

7th April, 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, 7th April, 2015.

Action Summary:

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|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9371 | County Councillor Lyon to investigate reports regarding possible Police Station closure. | 9378.4 | Invite ATM keynote speaker from South Western Ambulance Service. |
| 9374.1 | Proceed with transfers to/from reserves (Appendix C). | 9379.2 | Issue agreed staff contracts. |
| 9375.4 | Proceed with lease for Highfields Playing Field. | | |

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, J Bird, F Firth, P Hayes and R Blackwell-Whitehead

Also present: Leah Wellings, Acting Town Clerk; Gazette Reporter, Stuart Rust; District Councillor G Wheeler; County Councillor Lydon (from minute 9378.3) and John Kay.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 9368

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors M Nicholson (personal) and T Frankau (personal).

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 9369

The Mayor, Councillor Ball, declared a pecuniary disclosable interest in agenda item 7.1 i) minute item 9374 as an employee of the Dursley and District Community Association.

Councillor Marsh declared a personal interest in agenda item 12.3 iii, minute item 9382.2; the successful applicant is an acquaintance.

TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9370

No requests for dispensations were received.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS 9371

County Councillor's Report

The Acting Town Clerk read out a report from Councillor Lydon on: the failures of Amey to deliver the highways contract and all party support for a motion to use financial penalties; current work to draft a Customer Service Charter with Amey; recent changes to the GP out of hours and pharmacy services; the recent survey on bus services; the £350,000 awarded from the Total Transport Fund to fund the pilot 'Building Better Transport' in the south of the County; the legal challenge relating to the Javlin Park incinerator; the need to improve terms and conditions for home care workers; the need for increased car parking at the Cam and Dursley Station; groups supported by the Active Together and Youth funds and the allocation of highways funds to support repaving work on Parsonage Street.

District Councillors' Reports

Councillor Wheeler reported on: the Local Plan timetable for stage 1 hearings, which will resume on 1st May 2015 and stage 2, which is expected to start on 28th May 2015; the arrangements for the general and local elections process.

Councillor Patrick raised concerns about the future of Dursley Police Station, informing members that she had received reports that it could be closing with response teams for the area operating from Stroud as of July 2015.

Following concerns raised by Councillor Patrick, Councillor Harding, as Council's Community Safety representative, had approached Inspector Poole for information about the reports. Inspector Poole has yet to provide a response.

IT WAS RESOLVED to ask County Councillor Lydon whether he had any knowledge of the reports.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 9372

There were no representations from the public.

MINUTES 9373

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

The Mayor, Councillor Ball, withdrew from the meeting.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE 9374

9374.1 Council's Accounts 2014/15

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

The Mayor, Councillor Ball, 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 approve transfers to/from reserves (Appendix C), including the transfer of £12,000 to reserves to cover the retainer for the youth centre works until its release date.

GREEN SPACES

9375

9375.1 Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9375.2 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on 17th March, 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9375.3 War Memorial Recreation Ground Upgrade

It was noted that the opening event for the new playground went well, the space has been very busy since and the children are making full use of the new equipment; the Council office is working with the installer to resolve some snags with the basket swing.

9375.4 Lease for Highfields Playing Field

The Committee Chairman outlined the Committee's recommendation that Council proceed with completion of a 25 year lease for Highfields Playing Field from Stroud District Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the recommendation and proceed to sign the proposed lease for Highfields Playing Field.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9376

9376.1 Report of the Chairman of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9376.2 Paving work at the Broadwell

It was noted that the above paving improvement work has been completed; arrangements for the refurbishment of a memorial bench will be made by the Town Clerk.

PLANNING

9377

9377.1 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9377.2 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 17th March, 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

POLICY AND FINANCE

9378

9378.1 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9378.2 Vibe Youth Centre Update

The Committee Chairman reported that: a networking meeting for users of the centre has been arranged for 21st April 2015; the Youth Centre Management Committee is progressing work to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO); following an invitation from Dursley, Cam Parish Council has agreed to work in partnership on youth service delivery, work to draft a contract specification for Council's consideration is progressing.

County Councillor Lydon joined the meeting.

9378.3 Arrangement for the Annual Town Meeting

It was noted that the Annual Town Meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 19th May 2015 at Dursley Community Centre.

IT WAS RESOLVED to invite a representative from the South Western Ambulance Service to talk about recent changes to services in the area including the Out of Hours GP service.

9378.4 South of Stroud Youth Partnership Representative

IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Nelmes as Council's representative on the South of Stroud Youth Partnership.

9378.5 Our Place Grant Funding

Members received the final report on Our Place grant funding expenditure.

It was noted that the required cost benefit analysis had been submitted to Locality and working is progressing to deliver the operational plan.

9378.6 Civic Calendar for 2015-16

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the draft Civic Calendar for 2015-16.

9378.7 Councillors' Reports

- (i) **Road Safety Liaison Group** (4/3/15) – Councillor Hayes was unable to attend.
- (ii) **GL11 Stakeholder** (16/3/15) – It was noted that Councillor Lydon's report covered many of the issues raised at the meeting; Councillor Ball reported that the group received a presentation from the Tourism Officer, Shirley Wood and received an update on Littlecombe. Councillor Bird reported concerns following a meeting with businesses on the site that they want and need to expand but St Modwen are reluctant to accommodate within the employment land allocation. It was noted that the Council response to the planning application, when it is received, could consider this feedback and strongly recommend that employment land is protected.
- (iii) **Dursley Town Trust** (24/3/5) – Councillor Stennett was unable to attend.
- (iv) **Dursley Welcomes Walkers** (25/3/15) – Councillor Grecian reported on the 2015 festival, the expanding programme of walks and the anticipated launch of the 'Lantern Way' walk in the summer.
- (v) **Youth Centre Management Committee** (25/3/15) – It was noted that this was covered under agenda item 11.2, minute item 9378.2.
- (vi) **Police Panel** (26/3/15) – Councillor Harding reported on the latest crime figures: anti-social, drug related and criminal damage incidents had gone down whilst burglaries and thefts had risen; it was noted that following work by the Police team a group of youngsters playing football in Lidl car park now have the opportunity to play football on the Astro Turf at Rednock; work is being undertaken to promote the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- (vii) **SOSYP** (26/3/15) – The Deputy Mayor reported on: the folding of the group at the end of the existing contract with Young Gloucestershire, following the withdrawal of Wotton under Edge and Dursley; summer holiday activities and the local music project.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9379

9379.1 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

The Committee Chairman thanked the Council office, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for assisting with the recent staff recruitment process.

9379.2 To Confirm Staff Appointments

- i) The draft contract for the Interim Responsible Financial Officer was received and considered. It was noted that Miss Andrea Durn has been covering the position since 17th March 2015.

IT WAS RESOLVED to confirm the appointment and contract for the Interim Responsible Financial Officer, Miss Andrea Durn, from the start date.

- ii) IT WAS RESOLVED to confirm the appointment of Mr John Kay as Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, subject to references, from 27th April 2015.
- iii) IT WAS RESOLVED to confirm the appointment of Mrs Ann Lyon as Administration and Accounts Assistant, subject to references, from 5th May 2015.

HIGHWAYS

9380

9380.1 To receive a report from Council's Deputy Highways Representative

The Council's Deputy Highways Representative had no matters to report.

Councillor Harding reported that she had spoken to the Integrated Transport Unit during her review of the bus survey for the Council's Planning Committee and they had agreed to provide new plastic timetable containers for the bus shelters.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

9381

9381.1 To receive a report from Council's Police Representative

Councillor Harding no matters to report in addition to those reported under agenda item 11.7 minute 9378.7.

CLERK'S REPORT

9382

9382.1 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted.

Members were reminded that the deadline for submission for election nomination papers is 9th April 2015; the Council office can provide the numbers required from the electoral roll on request.

9382.2 Monthly Area Inspections and Audit Checks

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

Further to minute 9371 above, Councillor Lydon confirmed he was unaware of any reports regarding the possible closure of the Police Station but agreed to investigate the issue with the Gloucestershire County Council asset management team and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

7th April, 2015

Council

The meeting closed at 7:55 p.m.

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Town Mayor

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Date