed that he had been able to secure a reduction of £500 from Sutcliffe.

Play surface colour samples were circulated for consideration.

IT WAS RESOLVED to select the colour 'jungle' for the surface.

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

It was noted that the installation of the outdoor gym equipment is complete; the Section 106 money from Stroud District Council was used to pay for the work.

Councillor Harding suggested that Council develop a leaflet to help promote the War Memorial Recreation Ground.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9309

9309.1 Report of the Chairman of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

In the absence of the Committee Chairman, the Committee Vice Chairman had no matters to report.

9309.2 To appoint a contractor for paving work at the Broadwell

Four tenders for the above paving work were considered.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the Town Clerk's recommendation to appoint Gardiners to carry out the work and negotiate using concrete to reinforce vulnerable areas, subject to permission from Gloucestershire County Council.

It was noted that Gardiners are local and are on the Council's approved list.

9309.3 To receive a report on the Christmas Lights Switch On event on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014

The Town Clerk read out a report by the Committee Chairman; the event was a great success, the actress Susan Lynch switched on the lights and the Dursley and District Round Table provided a firework display.

Council congratulated the office staff and festive working group for all their hard work. It was suggested that the team look at fireworks for the 2015 event and review the launch position on the Recreation Ground.

PLANNING

9310

9310.1 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9310.2 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9310.3 Planning application S.14/0966/OUT, Land off Shakespeare Road, Dursley

It was noted that this agenda item was taken and resolved earlier under agenda item 7 (Minute 9305) 'representations from the public'.

POLICY AND FINANCE

9311

9311.1 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Committee Chairman reported that the Committee will be considering at their next meeting a Disposal Notice for Castle Street/Parsonage Street Car Park Dursley issued by Gloucester County Council on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014 under Section 95(2) of the Localism Act 2012.

9311.2 To receive the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9311.3 Youth Centre Update

- i) The Town Clerk reported that: the centre will be opening in the New Year; the building is currently being fitted out with furniture and equipment; management policies are being draw up and safety checks undertaken.
- ii) The updated budget and risk assessment was reviewed. It was noted that the project is expected to be within budget, final accounts will be ready shortly; planning permission has yet to be granted for the Youth Centre sign.

9311.4 Appointment of Youth Centre Management Committee Representative

It was noted that a replacement representative is required on the above Committee, following the appointment of Councillor Marsh to represent SOSYP.

IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Creswick.

9311.5 Councillors' Reports

- (i) **Our Place Steering Group Meeting (5/11/14)** – The Town Clerk reported on: the forthcoming meeting on 4/12/14; work on the operation plan which will be circulated to Council in due course; community engagement work and the consultant team training up local young people as champions.
- (ii) **Cam and Dursley Greenway (8/11/14 & 29/11/14)** – Councillor Blackwell Whitehead reported on the press launch and the provisional 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015 launch date.
- (iii) **Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group (12/11/14)** – Councillor Bird reported on: studies relating to the Cam and Dursley Rail Station survey and parking in Dursley; the meeting with surrounding parishes on 26/11/14 and a meeting on 10/12/14 to start developing policies.
- (iv) **SOSYP (12/11/14)** – The Town Clerk reported on: moving towards Charitable Incorporated Organisation status; the tender for a music based project to engage young people in surrounding villages; the nearing end of the existing 3 year contract in July 2015 and the need for Council to discuss the future of the partnership and budget implications.
- (v) **Youth Centre Management Committee (20/11/14)** –The Town Clerk reported on: legal work to resolve issues with the constitution and Charity Commission; work to establish management policies and hire charges; the Tabernacle appointment of a Caretaker/Cleaner and the next meeting on 4/12/14.

- (vi) **GL11 Stakeholders** (1/12/14) – The Mayor reported on: a talk by Rupert Joseland outlining development of the Littlecombe site, current asbestos clearance and expected demolition work; the Long Street village green documents that are awaiting signature/agreement; an Outline Planning Application for Littlecombe that is expected to be submitted in December; an invitation for NDP representatives to come and talk to the group and Stinchcombe Parish Council seeking support for a 20mph speed limit on Taitshill.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9312

9312.1 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

The Committee Chairman reported that new pay scales have been agreed nationally and automatically implemented.

9312.2 To receive the minutes of the Staff Committee Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9312.3 To consider the purchase of office furniture and proposed layouts

IT WAS RESOLVED to: authorise the Town Clerk to negotiate prices for furniture and carpet within an overall budget of £5,109, to include a fire safe/cabinet with a minimum of 30 minutes protection for the ground floor within budget if possible; hold an office clearance day with volunteer councillors and investigate larger premises for the long-term future.

HIGHWAYS

9313

9313.1 To receive a report from Council's Highways Representative

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

9313.2 To appoint a Deputy Highways Representative

IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Hayes as a Deputy Highways Representative.

9313.3 To consider issues relating to local bus services

It was noted that this agenda item was taken and resolved earlier under agenda item 7 (Minute 9305) 'representations from the public'.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

9314

9314.1 To receive a report from Council's Police Representative



Councillor Harding, Council's Police Representative, reported on a recent observational visit to the police control room.

CLERK'S REPORT

9315

9315.1 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted.

9315.2 Monthly Area Inspections and Audit Checks

Details of Councillors scheduled to undertake area inspections and audit checks in December 2014 /January 2015 were noted.

The meeting closed at 8:22 p.m.

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Town Mayor

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Date