

3rd November, 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 November, 2015.

Action Summary:

9507.2	Town Clerk to investigate community defibrillator issues & quotations for future Council meeting	9511.3	Defer Dursley in Bloom grant application to Budget Council meeting 17/11/15
9507.3	Appoint Smiths as Council waste contractor	9513.1	Town Clerk to request update on highways Lengthsman works
9509.3	Proceed with Parking Proposal consultation	9514.2	Town Clerk to request Police update on Pub Watch Scheme and use of Special Constables
9511.3	Subject to conditions, award emergency grants to Dursley and District Good Neighbours & Chantry Centre.		

PRESENT

Cllr C Nelmes, Mayor
Cllr N Grecian, Deputy Mayor

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

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk and Leah Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk; District Councillors G Wheeler and D Cornell; PC Luke Moffat, PSCO Michelle Dodd and a Gazette Reporter.

Absent: Councillor M Chappell.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 9500

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor A Stennett (personal).

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 9501

Councillor Ball declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 8.1(i), minute item 9507.1 (i), as an employee of the Dursley and District Community Association.

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9502

No requests for dispensations were received.

TOWN COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION

9503

It was noted that Councillor Abraham had tendered her resignation but had rescinded it within a few days of doing so following further consideration; Stroud District Council had not been informed so no action was required.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

9504

County Councillors' Reports

It was noted that County Councillor S Lydon is recovering from a heart condition at home but is staying up to date with local issues; he cannot yet commit to attending meetings but hopes to start sending monthly reports soon.

District Councillors Reports

Councillor Wheeler reported on devolution and the prospects of reaching an agreement for Gloucestershire, which remain positive; the need for Council to reconsider the housing programme in light of recent government proposals on housing and changes to right to buy, benefits and affordable housing; Littlecombe highways issues and the County Council's insistence that the T-junction at the Kingshill Road/Kingshill Lane junction is retained and issues with through traffic from the Bull Pitch roundabout/Uley Road junction.

Councillor Cornell reported on her role as a member of the County Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the findings of the Care Quality Commission inspection carried out at the Vale Hospital; a visit to the Ambulance Trust Bristol hub and improvements required to rural response times; the approved 5 million pound investment in sheltered housing, the options and consultation process surrounding this and the Local Plan, which has now been found sound by the Inspector and will go before Stroud District Council on 19th November 2015.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

9505

PC Luke Moffatt and PCSO Michelle Dodd (Cam) outlined a local campaign to raise awareness of burglaries and how people can protect their property; nationally this time of year sees an increase in burglaries.

It was noted that the campaign involves letter and leaflet 'footprint' drops to vulnerable homes providing crime prevention information; the mobile police unit will be in the town centre on 21st November between 10am-12pm giving advice and marking property with UV pens; night time foot patrols have been stepped up (both hi-viz and plain clothed) for the coming weeks and months. Information on the campaign will be available on the police website and in the local press.

Councillor Grecian joined the meeting.

In answer to questions, it was noted that people can buy the traceable liquid SmartWater from the Police to mark property; the mobile police unit will be at

the festive lights switch on event on 27th November 2015 and the new red and green lights on the Police Station wall are electric charging points for Police vehicles.

PC Moffatt and PCSO Dodd withdrew from the meeting.

Councillor Grecian highlighted concerns that the doorbell for the Council meeting was missing and that any late arrivals would be unable to enter.

MINUTES

9506

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6th October 2015 were signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

9507

9507.1 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 abstained from the vote.

- (ii) Income received since the last Council meeting (Appendix B) was noted.

- (iii) The monthly management/budget report was noted.

9507.2 Community Defibrillator

The quotation from Heart Plus (£1,895+VAT or £40 per month) for a community defibrillator for 5 years was considered. Several issues were raised including location, signage, vandalism, insurance, other possible providers and financial assistance.

IT WAS RESOLVED to investigate all the issues fully and look at a range of defibrillator providers before considering the information at a future Council meeting.

9507.3 Change of Waste Management Supplier

The Town Clerk outlined the problems experienced with the current Grundons waste and recycling collection service. The following quotations relating to a change of supplier were considered:

- Smiths - estimated annual cost £761 (+VAT).
- Grundons - costs of £654 (+VAT) for year so far, £986.34 (+VAT) in 2014/15.
- Veolia – not taking on any new customers at this time.

IT WAS RESOLVED to change supplier and appoint Smiths to carry out the collection of Council waste and recycling.
Councillor Ball abstained from the vote.

GREEN SPACES

9508

9508.1 Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

The Vice Chairman had no matters to report.

9508.2 Allotment Working Group

Councillors Blackwell-Whitehead and Firth gave an update following the meeting with allotment tenants and people on the waiting list held on the 14th November 2015.

It was noted that 5 people attended and there appeared to be greater interest in the allotment opportunity offered by the Peak Academy; several parcels of land had also been identified by the group as possible future allotment sites, a letter would go out to local farmers and landowners.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9509

9509.1 Report of the Chairman of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report but did comment on the success of the recent Pumpkin Lantern event organised by Dursley traders and the positive comments received from visitors relating to the town.

9509.2 To receive the Minutes of the Town Improvement Committee Meeting held on 13th October 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9509.3 Joint Community Long Stay Parking Proposal (DTC/SDC/Sainsbury's)

The Mayor summarised the above proposal, drafted by the Town Council and Stroud District Council in consultation with Sainsbury's and circulated with the agenda.

It was noted that a total of 40 spaces would be provided for long stay parking in the Sainsbury's car park, to be administered by the Town Council via a permit system and small admin charge; the parking would be trialled for one year with a view to a permanent agreement between the Town Council, Stroud District Council and Sainsbury's.

It was recognised that this proposal is the first short term solution to the parking issue and if the trial was not successful other options, both medium and long

term (e.g. Traffic Regulations Orders, charges) would be explored. It was noted that these however would require major capital investment.

Councillor Marsh felt that the proposal doesn't allow the town to grow and that Dursley needs the long stay car park on Littlecombe, which is owned by Stroud District Council and therefore the community.

Councillors Ball and Nicholson spoke in support of the proposal, as an extension of the current scheme set up by traders.

Questions were asked in relation to walkers and visitors to the town and how they would benefit, also misuse of May Lane car park spaces. In response it was noted that if traders/business employees park in Sainsbury's this would free up the long stay spaces, the parking group would also look at tackling misuse of the spaces in May Lane.

IT WAS RESOLVED to commence with consultation on the proposal, issuing information to the local press and speaking with local traders and businesses.

PLANNING

9510

9510.1 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9510.2 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 20th October 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9510.3 To co-opt additional members to the Committee (up to 4 places)

IT WAS RESOLVED to co-opt Councillor B Cairns to the Committee; three vacancies remain.

9510.4 S.15/0476/OUT – Littlecombe s106 Contributions

- (i) The Mayor gave an update following a disappointing meeting at Cam Parish Council on 15th October 2015 with representatives of Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire Highways. It was noted that a letter (circulated with the agenda) had been sent to Highways outlining the Council's grave concerns regarding the plan to signpost the link road as a through route for all traffic and also failure to provide adequate improvements and solution to the Kingshill Road/Kingshill Lane junction.

It was noted that the Council are pressing hard for Highways to reconsider its position and the highway improvements required; at the most recent Littlecombe Masterplan consultations the link road had been described as an estate road not a through route.

Members urged Councillor Wheeler to tackle this issue on behalf of Dursley and to secure the highways improvements which have always been a big issue for the development; priority at the Bull Pitch junction should also be returned to its original status, as it is currently dangerous; on-street parking on Listers Road is also an issue.

IT WAS RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders so that Councillor Wheeler could respond.

Councillor Wheeler agreed with the Town Council's position and the concerns raised; he agreed to argue the case with the developer and Gloucestershire Highways and expressed a wish to be included in any future meetings the Council might hold to discuss the issue.

IT WAS RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

- (ii) It was noted that, frustratingly, the Council had still not received a response from Stroud District Council regarding confirmation of the timescales and process for awarding the S106 contributions to community projects; the details have to be agreed by the end of the year and s106 recipients named in the legal agreement; in the interim community buildings had been warned to prepare to submit bids.

Members requested that the Town Clerk insist Stroud District Council extend the deadline given the delays experienced by their failure to provide information.

In response to concerns raised about the school crossing improvements and safety of children, it was noted that the issue had been raised as part of s106 discussions.

POLICY AND FINANCE

9511

9511.1 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9511.2 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 27th October 2015

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

The Committee Chairman raised concern that there had only been 3 members at the meeting.

9511.3 To approve Emergency Grant Applications for 2015/16

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the recommendations of the Policy & Finance committee and approve the Emergency Grant Applications for the Dursley and District Good Neighbours Scheme (£500) and the Chantry Centre (£895),

subject to the conditions stated, and defer the Dursley in Bloom application to the budget Committee meeting on 17th November 2015 for consideration, as the necessary paperwork had not been circulated.

9511.4 Councillors' Reports

- (i) **Road Safety Liaison Group** (7/10/15) – Councillor Hayes reported on the meeting and activity including a children's competition.
- (ii) **Dursley Business Inclusive** (8/10/15) – Councillor Abraham reported on the work being undertaken to recreate the group formally; the constitution is now in place.
- (iii) **Allotment Meeting** (14/10/15) – Update given earlier under agenda item 9508.2.
- (iv) **Dursley Youth Centre Action Group** (15/10/15) – The Mayor reported on the success of the sessions being delivered by the Door and growing numbers; 2 sessions are being held: 4-6pm for ages 11 and 12yrs and 7-9pm for ages 13yrs+.
- (v) **Cam & Dursley Station Travel Plan** (15/10/15) – Councillor Hayes was unable to attend but reported that work in ongoing looking at various objectives including access, parking and facilities at the station.
- (vi) **Dursley Welcomes Walkers** (16/10/15) – Councillor Grecian reported on the success of the festival; the weekend attracted approx. 300 walkers; the group will be hosting the national Walkers are Welcome conference in the spring and in response to feedback from B&B providers, will be developing shorter walks.
- (vii) **NDP** (21/10/15) – The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the focus of work is currently on the Landscape Character Assessment and assessing local Housing need.
- (viii) **Christmas Working Group** (22/10/15) – The Deputy Town Clerk reported on arrangements for the event, which will include a short firework display; Councillors were invited to volunteer to help marshal during the evening, Councillors Firth and Nicholson volunteered. Councillors expressed disappointment that the Round Table Bonfire Night Fireworks display was not taking place in the town this year. It was noted that the Lions Club were interested in organising the display for 2016.
- (ix) **Cam, Dursley & Uley Greenway** (24/10/15) – Councillor Blackwell-Whitehead reported that the group plan to hold a cleaning of the route day.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9512

9512.1 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9512.2 Office Closure between 24th December 2015 & 4th January 2016

It was noted that the Staff Committee approved a request to close the Council office between 24th December 2015 and 4th January 2016; staff will be required to take annual leave and emergency cover arrangements will be put in place.

9512.3 Trial Extension of Public Opening Hours

It was noted that the public opening hours for the office will be extended to 10am to 3pm, for a trial period from Monday 9th November 2015.

BUSINESS RELATING TO HIGHWAYS

9513

9513.1 To receive a report from Council's Highway Representative

Councillor Hayes reported that there was still very little progress on highway works and a lack of information; there are safety issues with the paving replacement works on Parsonage Street due to the barriers not being secured adequately and there has to date been no other Lengthsman work.

Councillors Patrick and Laybourne raised issues with pot holes on the roundabouts located on the A4135 at Kingshill Road/Blackboys and Bull Pitch/Woodmancote and the need for works to improve the road surface here.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Town Clerk would get an update on works and the Lengthsman Team programme from Gloucestershire Highways and report issues with the roundabouts.

Councillor Firth requested that the Gazette routinely include positive news stories relating to the Dursley community e.g. the festive lighting switch on event.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

9514

9514.1 To receive a report from Council's Police Representative

Councillor Nicholson reported on a successful year so far for the Community Speedwatch scheme.

It was noted that the speed gun needs to be serviced and checked; the Police have passed on contact details for Speedwatch groups around the county; talks will take place with PSCO Griffith to see if Dursley can take part in an interactive speed sign initiative, Councillor Patrick supported this idea; speed reduction campaigns are being run by the Road Safety Partnership and locally the Police team have held 'Wheeled Respect' events in the past, which we expect to continue moving forward.

9514.2 CCTV in the Town Centre

It was noted that due to unforeseen circumstances, Councillor Nicholson had been unable to attend the tour of the CCTV control centre on 16th October 2015; the visit will be rearranged for an evening (7pm) and an update provided to the Town Improvements Committee.

The Town Clerk reported on the Stroud Community Safety Partnership meeting held on 3rd November 2015.

It was noted that the recent failure of the CCTV System was the result of a server breakdown, this equipment has since been replaced at a cost of £10,000; Dursley is the only Town Council to contribute financially to the system, Stroud Town Council do not pay and Wotton-under-Edge operate their own system; traders are unable to legally film public spaces with private CCTV systems; an organised gang has been targeting Cam and Dursley with burglaries, making this a priority issue for the local Police and safety teams; the Police and Environmental Health have been pleasantly surprised that they have had very few problems relating to Capones and the new operating systems appear are working well.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Town Clerk would approach PC Moffatt for an update on the Pub Watch Scheme and raise the issue of use of Special Constables for hi visibility evening patrols.

CLERK’S REPORT

9515

9515.1 The Clerk’s report was noted.

9515.2 It was noted that the annual Remembrance Day Parade and service will be held on Sunday 8th November 2015 at 14:30 and all Councillor are expected to attend.

MONTHLY AREA INSPECTIONS AND AUDIT CHECKS

9516

Details of Councillors scheduled to undertake area inspections and audit checks for October/November 2015 were noted.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm.

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Town Mayor

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Date