

16th February 2021

Policy and Finance

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE of the Council held online at 7:30p.m. on Tuesday 16th February 2021 for presentation to the Council on the 2nd March 2021.

PRESENT

Councillors: S Creswick (Chair), M Woodward, P Hayes, N Grecian, S Ackroyd, W Thomas, A Stennett and M Stennett.

In Attendance: Deputy Town Clerk, L Wellings.

Absent: Councillor A Whitwell.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor L Patrick.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee held on the 15th December 2020 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. TO CONSIDER THE REQUIREMENT FOR DISCLOSURE & BARRING (DBS) CHECKS

The Committee considered the requirement for Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) for staff, councillors and volunteers, referring to the NALC Legal Topic Note 86

IT WAS RESOLVED that there was no requirement to automatically carry out a DBS check in relation to current Council business/activities but that the Council would reserve the right to undertake the process at any time, before or during employment or engagement with the Council, if the activity required it or the Council felt it was necessary. In such cases the cost would be covered by the Council.

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE COMPLAINT TO LLOYDS BANK

Members noted the response letter and £39.10 refund from Lloyds Bank, following the Council's recent complaint.

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE APPLICATIONS FOR ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Members noted that Stroud District Council were still processing the Council's Assets of Community Value Nomination Forms and decision notices had not yet been issued.

It was noted that, following advice from Stroud District Council, the application to register the Long Street Car Park was not submitted, as the Council was already the Landowner.

8. TO CONSIDER THE EARLY RENEWAL OFFER FOR OFFICE BROADBAND & LANDLINE.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Council would not renew the broadband and landline contract early, but would review communication requirements and obtain 3 quotations before the current contract ends in November 2022.

9. TO APPROVE THE REVISED DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL MISSION STATEMENT

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the revised draft document and recommend that Council adopt the Climate Change and Environmental Mission Statement.

Councillor Thomas was thanked for her role in drafting the document and overseeing revisions.

10. TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO THE LETTER FROM THE OWNERS OF 5 LONG STREET

Members considered a letter from the owners of 5 Long Street, received following the Council's application to register the building as an Asset of Community Value and ahead of the departure of Lloyds Bank in 2021.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Town Clerk and Chair of the Committee would write a letter thanking the owner for contacting the Council, to outline the potential of the building, as stated in the Asset of Community Value application, including links to the Dursley Neighbourhood Development Plan 2018 policies and noting that a decision had yet to be made on the application by Stroud District Council.

11. TO APPROVE THE DRAFT CIVIC CALENDER 2021/22

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the draft Civic Calendar 2021/22 and recommend that Council adopt it.

12. TO CONSIDER THE OPTION OF A TWO-YEAR EXTENSION FOR THE YOUTH SERVICE PROVISION CONTRACT

It was noted that the current contract was due to end in August 2021 and a two-year option to extend until August 2023 was written into the contract; the Covid pandemic and procurement timescales were considered.

IT WAS RESOLVED to extend the current contract and make arrangements to undertake a comprehensive review in 12 months' time, allowing adequate time for the contract procurement process.

13. ASSET REGISTER & INSURANCE

- a) The Draft Asset Policy was considered. The £100 value in 2.1 and 2.3 was increased to £250.

IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend that the Council adopt the revised Asset Register Policy.

- b) The existing Asset Register, notes relating to recent changes and insurance levels were reviewed. No issues or revisions were identified.
- c) The insurance information update was reviewed. It was suggested that the Council consider cyber/data insurance.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the information and Asset Register, with the inclusion of the cyber/data element suggested, was sufficient to seek insurance quotations.

14. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON INVESTMENTS

The investments update circulated with the agenda was noted.

The meeting closed at 20:45pm.

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 Chair

 Date