

3rd March, 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, 3rd March, 2015.

Action Summary:

9363.6 Letter to Stroud District Council regarding War Memorial Gate payments
6364.3 Acceptance of Town Clerk's resignation
9363.7 Annual Town Meeting – 19th May 2015

PRESENT

Cllr J Ball, Mayor
Cllr C Nelmes, Deputy Mayor

Councillors: S Creswick, B Marsh, A Stennett, L Patrick, N Grecian, V Harding, M Laybourne and R Blackwell-Whitehead

Absent: Councillors T Frankau and F Firth

Also present: Mrs H Bojaniwska, Town Clerk; Mrs L Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk; Gazette Reporter, Stuart Rust; District Councillor G Wheeler; County Councillor Lydon

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 9351

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors M Nicholson (work), J Bird (work) and P Hayes (personal); District Councillor Dornell.

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 9352

There were no declarations of interest.

TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9353

No requests for dispensations were received.

VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR HIGHFIELDS WARD 9354

No applications were received.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9355

None were received.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

9356

County Councillor's Report

Councillor Lydon reported on: the failures of Amey to deliver the highways contract and current work to draft a Customer Service Charter; opportunities for groups to access the Children's Activity Fund; the highways allocation fund, of which £15k has been allocated to renovate block paving on Parsonage Street; the defeated emergency motion to cancel the Javelin Park incinerator contract; ongoing concerns with local health services and changes to the GP out of hours service; cuts to the adult social care budget and a campaign to improve terms and conditions for home care workers; the Cam and Dursley Station Parking study and the need to work together to agree the way forward, to increase parking and improve the bus service.

Councillor Harding reported that low level buses are now serving Dursley.

District Councillors' Reports

Councillor Wheeler reported on: Council Tax bills for 2015-16; the Council's plans for the next few years including extra funding for homelessness prevention, youth services and help for vulnerable people; plans to support small businesses, provide energy advice and investment for building homes, including plans to alleviate flooding issues; the new waste collection contract which will operate from July 2016 and new boundaries for district council wards which will come into effect for the May 2016 elections; Dursley will remain unchanged.

Councillor Marsh expressed concern that changes to move to a fortnightly waste collection service would be a waste of funds given the new incinerator system.

In response Councillor Wheeler reported that changes are expected to result in greater levels of recycling and Stroud District Council have legally challenged the Secretary of State's decision; Group Leaders had written to Gloucestershire County Council asking for a joint investigation into a waste solution that would be acceptable to everyone.

The Town Clerk read out a written report from Councillor Cornell on: the Local Plan inspection, which has been postponed due to illness until after the general election; local opposition to planning applications S.15/0281/OUT- Land off Hardings Drive and S.15/0144/FUL- the Bymacks Site; a review of Stroud District Council's Youth Strategy and the effectiveness of the support that is given to youth providers around the district.

Councillor Harding sought confirmation of when District Councillor Fryer has last attended a Town Council meeting. The Clerk advised that the last meeting attended was the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held at Dursley C of E Primary Academy, on 10th June, 2014.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 9357

There were no representations from the public.

MINUTES 9358

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3rd February 2015 were signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE 9359

9359.1 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 9360

9360.1 Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

The Committee Chairman reported that new electric shutter doors had been ordered for the War Memorial Recreation Ground pavilion garage.

9360.2 War Memorial Recreation Ground Upgrade

It was noted that work to install the new play equipment is nearing completion; work has started on wet pour surfacing and laying turf; the provisional opening date of 28th March 2015 is subject to surface conditions.

9360.3 Transfer of Union Street Green

Members received an update on the current status of the transfer of Union Street Green in an email (dated 23/2/15) from Stroud District Council Legal Services. It was noted that the District Council is progressing a direct transfer from Taylor Wimpey Developments to Dursley Town Council; final terms regarding the transfer of Section 106 funds for maintenance of the site have yet to be agreed.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9361

9361.1 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.

9361.2 Paving work at the Broadwell

It was noted that the Town Clerk is still waiting for the contractor Gardiners, to provide a start date for the paving work.

PLANNING

9362

9362.1 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9362.2 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 17th February, 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

POLICY AND FINANCE

9363

9363.1 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9363.2 To receive the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee Meeting held on 17th February, 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9363.3 Castle Street/Parsonage Street Car Park

Members noted an email (dated 23/2/15) from the Principal Estates Surveyor at Stroud District Council reporting that the purchase of the above car park from Gloucestershire County Council is expected to proceed; the Council will be kept informed on progress and/or significant obstacles.

9363.4 Vibe Youth Centre Update

The Town Clerk reported that: the site snagging work has been undertaken by contractors, a date is still awaited for the replacement of the front windows; a meeting was held with builders to go through the final bill for work; the project is expected to be approx. £24,000 under budget due to savings and grant funding for furniture; everyone is now enjoying use of the new building.

9363.5 Operational Plan for the Vibe Youth Centre

Members received the Vibe Operational Plan submitted to Locality by the Our Place Steering Group.

It was noted that: Cam Parish Council have been formally invited to work in partnership with Dursley on youth service delivery; the offer will be considered at the Cam Parish Council meeting on 5th March 2015; discussions are ongoing amongst others within the South of Stroud Youth Partnership about the future of youth service delivery.

Councillor Lydon withdrew from the meeting.

9363.6 Maintenance of the War Memorial Gates

Members considered correspondence from Stroud District Council and Dursley resident, Mr Amesbury, relating to the maintenance of the war memorial gates.

It was noted that Stroud District Council have been receiving an annual payment of £3.50 from the War Commonwealth War Graves Commission towards the upkeep of the gates; an arrangement which could date back as far as 1974.

Members considered Stroud District Council's proposal to leave the arrangements as they currently stand. Members felt that the money received from the War Graves Commission should be paid over to the Town Council, as considerable expense has been incurred in maintaining and insuring the memorials for many years.

IT WAS RESOLVED to write to Stroud District Council requesting that a payment of £300 be made, to cover the amount received in payments to date plus the estimated interest, and that future payments from the War Commonwealth Graves Commission are diverted to the Town Council.

9363.7 Plan for the Annual Town Meeting

It was noted that the Annual Town Meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 28th April 2015.

IT WAS RESOLVED to postpone the Annual Town Meeting until 19th May 2015 due to the elections; the meeting will be held in the Community Centre and a speaker will be agreed at the April Council meeting.

9363.8 Councillors' Reports

- (i) **Our Place Steering Group (5/2/15)** – The Town Clerk reported on: discussions about the governance arrangements; the diagram on page 32 of the Vibe Operational Plan and the start of work to implement the plan.

- (ii) **Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group** (11/2/15) – The Town Clerk reported that: work has stalled in recent weeks; Council staff will meet with the Chair, Councillor Bird, to discuss how issues can be resolved to move forward.
- (iii) **Our Place Peer Learning Hub** (13/2/15) – Councillor Nelmes reported on: the event and the useful opportunity it gave to listen to Locality and network with other groups.
- (iv) **SLCC Branch AGM** (26/2/15) – The Deputy Town Clerk reported on: the inspirational keynote speech from the Town Clerk of Calne, Linda Roberts and elections to fill the branch positions of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
- (v) **Cam and Dursley Community Forum** (28/2/15) – Councillor Harding reported on: the first meeting of the forum which aims to create a more cohesive approach to community development by providing a network for local community projects/organisations; meetings will be held on the last Tuesday of every month and Councillor Harding will attend again.
- (vi) **SOSYP** (2/3/15) – The Town Clerk reported on: discussions about the future of the partnership; Wotton under Edge withdrawing from the partnership; the contract with Young Gloucestershire, which ends in the summer; Dursley's request for the return of funds and Councillor Nelmes' future attendance at meetings. Councillor Marsh reported that drug use is a problem in the Cam and Dursley area.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9364

9364.1 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9364.2 To receive the Minutes of the Staff Committee Meetings held on 18th and 24th February 2015.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the minutes.

9364.3 Letter of Resignation from the Town Clerk

A letter of resignation from the Town Clerk, Mrs Helen Bojaniwska, was received.

It was noted that the Town Clerk has accepted an offer of employment from Stroud Town Council with effect from 1st April 2015; the resignation is a great loss to Dursley and the Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the letter of resignation.

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor thanked the Town Clerk for all her hard work whilst in the position and wished her well for the future.

9364.4 Report from the Committee Chairman on Recruitment

The Committee Chairman reported on the recruitment process to fill two vacancies, the Town Clerk position and the Administration and Accounts Assistant position.

It was noted that the adverts for both have been published; the closing date is 13th March 2015, with shortlisting on 18th March 2015 and interviews on 24th/26th March 2015.

Members discussed the interview and selection process; the Staff Committee had considered including an informal element, giving candidates the opportunity to meet Councillors and Staff. In the interests of fairness, the Committee decided against this.

HIGHWAYS

9365

9365.1 To receive a report from Council's Deputy Highways Representative

In the absence of the Council's Deputy Highways Representative, Councillor Marsh raised an issue regarding the poor state of Rosebery Road and the need for it to be completely resurfaced. Councillor Harding agreed with the statement.

Councillor Marsh was advised to report the issue directly to highways.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

9366

9366.1 To receive a report from Council's Police Representative

Councillor Harding, Council's Police Representative, reported that: the Knapp had experienced problems with vandalism and also a recent burglary; a tall monitoring device had been erected against the lamp post near Besley Hill, this will be investigated with highways.

CLERK'S REPORT

9367

9367.1 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted.

Members were reminded that they should have received election nomination packs; the Town Clerk can provide the numbers required from the electoral roll on request.

9367.2 Monthly Area Inspections and Audit Checks

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

Council

3rd March 2015

The meeting closed at 7:55 p.m.

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Town Mayor

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Date