

7th July, 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, 7th July, 2015.

Action Summary:

| | | | |
|--------|---|--------|--|
| 9431 | Submit Objection for S.15/0144/FUL | 9438.5 | Organise Distribution of 'Dursley Matters' publication as agreed |
| 9432 | Organise response to new premises license when submitted for Capone's nightclub | 9439.5 | Close office for refurbishment work on 30 th and 31 st July 2015 |
| 9435.3 | Quotation accepted – schedule tree works at Cemetery | 9443.1 | Issue Deputy Clerk Contract |
| 9438.3 | 'The Door' approved as provider of Youth Services | 9443.2 | Issue Temporary Project Officer contract |

PRESENT

Cllr C Nemles, Mayor
Cllr N Grecian, Deputy Mayor

Councillors: J Ball, S Creswick, B Marsh, A Stennett, M Laybourne, A Lodge, J Bird, P Hayes, R Blackwell-Whitehead, S Abraham, J Burdge, M Chappell and F Firth (from minute 9428).

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk and Leah Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk; County Councillor S Lydon and District Councillor Wheeler; Stuart Rust, Gazette Reporter and 11 members of the public.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 9423

Apologies for absence were accepted from the Councillors L Patrick (personal), M Nicholson (work) and S Creswick (personal); District Councillor Cornell.

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 9424

Councillor Abraham declared a personal interest in agenda item 14.6, minute item 9438.6 (iv), as a trader.

Councillor Marsh declared a personal interest in agenda items 14.3 and 14.4, minute items 9438.3 and 9438.4, as a member of the Youth Centre Management Committee.

Councillor Bird declared a personal interest in agenda item 13.6, minute item 9431, as a resident of Long Street.

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9425

No requests for dispensations were received.

VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR CENTRAL WARD (1) AND HIGHFIELDS WARD (1) 9426

Applications for co-option were considered from Mrs Jan Burdge (a Dursley resident) and Mr Mike Chappell (a Cam resident).

Councillor Ball declared a personal interest as both are friends.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Mrs Jan Burdge be co-opted to the Council to represent the Highfields Ward and that Mr Mike Chappell be co-opted to the Council to represent the Central Ward. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by both Councillors before taking their places at the meeting.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9427

None.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS 9428

County Councillor's Report

Councillor Lydon reported on: Highways and the failure to meet the Gloucestershire County Council pothole filling target by over 11,000; children and families and concerns that only 41.2% of Children and Young People Initial Assessments are being completed within 10 working days; health matters and a recent Care Quality Commission inspection of Gloucestershire Royal Hospitals Trust which found that the overall rating for the Trust is 'Requires Improvement'; domiciliary care and re-structuring how provision is commissioned in the county; devolution and the possible opportunity it offers to explore how the role of Parish and Town Councils can be enhanced; buses and the need for the bus companies to improve communications about changes including work to review the level of subsidies; youth support and how County Councillors have an allocation of £5k to support youth work in their division. County Councillor Lydon encouraged people to put forward ideas for the money.

District Councillors' Reports

Councillor Wheeler reported on: the Local Plan and the conclusion of the public examination which found that the total can be met from existing planning permissions and the sites allocated for future housing in the Plan; Stroud District Council will carry out a consultation on behalf of the inspector when his views are published, and he may change the details as a result; approval of the plan is expected to take place at the end of the calendar year; 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; leaders of the seven local authorities in the county, together with the clinical commissioning group, the police and the LEP, are putting together a letter of intent to government proposing a combined authority for Gloucestershire.

It was noted that a written report from Councillor Cornell would be circulated to all councillors following the meeting.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

9429

It was noted that members of the public were present to make representations relating to agenda items 13.6 (minute 9431), regarding the planning application for The Bymacks Site, Long Street and 17.2 (minute 9432), regarding a new license application for Capone's, Long Street.

Mr J Martin, a neighbouring resident, encouraged Council to support opposition to a new license for Capone's seeking opening until 5am; he shared research which had found that such a license was unheard of across Gloucestershire and explained that the area had become, and will continue to become, more residential.

Those present highlighted the issues that emanate from Capone's including unacceptable levels of noise, anti-social behaviour from drunk people in the street, vomit and mess, vandalism and damage to property. The Town Centre, Long Street and the Knapp are greatly affected but residents in surrounding areas are also disturbed by people walking home between 4:30am-6am.

It was noted that the club was open on 5th July 2015 using a Temporary Event Notice and will do so again on 12th and 19th July 2015. Residents had been disturbed by the noise and anti-social behaviour on 5th July which had not been occurring since the club closed.

The importance of reporting incidents to the Police was discussed, residents were advised to use Crime Stoppers if they wished to report incidents anonymously; recorded incidents are required to support Police objections to license applications.

IT WAS RESOLVED to take agenda items 13.6 (minute 9431) and 17.2 (minute 9432) following agenda item 8 (minute 9430).

Residents of Chestal expressed concerns about the proposed development of 23 residential units in 2 blocks on the old Bymacks Site, Long Street. They reported not receiving any notification of the revised plans either via a letter/notice or the Stroud District Council website. Their concerns related to properties in Chestal being overshadowed by the development and issues with parking in the area.

MINUTES

9430

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2nd June 2015 were signed by the Mayor.

REVISED PLANS - APPLICATION S.15/0144/FUL

9431

Regarding the above application for The Bymacks Site, Long Street: 23 residential Units in 2 blocks. The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Laybourne, presented the revised plans and Committee comments (16/6/15) as follows: the main issues of concern have been addressed i.e. the proposed materials reflect what is there, the provision of parking has increased, positive changes have been made to windows and the flood risk addressed.

The Council's original objection was discussed and whether the development was still considered to be overbearing. Concerns were raised about the evidence of need for affordable housing in Dursley and on-street parking relating to the Bymacks site.

IT WAS RESOLVED to object to the revised plans. Contrary to GE1 and BE5 of the Stroud District Local Plan (2005) and Delivery Policy HC1 of the Stroud District Local Plan Submission (draft 2013), the proposed development is unsympathetic to the area and overbearing to 'The Priory' building and existing properties located in Chestal, which are only 2 storey in height. The revised plans show an increase in proposed parking spaces, 1 per dwelling. This level of provision however is still inadequate and would result in increased levels of on-street parking in the area and compound existing parking problems. The proposed parking allocation falls short of the required 1.5 parking spaces per dwelling unit (as outlined in paragraph 9.14.3 of the Stroud District Local Plan (2005)). Clarification would be sought on whether the area falls within the Town Centre boundary and whether the plans are going to be resubmitted. Neighbouring properties should be made aware of the revised plans and public consultation should follow so that people are given the opportunity to submit comments before a decision is made.

Councillor Lodge voted against the resolution.

LICENSE APPLICATION - CAPONE'S, LONG STREET

9432

It was noted that a new premises licence application is expected to be submitted to Stroud District Council in relation to Capone's nightclub.

It was noted that resident research had found that 1am (2am at a push) is a normal closing time for similar market town clubs. The Town Clerk outlined the legal grounds for objection.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Council make residents and interested parties aware of the application; encourage residents to submit complaints and objections; hold a public meeting when the application has been submitted to compile points of objection and evidence for submission to Stroud District Council; liaise with Police to get evidence ready for the meeting and request that Stroud District Council issue Temporary Event Notices one at a time rather than in blocks.

UPDATE FROM DURSLEY POLICE TEAM

9433

It was noted that the Clerk has agreed to the police attending Council quarterly, they could not commit to attending every month due to staff capacity.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

9434

9434.1 Council's Completion of the Annual Return

- (i) Changes to the figures in Section 1 of the Annual Return – Statement of Accounts were noted.

9434.2 Council's Accounts 2015/2016

- (i) IT WAS RESOLVED that the schedule 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

9435

9435.1 Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

The Committee Chairman reported on: Council activity at Dursley Festival, the consultation on Highfields Playing Field received a good response and there was a strong response to proposals relating to the War Memorial Recreation Ground ('Rec') hedge; the Committee will consider consultation feedback on 21st July 2015; in response to recent vandalism at the new 'Rec' playground, the Peak Academy students attended to help fix the damage, showing great community spirit; the Committee will discuss the positive response to ideas for a community event on the 'Rec'.

9435.2 Update on Football Shed Survey, Vandalism and Maintenance Issues

The Clerk reported that the football shed continues to be targeted by vandals; the door is needing repair on a regular basis.

It was noted that the Committee agreed to commission a Structural Engineer to carry out a survey of the building, the results of which will be known soon;

PCSO Griffiths will be carrying out a crime reduction survey of the building for consideration, both will give options for the future of the shed.

9435.3 Potential Allotment Opportunity - Peak Academy

The Committee Chairman reported on the 23rd June 2015 site visit to the Peak Academy to look at a potential allotment opportunity; an area of land situated at the front of the Academy grounds has been offered for use; the opportunity will need to be looked at in greater detail and discussions are in the early stages; the Committee is very much looking forward to working with them on this opportunity.

9435.4 Quotation for Arboricultural Works

A quotation from Tree Management for arboricultural works required at Kingshill Cemetery, to be completed by the end of July, was considered. It was noted that the work is part two of a three year plan and needs to be completed by the end of July.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation totalling £1,452 (Incl. VAT).

9435.5 Update on Union Street Green

The Clerk reported that discussions regarding the transfer of Union Street Green are on hold until the legal transfer of land to Stroud District Council has taken place.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9436

9436.1 Report of the Chairman of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9436.2 Dursley in Bloom

The 9th July 2015 judging visit for Dursley in Bloom was noted.

The Clerk reported that temporary stakes around trees in the Castle Street planters would be removed for judging day, after which a permanent solution for the trees would be investigated.

It was suggested that discussions are held with Stroud District Council to explore Long Street Green maintenance issues.

9436.3 Update on Dursley Festival

On behalf of Council, the Mayor thanked staff and volunteer councillors for helping out with the Council stand at the Festival.

It was noted that it was a very busy day; Council representatives were able to speak with members of the public about Highfields, Future Dursley, the 'Rec' hedge and the Littlecombe plans; issues raised regarding the Festival and future events will be discussed with the Festival Committee.

PLANNING

9437

9437.1 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9437.2 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 16th June 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9437.3 To co-opt additional members to the Committee (up to 4 places)

Nominations were received for Councillors Lodge, Burdge and Chappell.

IT WAS RESOLVED to co-opt Councillors Lodge, Burdge and Chappell to the Committee.

9437.4 To receive an update on Planning Application S.15/0476/OUT - Land at Littlecombe (Lister Petter Site) and Site Visit on 26/06/15

It was noted that a Littlecombe site visit took place on 26th June 2015 and was attended by both Cam and Dursley Councillors; Conor Flanagan from Origin 3 was present to answer technical questions.

Those present at the visit reported on the lack of paths to the town from the site and the amount of earthworks required. Concerns were expressed about the proposed reduction in affordable housing.

It was suggested that at a future meeting Council consider setting up a small working group with Cam, Stroud District Council and St Modwen to help with negotiations, the 'Littlecombe Liaison Group' could be restarted.

9437.5 Littlecombe Drop in Event 09/07/15

It was noted that a public 'drop in' event is to be held at 6:30pm on 9th July 2015 at the Community Centre, Rednock Drive to provide Dursley Town and Cam Parish Councillors the opportunity to consult with residents before formally responding to Stroud District Council on the Littlecombe application.

9437.6 Revised Plans for Planning Application S.15/0144/FUL

The agenda item for planning application S.15/0144/FUL, The Bymacks Site, Long Street: 23 residential units in 2 blocks was considered earlier and recorded under minute 9431.

POLICY AND FINANCE

9438

9438.1 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Committee Chairman reported that future meetings will be paper free on a trial basis.

Councillors were advised to let the office know if they wish to receive papers electronically for other Council meetings.

9438.2 To receive the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee Meeting held on 16th June, 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9438.3 Youth Services Tender

The Clerk and Mayor reported on the tender process to select a preferred supplier for youth services; 3 providers were interviewed by the joint Cam and Dursley selection panel and 'The Door' has been selected. The Clerk had circulated a briefing paper prior to the meeting; work will begin on 10th July 2015 to draft the Service Level Agreement to ensure that the provider is in place to start in September 2015.

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve 'The Door' as the preferred supplier.

9438.4 Final Accounts for Youth Centre Construction Work

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the final accounts for the construction phase of the Youth Centre and the split between the Tab and Council (Appendix C).

9438.5 Summer 2015 Dursley Matters Publication

The method of distribution of Dursley Matters was considered. The following ideas were put forward:

- Post on Facebook.
- Email subscription.
- Distribution by ward Councillors (Councillors Abraham, Grecian and Bird volunteered).
- Use the free service 'mail chimp'.
- Distribute via school book bags.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Council distribute the Summer 2015 edition electronically and investigate printing costs and numbers for all households ready for the next edition; Council should use every opportunity to distribute the newsletter using a range of different methods.

9438.6 Councillors' Reports

- (i) **Dursley Welcomes Walkers** (8/6/15) – The Deputy Mayor reported on the 2015 festival; the leaflet should be ready for distribution in the next 3-4 weeks; the anticipated launch of the 'Lantern Way' walk on 22nd August 2015 and a possible visit from Japanese tourists on 25th August 2015.
- (ii) **Future Dursley (NDP) Steering Group** (10/6/15) – Councillor Bird reported that work is moving forward; the Future Dursley branding is now being used in publicity; consultation on sites and the vision and objectives was undertaken at the Festival; the next meeting will be held on 8th July 2015.
- (iii) **GL11** (15/06/15) – The Mayor reported that Miranda Clifton is now Chair of the group; the group discussed areas of joint working e.g. NDP's; and received an update on Littlecombe; a meeting will be set up with Stroud District Council to look at parking options for Dursley and the Rail Station is another issue the group will consider.
- (iv) **Dursley Town Traders Meeting** (18/6/15) – Councillor Abraham reported on: the groups decision to develop a formal a constitution and use a membership system; the local MP will attend the 17th July 2015 meeting; the group will be discussing the Market Town Forum; the '20 is plenty' signs have arrived and will be put up around the town (different areas will be targeted at different times); there was some confusion about the festival which will be fed back to the Festival Committee; early closing times are being looked at, it was suggested that shops may get more trade if they adopt later open and close times. It was suggested that the Council's Town Improvement Committee investigate full pedestrianisation of Parsonage Street.
- (v) **Youth Centre Management Committee** (18/6/15) – It was noted that youth service provision and building issues/accounts had been reported earlier in the meeting (minute 9438.3 and 9438.4).

Councillor Wheeler withdrew.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9439

IT WAS RESOLVED to take agenda items 15.3 (minute 9443.1) and 15.4 (minute 9443.2) at the end of the agenda to exclude the press and public from these items by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

9439.1 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9439.2 To receive the Minutes of the Staff Committee Meeting held on 9th June, 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9439.3 Contract for the Deputy Town Clerk

This item was deferred to the end of the agenda and recorded under minute 9443.1.

9439.4 Contract for the Temporary Project Officer

This item was deferred to the end of the agenda and recorded under minute 9443.2.

9439.5 Office Closure for Refurbishment

IT WAS RESOLVED to close the office to the public for the period of Thursday 30th and Friday 31st July 2015 to allow for the refurbishment of office equipment and furniture in the 1st floor office of Jacob's House. Volunteer Councillors are welcome to help.

HIGHWAYS

9440

9440.1 To receive a report from Council's Highways Representative

The Clerk reported that Council had received no feedback following the meeting with the Highways manager on 3rd June 2015.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

9441

9441.1 To receive a report from Council's Police Representative

The Clerk read out a report from the Council Police Representative, Councillor Nicholson, detailing the results of a successful speed watch with PCSO support which resulted in 5 drivers receiving tickets and one Section 59 warning. A second watch had resulted in lower speeds being recorded.

CLERK'S REPORT

9442

9442.1 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted.

9442.2 Monthly Area Inspections and Audit Checks

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

The Mayor highlighted the importance of inspections and internal audit checks.

The Deputy Town Clerk withdrew from the meeting

BUSINESS CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

9443

The press and public were excluded from the remainder of the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business and the resolution recorded as minute 9439.

9443.1 Contract for the Deputy Town Clerk

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the recommendation from Staff Committee to accept the proposed changes to the contract for the Deputy Town Clerk position.

9443.2 Contract for the Temporary Project Officer

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the recommendation from Staff Committee not to enter an open recruitment process and accept the proposed contract for the temporary Project Officer position.

The meeting closed at 9:15p.m.

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Town Mayor

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Date