

4th August, 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, 4th August, 2015.

Action Summary:

9449	Submit Objections to 15/00924/LAPRNW & 15/00929/LAPRNW	9457.4	To update the Social Media policy with the agreed amendment
9450	The Traders Forum to be made aware of the concerns relating to pedestrian safety in Parsonage Street.	9457.5	Provide grant payment of £80 to Dursley Welcomes Walkers
9455	Write to the police and SDC to enquire they would support setting up a cold calling scheme	9458.2	To confirm appointment of Town Clerk.
9457.2	To update the Youth Service Specification with the agreed amendment	9458.3	To confirm appointment of Admin & Finance Assistant
		9459.1	To invite Cllr Vernon Smith to the next meeting of council on September 1 st 2015.

PRESENT

Cllr C Nelmes, Mayor
Cllr N Grecian, Deputy Mayor

Councillors: J Ball, S Creswick, B Marsh, A Lodge, J Bird, P Hayes, R Blackwell-Whitehead, S Abraham, M Chappell and F Firth, L Patrick.

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk and Leah Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk; County Councillor S Lydon; Joshua Wright, Gazette Reporter and 8 members of the public.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

9444

Apologies for absence were accepted from the Councillors A Stennett (Personal), M Laybourne (Personal), M Nicholson (Personal) & J Burdge (Personal).

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

9445

Councillor Abraham declared a personal interest in agenda item 12.6, minute item 9457.6, as a trader.

Councillor Nelmes declared a personal interest in agenda item 10.3, minute item 9455.3 as the author of South Gloucestershire Cold Calling policy.

Councillor Grecian declared a personal interest in agenda items 12.5, minute items 9457.5, as a member of the Dursley Welcomes Walkers Committee.

Councillor Ball declared a personal interest in agenda item 12.6, minute item 9457.6, as an employee of the Community Association.

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

9446

No requests for dispensations were received.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

9447

County Councillor's Report

Councillor Lydon reported on: the extent of his electoral constituency. Planning – Cllr Lydon has approached SDC to ask them to consider taking independent advice on highways matters, rather than just rely on the County view. GCC are also being approached due to the County Council rarely giving an adverse view despite many controversial proposals coming forward.

Devolution - A statement of intent has been sent to government from Gloucestershire leaders - in the last two months the Leadership members have agreed that Gloucestershire should apply to form a combined authority – some districts more readily than others.

Cllr Lydon noted a highways response to recent enquiries and that some funding was still available (£5k Youth, £3.5k Active Together).

Cllr Lydon highlighted the possible closure of Stroud and Gloucester Magistrate Courts, leaving Cheltenham as the only facility within the county.

Cllrs Ball, Firth and Patrick queried the length of time to repair the pedestrian crossing on Kingshill Road and the general performance of the highways contractor; Amey. Cllr Lydon responded that Amey had confirmed this had been a bigger fault than first thought, but are promising repair by the beginning of the new school term. The Cabinet Member for Highways (Cllr Vernon Smith) was willing to attend a future council meeting, providing the opportunity to discuss concerns on all highway matters.

District Councillors' Reports

It was noted Councillor Wheeler's report had been circulated.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

9448

Several members of the public were present to provide comments on anti-social behaviour; ranging from reports of assaults, regular blue light emergencies, unacceptable levels of noise, anti-social behaviour from drunken people in the street, urinating, vomit and mess, vandalism and damage to property. The Town Centre, Long Street, The Knapp and the Crest Nicholson estate are greatly affected but residents in surrounding areas are also disturbed by people walking home particularly after 4am.

The residents reported that it was noticeable that these issues were not experienced during recent closure of Capones and Ye Olde Dursley Hotel.

It was noted that at the Town Council public consultation event on the 27th July - 21% supported the Capones license application and 79% objected. 24% supported the Ye Olde Dursley Hotel license and 76% objected.

Representatives for the two establishments seeking a new license stated that the club had been in their management for 20 years and had been present before that, new bouncers had been employed, there were now 18 cameras being used this was both an upgrade of existing and additional units and that the Capones application was being revised from the stated 5am to a 4am closure.

IT WAS RESOLVED to take agenda item 11.4 (minute 9449) prior to agenda item 5.1 (minute 9450) as no representative of the public were currently present for said agenda item.

TO CONSIDER LICENSING APPLICATIONS

9449

Councillors referred to the comments received from the public and the prior consultation correspondence and agreed that there were concerns with the management of the nightclub and times being applied for on both applications. Reference was made to other similar establishments within the town. It was noted that if licenses were approved by Stroud District Council, that a meeting with the licensees should be arranged to discuss management issues.

IT WAS RESOLVED to object to application No. 15/00924/LAPRNW Ye Olde Dursley Hotel but to suggest support for a revision to the application of a 1am closing time. There were 11 votes in support, 1 objection and 1 abstention.

IT WAS RESOLVED to object to application No. 15/00929/LAPRNW Capones but to suggest support for a revision to the application of a 2.30am curtailment for the supply by retail of alcohol and a 3am closing time. There were 8 votes in support and 5 votes against.

PARSONAGE STREET

9450

It was proposed by the Mayor to allow the two remaining members of the public the opportunity to highlight their concerns relating to safety in Parsonage Street. The concerns related to the amount of goods, produce and advertising boards which are causing a hazard to pedestrians and putting them in potential conflict with vehicles, particularly the pinch-point at "Arpers". The councillors considered the photographic evidence provided. The Town Clerk provided the guidance and enforcement carried out by GCC Highways and Cllr Abraham stated most traders used the area leading "up to the gutter". The general condition of the "community" notice boards was discussed.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the next meeting of the Traders Forum and if there was not a successful conclusion then the Town Council would write a letter to any offending traders highlighting the concerns.

IT WAS AGREED to include the notice board condition to the agenda of the next Town Improvements committee meeting.

MINUTES

9451

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7th June 2015 were signed by the Mayor.

Town Council Appointments

9452

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept Cllrs Abraham and Hayes as council appointed Town Trustees.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept Cllr Lodge as council representative for the Joint Woodland Committee.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

9453

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.

IT WAS AGREED to include an agenda item to discuss the councils reserves at the next meeting of the Policy and Finance committee agenda at the request of Cllr Creswick.

GREEN SPACES

9454

9454.1 Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

In the absence of the Committee Chairman there was no report received.

9454.2 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on 21st July 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9454.3 To receive an update on the Football Shed

The structural report had been recently received; the Clerk stated that the shed was structurally sound, but there were concerns and recommendation for the roof and supports. This will be discussed fully at the next Green Spaces committee meeting.

9454.4 To receive a report on the potential allotment opportunities.

The Clerk provided an update on a recent meeting regarding potential allotments at the Vale Hospital, the details of which would be provided to the Allotment Working Group and discussed at the next Green Spaces committee meeting.

9454.5 Community Day

It was noted that the community day had been postponed twice due to bad weather and councillor availability and a new date was yet to be confirmed.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9455

9455.1 Report of the Chairman of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Committee Chairman reported of the intention to run a competition to paint a Dursley themed mural at The Broadwell and that the clerk was investigating potential hanging baskets for Castle Street.

9455.2 To receive the Minutes of the Town Improvements Committee Meeting held on 14th July 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9455.3 Cold Calling Scheme

The councillors discussed the merits of introducing a scheme to either an estate in Dursley or a town wide scheme, it was accepted that for a scheme to be successful then it would need the support of the local police and Stroud District Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the clerk should write to the Police and Stroud District Council to enquire if they would support setting up a cold calling scheme in Dursley.

PLANNING

9456

9456.1 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9456.2 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 21st July 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9456.3 To note town council response to S.15/0476/OUT

The details of the response to SDC were noted.

POLICY AND FINANCE

9457

9457.1 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9457.2 To approve the SLA and Specification – Youth Services Contact

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Service Level Agreement with no amendments and to adopt the Specification with one amendment - to include the rearranging of any cancelled youth session due to unforeseen circumstances.

9457.3 To approve the draft media policy

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the policy.

9457.4 To approve the draft social media policy

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the policy with one amendment. Item 6 “Councillors/employees should not comment on council matters until after any official announcement/statement by the Town Clerk” be moved from the *Persona Use* section to the *our rules and expectations* section of the policy.

9457.5 To consider the Emergency Grant to Dursley Welcomes Walkers

IT WAS RESOLVED to award the grant of £80 for the visit of Japanese walkers to the town

9457.6 Councillors' Reports

- (i) **Future Dursley** (8/7/15) – No update was provided.
- (ii) **Dursley Welcomes Walkers** (13/7/15) – Japanese walkers visiting on 25th August, Mayor and Cllr Ball receiving them at Jacobs House and then they have a walk and lunch. Walking festival details will be available soon, Lantern Walk on 22nd August being opened by Cllr Geoff Wheeler.

- (iii) **DYCAC** (13/07/15) – The group discussed the recruitment process for The Door, the license and CIO agreements and the Youth Service SLA and Specification.
- (iv) **Vibe Networking Group** (14/7/15) – Updates received from user groups and summer holiday provisions.
- (v) **Traders Forum** (17/7/15) – Cllr Abraham reported that Neil Carmichael attended, answering question on pensions, living wage, federation of small businesses & business rates.
- (vi) **GAPTC AGM** (18/7/15) – The Mayor and Town Clerk represented the Town Council AGM and the briefing/training sessions.
- (vii) **Community Association** (22/7/15) – The Mayor reported that the CA recently received grant funding and had upgraded their cooking facilities. It was noted that the Town Council had received a grant application.
- (viii) **Kingshill House AGM** (27/7/15) – The notes had previously been circulated to all councillors
- (ix) **Town Trust** (28/7/15) – The notes had been previously circulated to all councillors.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9458

9458.1 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9458.2 Town Clerk – Completed Probationary period.

IT WAS AGREED that the clerk had satisfactorily completed his probationary period and the appointment should be confirmed.

9458.3 Administration and Finance Assistant

IT WAS AGREED that the Admin and Finance Assistant had satisfactorily completed her probationary period and the appointment should be confirmed.

It was noted that both the Town Clerk and Admin Assistant had settled in to their roles quickly and were thanked for doing so.

9458.4 Office Refurbishment

The clerk provided an update on the recent successful office refurbishment which went as scheduled.

HIGHWAYS

9459

9459.1 To receive a report from Council's Highways Representative

Cllr Hayes reported that despite regular emails and phone calls the pedestrian crossing remained non-operational at Kingshill Road and that potholes and

general road condition were still a problem. Cllr Hayes attended the Roads Safety meeting and requested the Clerk to send the minutes to all councillors.

IT WAS RESOLVED to take up Cllr Lydon's offer that the lead cabinet member for Highways would be willing to attend a future meeting. The Clerk will send an invite to Cllr Vernon Smith to attend the next council meeting in September.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY 9460

9460.1 To receive a report from Council's Police Representative

There was no report in the absence of the council's police representative.

CLERK'S REPORT 9461

9461.1 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted.

Monthly Area Inspections and Audit Checks 9462

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

The meeting closed at 9:10p.m.

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Town Mayor

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Date