

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE of the Council held at Dursley Methodist Church, Castle Street, Dursley on Tuesday 22nd February 2022 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 1st March 2022.

PRESENT

Councillors: S Creswick (Chair), L Patrick (Vice Chair), M Woodward, N Grecian, P Hayes and J Rubin.

Officers: John Kay, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Ackroyd (Mayor), M Stennett, A Stennett and D Savvidou (all personal).

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Creswick declared a pecuniary interest as an employee of Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils. (Minute No. 6)

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee held on Tuesday 21st December 2021 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

It was noted that the Council's Gold level application to the Local Council Award scheme was unsuccessful, but it had met the criteria for the Quality level award. The one element that was not passed by the assessment panel was the Council's Business (Strategic) Plan although it was commented that it was a well-developed plan.

A further comment was that the Risk Management plan should show more clearly the likelihood of risks occurring.

IT WAS RESOLVED for the Clerk to draft an updated Strategic Plan and present to the next P&F Committee prior to resubmitting to the LCAS panel.

IT WAS AGREED that the Council's Risk Management plan be revised in 2022 and that the Councillor's register of interests be added to the Council's website rather than a link to the Stroud District Council website.



6. TO APPOINT AN INTERNAL AUDITOR

IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils as the internal auditor for the 2021/22 accounts. Cllr Creswick abstained.

7. REGARDING DURSLEY TOWN TRUST

It was noted that no response had been received from the Charity Commission in relation to the request to transfer the management of assets from the Town Trust to the Town Council. It is unclear if the Charity Commission are the official custodian, although it does appear in the minutes of the Town Trust.

The trustees had recently met and were seeking quotes for new heaters and lighting in the Heritage Centre.

The 2020/21 accounts have been submitted to the Charity Commission.

8. REGARDING LAND AT HARDING'S DRIVE

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council's bid for the sale of land had been unsuccessful. No details were known as to the successful bidder.

9. UPDATE ON INVESTMENTS

The investments to the 15th February 2022 were noted, including a modest increase in interest received following the transfer of funds to the Public Sector Deposit Account.

The meeting closed at 19:45.



.....Chair

.....21st June 2022.....Date