

6th January, 2015

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held in the Community Meeting Room at the Fire Station, Kingshill Road, Castle, Dursley at 7pm on Tuesday, 6th January, 2015.

Action Summary:

9322	Await Littlecombe Planning Application	9327.3	Letter of Objection to S.14/2612/DISCON (Land Opposite 6 Box Road, Cam)
9324.1	Appoint Auditing Solutions Ltd	9328	Alterations to License for Vibe Youth Centre
9324.2	Budget and Precept Requirement Agreed	9328.5	Notice to Exit SOSYP and Draft Proposal and Tender Documents for Youth Service Delivery

PRESENT

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

Councillors: S Creswick, B Marsh, A Stennett, L Patrick, N Grecian, V Harding, J Bird, T Frankau and P Hayes.

Also present: Mrs H Bojaniwska, Town Clerk; Mrs L Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk; Gazette Reporter, Stuart Rust; Nick Stewart, Stroud District Council, Conor Flanagan, Origin3, Ben Cook, St Modwen and 1 member of the public

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 9316

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors M Nicholson (personal), R Blackwell-Whitehead (personal), M Laybourne (personal) and F Firth (personal); County Councillor S Lydon and District Councillors G Wheeler and D Cornell.

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 9317

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Marsh declared a personal interest in agenda item 13.4 (Minute 9328.4).

TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9318

No requests for dispensations were received.

VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR HIGHFIELDS WARD 9319

None were received.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9320

None were received.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS 9321

County Councillor's Report

The Town Clerk read out Councillor Lydon written report on: meetings on 9th January 2015 to discuss highways issues with Amey and County Officers and bus issues with the operators and GL11 members; the Active Together budget and Youth Fund allocations agreed for the 'Vibe' Youth Centre; the GP Out of Hours service, which will be run by the Ambulance services from April and ongoing concerns with the local health services; the County Council budget cuts and a campaign to improve home care workers pay and training.

Councillor Frankau advised Council of his intention to attend the highways meetings on 9th January 2015.

District Councillors' Reports

The Town Clerk read out Councillor Cornell's written report on: the Local Plan which was voted through with the proposed increase in housing numbers, on 9th December 2014; objections to the Shakespeare Road planning application (S.14/0966/OUT) and the Development Control Committee's decision to refuse the application; work to prepare for the introduction of Universal Credit; new Council housing in Minchinhampton and Littlecombe and positive feedback on the new sheltered housing staffing structure, which is now operational.

Councillor Frankau raised the importance of getting the Local Plan adopted.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 9322

Conor Flanagan from Origin 3 and Ben Cook from St Mowden, outlined consultation feedback results relating to the proposed plans for the Littlecombe site.

The feedback related to 6 main consultation questions and covered support for regeneration, proposed layout and access, housing, local services, design and other issues (incl. traffic, landscape, flooding).

A revised master plan was presented. It was noted that land originally allocated for employment is to be retained as such; the spine road will be designed with bends to slow traffic; house numbers have been reduced from 300 to 254 and the existing water course embankment will not be made steeper.

Concerns were raised regarding changes to the spine road and the trigger for improvements to the Kingshill Road/Kingshill Land Junction. It was suggested that a 20mph limit should be applied to the spine road.

It was noted that the developer has been working with highways and discussions are continuing; the transport assessment is not yet ready.

Regarding Section 106, the Town Clerk requested more information about community commitments.

Members highlighted the importance of pedestrian links to the town centre, cycleway/walking routes, play areas and amenity space.

It was noted that the planning application is expected to be submitted to Stroud District Council by the end of January 2015; the electronic plans will be forwarded to the Town Clerk; questions and comments can be forwarded to the Town Clerk for consideration by the Council's Planning Committee in due course.

Nick Stewart (Stroud District Council), Conor Flanagan (Origin 3) and Ben Cook (St Modwen) withdrew from the meeting.

MINUTES

9323

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 2nd December 2014 were signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

9324

9324.1 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.
- (iv) IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint Auditing Solutions Ltd as Council's Internal Auditors for 2015 only, at a cost of £1,025 (plus VAT).

It was recognised that due to a local lack of available audit services the cost is significantly more than Council has paid in previous years.

9324.2 Council Budget for 2015/16

The Deputy Mayor introduced the proposed budget, circulated with the agenda.

It was noted that each Committee had looked at work programmes and the budget in great detail; the figures had been adjusted to take account of the tax base and anticipated Localisation of Council Tax Support grant; the proposed increase overall is 5.6% based on a band D property.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the proposed budget (Appendix C) including a precept requirement of £259,627.

GREEN SPACES

9325

9325.1 Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9325.2 War Memorial Recreation Ground Upgrade

It was noted that work to install the new play equipment commenced on 5th January 2015; some changes have to be made to the zip wire because of the slope on site and the work is expected to take 6 weeks.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9326

9326.1 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.

9326.2 Paving work at the Broadwell

It was noted that Council is awaiting a response from the contractor Gardiners regarding the use of concrete to reinforce vulnerable areas and any associated changes to the quotation.

PLANNING

9327

9327.1 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

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

9327.2 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 16th December, 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

It was noted that the planning application to extend the swimming pool is expected to be submitted within 2 weeks.

9327.3 Planning application S.14/2612/DISCON, Land Opposite 6 Box Road, Cam

It was noted that, having been made aware of the above application by Cam Parish Council, the Town Clerk attended a meeting held with representatives from Cam Parish Council, the applicants, Planning Officers and Gloucestershire Highways on 22nd December 2014 to discuss proposals to install traffic lights on the A4135 over the Bristol mainline railway bridge.

IT WAS RESOLVED to write to Stroud District Council strongly opposing the proposals on the grounds that they would have an unacceptable adverse impact on the flow of traffic travelling in and out of Dursley. The objection letter will recognise the importance of the Cam, Dursley and Uley Greenway project and recommend that the best solution for the future would be to vary condition 6 so that it allows contributions from several developers to be pooled towards the cost of a suitable pedestrian bridge over the railway.

POLICY AND FINANCE

9328

9328.1 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9328.2 To receive the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee Meeting held on 16th December, 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9328.3 Castle Street/Parsonage Street Car Park

The Committee Chairman gave an update following the Disposal Notice for Castle Street/Parsonage Street Car Park issued by Gloucestershire County Council on 27th November 2014 under Section 95 (2) of the Localism Act 2012.

It was noted that Council submitted an intention to bid for the Car Park; detailed bid submissions must be made by 27th May 2015; Stroud District Council are currently negotiating with Gloucestershire County Council regarding purchase of the car park; Council will attend a parking meeting on 15th January 2015 and a report will be made at the February Council meeting regarding further action.

9328.4 Vibe Youth Centre Update

- i) The Town Clerk reported that: the centre will be opening on 8th January 2015; the building has been signed off by the Building Inspector today; an open day will take place on 30th January 2015 with a grand opening event on 31st January 2015; usage bookings for the space have started to come in from the Youth Forum, Young Gloucestershire and Connectat.

- ii) The updated budget and risk assessment was reviewed. It was noted that the project is well within budget; 10% of the builders money will be held back for 1 year as agreed; discussions will take place at the end of the year to consider topping up Council reserves with remaining budget.
- iii) A draft license for the youth centre was considered; revisions had been made following correspondence with the Synod who want a license not a lease.

It was noted that to meet Charity Commission requirements the original Management Committee may need to dissolve and reform.

Amendments made by the Council's Solicitor were considered. Further amendments were suggested relating to the permitted hours paragraph and the need for a clause to clarify the process for extending the license at the end of the initial 15 year period.

IT WAS RESOLVED to seek the alterations as proposed and amended above, and bring the draft License back to Council.

9328.5 South of Stroud Youth Partnership (SOSYP)

The Committee Chairman outlined the concerns raised about the current SOSYP arrangements for youth service delivery, uneven contributions and levels of service, performance issues and lack of direct control.

Council considered the Committee's recommendation that Council give notice of its intention to exit the SOSYP and approach Cam Parish Council to discuss the possibility of jointly commissioning a 2 year contract to deliver youth services, with a view to publishing the tender invitation by the end of January 2015.

It was reported that Cam Parish Council have requested that this proposal be submitted in writing.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the recommendation of the Policy and Finance Committee as proposed at its meeting on 16th December 2014.

Councillor Marsh voted against the resolution.

9328.6 Councillors' Reports

- (i) **Our Place Steering Group Meeting** (5/12/14) – The Deputy Mayor reported on: the forthcoming meeting on 8/1/15 and work on the operational plan which will be circulated as soon as possible.
- (ii) **Youth Centre Management Committee** (4&18/12/14) – As reported under agenda item 13.4 (Minute 9327.4).
- (iii) **Local Strategic Partnership** (LSP) (5/12/14) – The Mayor reported on: representatives in attendance from local business, charities and councils;

an update on Vibe youth centre; a talk from the Federation of Small Businesses and the importance of keeping Dursley on the map.

- (iv) **SOSYP** (8/12/14) – Councillor Marsh reported on: the music festival project to engage young people in surrounding villages.
- (v) **Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group** (10/12/14) – Councillor Bird reported on: work to develop policies for the plan based on consultation and study results; his attendance at a local networking meeting for NDP representatives and a talk from Stroud District Council.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9329

9329.1 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9329.2 Salary Increment for the Town Clerk

It was noted that the Town Clerk will receive a salary increment with effect from 1st January 2015 following completion of the Certificate of Higher Education in Community Governance.

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor congratulated the Town Clerk.

HIGHWAYS

9330

9330.1 To receive a report from Council's Deputy Highways Representative

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

9330.2 To receive an update on Local Bus Service Issues

It was noted that further to Council Minute 9305, County Councillor Lydon is hosting a meeting at the Methodist Church, Castle Street on 9th January 2015 to discuss issues relating to local bus services.

9330.3 Temporary Closure of Public Footpath CCA 77 & 78

The temporary closure of the above footpath from 12th December 2014 was noted.

Councillor Marsh raised concerns that Gloucestershire County Council are not meeting their duty relating to footpaths and closures due to staff shortages.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

9331

9331.1 To receive a report from Council's Police Representative

Councillor Harding, Council's Police Representative, had no matters to report.

The Town Clerk reported on a 'ride along' she attended with PC Wilson and Police assistance to sort out an issue on the Littlecombe Site highlighted by Councillor Hayes.

CLERK'S REPORT

9332

9332.1 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted.

9332.2 Monthly Area Inspections and Audit Checks

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

The meeting closed at 8:25 p.m.

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Town Mayor

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Date