

2<sup>nd</sup> June, 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 Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2015.

### Action Summary:

9408	Councillor Lodge to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Register	9416.1	Arrange for any urgent remedial works to the trees in planters along Castle Street
9414.1	Submit the Annual Return	9418.4	Award urgent grant of £300 to Lower Kingshill Management Co-operative

### PRESENT

Cllr N Grecian, Deputy Mayor

Councillors: J Ball, S Creswick, B Marsh, A Stennett, L Patrick, M Laybourne, F Firth, M Nicholson, P Hayes, R Blackwell-Whitehead and S Abraham (from minute 9408).

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk and Leah Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk; District Councillor Cornell and PCSO Clark.

**In the absence of the Mayor the Deputy Mayor presided over the meeting.**

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 9405

Apologies for absence were accepted from the Mayor Councillor C Nelmes (personal) and Councillor J Bird (work); County Councillor Lydon and District Councillor Wheeler.

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 9406

Councillors Patrick and Marsh declared a personal interest in agenda item 14.4, minute item 9418.4, as members of the Lower Kingshill Management Co-operative Board.

Councillor Ball declared a Disclosable Pecuniary interest in agenda item 10.2(i), minute item 9414.2(i), as an employee of the Dursley and District Community Association.

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9407

No requests for dispensations were received.

VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR CENTRAL WARD (1) AND HIGHFIELDS WARD (3) 9408

Applications for co-option were considered from two Dursley residents Suzi Abraham and Alex Lodge. It was noted that Alex Lodge had sent his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting in person.

Councillor Stennett moved that Suzi Abraham be co-opted to the Council, Councillor Creswick seconded.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Suzi Abraham be co-opted to the Council to represent the Highfields Ward. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Councillor Abraham before taking her place at the meeting.

Councillor Stennett moved that Alex Lodge be co-opted to the Council, Councillor Nicholson seconded.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Alex Lodge be co-opted to the Council to represent the Highfields Ward and that he sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Register at his earliest convenience in the presence of the Town Clerk.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9409

None.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS 9410

County Councillor's Report

The Town Clerk informed Council that Councillor Lydon had apologised for not being present at the meeting, in addition to the full report given at the recent Annual Town Meeting, he would like to report that: a meet and greet would be taking place in Dursley on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 with the new Highways Manager, Andrew Middlecote, the Town Clerk, Councillors Hayes and Nicholson; he would be following up the positive response from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Martin Surl, regarding the future of Dursley Police Station but would be expressing his unhappiness that there was a contradiction in the responses received.

District Councillors' Reports

Councillor Cornell reported on: her role as Vice Chair of the Housing Committee and the tenant drop-in event planned for 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 at GL11 between 2pm-8pm, aimed at 18-25 year olds; universal credit and support offered by the Citizen Advice Bureau; Social Housing and the right to buy scheme; the work of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee and the health profile of the area, which overall is good but shows a concerning high level of self-harm

incidents; the planning appeal for the Shakespeare Road development and a new transport group of local residents started by Transition Cam and Dursley.

Councillor Cornell agreed to pass on information relating to the tenants drop in event.

Councillor Marsh highlighted reports of sewage leaking into a ditch on Ganzell Lane, recently reported to the Environment Agency.

The Town Clerk read out a report from Councillor Wheeler on: the outline plan for Littlecombe (S.15/0476/OUT), including a reduction in the number of dwellings and affordable housing; the Local Plan examination and the start of stage 2; government plans to devolve powers relating to the economy, transport, strategic planning, housing, skills and health to major cities and whether they could devolve powers to other counties and districts; a county meeting will be held in June to consider the evolving devolution proposals.

Councillors Patrick and Firth expressed concern that Council would not have known about possible changes at Dursley Police Station had it not been for local rumours.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 9411

There were no representations from the public.

MINUTES 9412

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were signed by the Deputy Mayor.

UPDATE FROM DURSLEY POLICE TEAM 9413

Council welcomed PCSO Clark from Dursley Police Team to the meeting. Apologies were accepted from Acting Sergeant Fear, who was unable to attend due to an emergency call out.

PCSO Clark confirmed that although there are operational changes within Gloucestershire Constabulary the levels of staffing would remain unchanged at Dursley Police Station, some of the roles may change but the station will operate in a similar manner. The PCSO's for the area will remain unchanged.

PCSO Clark outlined the crime statistics for Dursley below, comparing the January to June period for 2014 and 2015.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Anti Social	94	101
Burglary	5	22 (1 prolific offender now serving time)
Theft	26	57

Criminal Damage	32	27
Drug Related	6	2

In response to a request from members, PCSO Clark agreed to investigate whether the Police could resume monthly reports and attendance at Council.

PCSO Clark withdrew from the meeting.

#### BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

9414

##### 9414.1 Council's Annual Return

(i) IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the figures in Section 1 of the Annual Return – Statement of Accounts.

(ii) The Annual Governance Statement was read out by the Deputy Mayor.

IT WAS RESOLVED to complete and sign Section 2 of the annual Return – Annual Governance Statement.

(iii) It was noted that the Public Inspection Period for the accounts runs from 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015 to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

Councillor Ball withdrew from the meeting.

##### 9414.2 Council's Accounts 2015/2016

(i) IT WAS RESOLVED that the schedule of payments (Appendix A) be authorised and signed by 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.

#### GREEN SPACES

9415

##### 9415.1 Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

##### 9415.2 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9416

9416.1 Report of the Chairman of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Committee Chairman informed Council that the trees in the green planters along Castle Street had blown over in high winds that day.

The Town Clerk agreed to arrange for any urgent remedial tree work on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015.

9416.2 To receive the Minutes of the Town Improvements Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9416.3 To co-opt an additional member to the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

Nominations were received for Councillor Abraham.

IT WAS RESOLVED to co-opt Councillor Abraham to the Committee.

PLANNING

9417

9417.1 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9417.2 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9417.3 To co-opt additional members to the Planning Committee (up to 5 places)

No nominations were put forward.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Town Clerk speak to newly co-opted councillors as they join Council, to see if they would be interested in joining the Committee.

9417.4 To receive an update on Planning Application S.15/0476/OUT - Land at Littlecombe (Lister Petter Site)

The Deputy Town Clerk and Councillor Nicholson gave an update following attendance at the briefing session held at Stroud District Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015. The key points raised regarding the above application included the reduction in properties from 600 to 426, a reduction in affordable housing from 30% to 5%, the need to recalculate Section 106 obligations and loss of original highway triggers for improvement work, due to changes in regulations. Other points raised were level of land contamination, the need for allotment provision, the need for parking, protection of employment land and green space, land ownership, traffic impacts, rerouting of the river, integrated pedestrian routes/Greenway and community facilities.

Concerns were expressed about the reduction in affordable housing; Stroud District Council need to clearly explain the reasons for this change.

## POLICY AND FINANCE

9418

### 9418.1 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

### 9418.2 To receive the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

### 9418.3 Youth Services Tender

The Clerk reported that: following approval from Cam Parish Council the tender had been issued to 6 providers and been advertised via Stroud District Council and the Council's website; the closing date for the tender application is 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015; the evaluation and selection process will be carried out June/July and the anticipated start date for the new provider is early September, when the existing agreement ends.

### 9418.4 Urgent request for grant funding from the Lower Kingshill Management Co-operative

An urgent request for grant funding totalling £300 for the Lower Kingshill Management Co-operative family fun day on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015 was considered.

IT WAS RESOLVED to award a grant of £300 towards the event, to be paid immediately.

### 9418.5 Councillors' Reports

- (i) **Youth Centre Management Committee (14/5/15)** – Councillor Ball reported on usage of the centre, which is going well, and work to sort out

payment responsibilities and practicalities; the Council office would be dealing with invoices. Councillor Stennett reiterated his offer to donate his stage lighting to the centre.

- (ii) **Growth Hub Meeting** (18/5/15) – The Town Clerk reported on the meeting between local businesses and a Gloucestershire University representative from the Growth Hub; traders will be inviting the contact to their meeting to discuss possible business support opportunities.
- (iii) **Greenway Project** (18/5/15) – Councillor Blackwell-Whitehead reported that the project will be running a stall at the festival on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015 to raise awareness.
- (iv) **Future Dursley (NDP) Steering Group** (20/5/15) – Councillors Creswick and Laybourne reported that work is moving forward; 2 new community members attended the meeting.  
**Dursley Town Traders Meeting** (22/5/15) – Councillor Abraham declared a personal interest in this item as Chair of the Traders Group. The Town Clerk and Councillor Abraham reported on the meeting; work is ongoing to try and get ‘20 is plenty’ mph signs for Parsonage Street; Sainsbury’s have agreed to allocate 15 parking spaces to traders; Jacob’s House will be used for future meetings; the group is very positive and barriers are being broken down so that traders can work effectively together. Councillor Patrick suggested Council consider supporting flashing speed signs in the town, telling drivers how fast they are travelling. The Town Clerk highlighted the problems with this approach e.g. encouraging car racing.
- (v) **Dursley Welcomes Walkers** (27/5/15 & 1/6/15) – The Deputy Mayor reported on the 2015 festival; the expanding programme of walks; the anticipated launch of the ‘Lantern Way’ walk in the summer and the forthcoming quiz at the Community Centre on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

## BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9419

### 9419.1 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

### 9419.2 To receive the Minutes of the Staff Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes

### 9419.3 To co-opt an additional member to the Staff Committee

The Town Clerk explained that the Chairman and Vice Chairman arrangements on existing standing Committees have resulted in duplication; the Chairman of Policy and Finance is also the Vice Chairman of Green Spaces, leaving a vacant place on the Staff Committee.

The existing Chairman of Green Spaces requested to step down from the Staff Committee, due to practical issues regarding his attendance and the Green Spaces Committee being adequately represented.

In light of the above, nominations were sought for 2 places on the Staff Committee. Nominations were received for Councillors Creswick and Hayes.

IT WAS RESOLVED to co-opt Councillors Creswick and Hayes to the Staff Committee and allow the existing Chairman of Green Spaces, Councillor Stennett, to step down.

HIGHWAYS 9420

9420.1 To receive a report from Council’s Highways Representative

The Council’s Highways Representative, Councillor Hayes, had no matters to report.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY 9421

9421.1 To receive a report from Council’s Police Representative

The Council Police Representatives, Councillors Blackwell-Whitehead and Nicholson, had no matters to report.

CLERK’S REPORT 9422

9422.1 Clerk’s Report

The Clerk’s report was noted.

It was noted that volunteer councillors are being sought by the office to assist with the Council and Future Dursley stands at the Festival on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Councillors were encouraged to volunteer to help out.

9422.2 Monthly Area Inspections and Audit Checks

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

The Deputy Mayor highlighted the importance of internal audit checks.

The meeting closed at 8:30p.m.

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Town Mayor

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Date