

10th September 2019

Policy and Finance

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE of the Council held in the Methodist Church, Castle Street, Dursley at 6:30p.m. on Tuesday 10th September 2019 for presentation to the Council on the 1st October 2019.

PRESENT

Councillors: S Creswick (Chair), P Hayes (from Item 9), M Stennett , N Grecian, S Ackroyd, L Patrick (from Item 5) and A Stennett.

In Attendance: Town Clerk, J Kay and one member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Woodward, W Thomas, J Burdge (all personal) and A Whitwell (business).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Creswick declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Dursley in Bloom group.

Cllr Symon Ackroyd declared a pecuniary interest as a director of the Chantry Centre.

3. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present at this point of the meeting.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee held on the 18th June 2019 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Cllr Patrick joined the meeting.

6. 2018/19 ANNUAL RETURN

It was noted that the external auditors report & certificate had been received and that the annual return had been approved with no comment or actions.

7. REGARDING SMALL GRANTS 2019/20

IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend to Council on the 1st October 2019 that the following applications be approved:

Applicant	Brief Description	Amount	Conditions/Notes and Abstentions
Home Start – Stroud District	Training Volunteers	£750	None
Dursley Friday Lunch Club	To provide Christmas meal	£400	None
Vale Vision	Insurance for Sculpture Trial	£500	None
Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper	Additional Recordings	£100	None
Dursley in Bloom	Purchase hanging baskets, plants.	£500	Cllr Creswick abstained
Dursley & District Good Neighbours	Administration costs including mileage allowance	£500	None
Dursley & Cam Royal British Legion	Advertising for Veterans Breakfast Club	£500	None
Stepping Stone Pre-School	Improve outdoor area	£500	None
Dursley Town AFC	New pitch marking equipment	£400	None

8. REGARDING RESIDENT SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE DURSLEY

IT WAS AGREED to bring forward the suggestion for a community cinema in the town.

The member of the public was invited to address the committee with regard to this suggestion and provided his opinion on the benefit such a proposal would have on the community and town centre. It was noted that a previous community cinema had been held in the Chantry Centre but had ceased due to the low numbers who attended.

The committee agreed that they would consider a community proposal/business plan for a cinema, but this would require to be produced by volunteers from the community. It was suggested that contact be made with the Chantry Centre management to establish why the previous community cinema was not viable, what lessons were learned and what equipment could be used in the future.

IT WAS AGREED that the remaining residents' suggestions would be considered later in the meeting.

9. REGARDING REVENUE GRANTS 2020/21

Cllr Hayes joined the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend to Council on the 1st October 2019 that the following applications be approved:

Applicant	Brief Description	Amount	Conditions/Notes and Abstentions
D&D Community Association	General Maintenance & running costs	£5,000	The funding to be allocated to IT, redecoration and general maintenance. There was one vote against.
Great Western Air Ambulance Charity	To help fund missions in Dursley	£1,750	None
Twinberrow Foundation	To fund woodland management	£3,000	The Foundation to be encouraged to seek other grant opportunities
Kingshill House	National Story Telling Week (January 2019)	£1,000	Grant request only partly awarded (see below)
MOBS Dursley	To cover running costs,	£750	Grant partially awarded to cover room hire and sundries. There was one abstention.
Chantry Centre	Air Cooling/Ventilation system	£4,000	Grant award subject to receipt of up to date financial position and success in obtaining funding for the whole project. Cllr Ackroyd abstained.

IT WAS AGREED that the Revenue Grant request from Dursley Creatives could not be considered at the meeting as it was not clear the benefit to Dursley residents. A representative of the group is to be invited to attend Council on the 2nd October 2019.

IT WAS AGREED that the Revenue Grant request from the GL11 Community Project could not be approved as the grant from Dursley Town Council should not be for salaries. The group are to be invited to submit an alternative grant application for a project and/or equipment for the benefit of the centre users.

IT WAS AGREED that the Revenue Grant request from Kingshill House could not be approved in full. The funding request for brown tourist signs could not be considered at this time. The Committee agreed that a signing strategy for other community buildings should be considered before individual organisations arrange signage. There was concern at the estimated costs proposed for the new signage.

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IT WAS AGREED that the Revenue Grant request from World Jungle could not be considered due to no financial information being submitted as part of the application.

It is not clear that Works Jungle would qualify for a community grant from Dursley Town Council as they consider voluntary group as a non-profit making organisation set up and run by a voluntary, unpaid management committee. The Town Clerk was asked to highlight this to the applicant.

10. REGARDING RESIDENT SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE DURSLEY

At the 2019 Annual Assembly members of the public were asked to submit ideas on how they would improve Dursley. The Chair introduced the ideas and the merits were discussed by the Committee.

Brief Description of Suggestion	Committee Comment/Action
A new roundabout by Sainsbury's, near the pedestrian crossing (Castle Street)	Forward to Gloucestershire Council (GCC) Highways – Local Highway Manager.
Introduction of a new bus service through the Littlecombe estate	Forward to GCC - Local Transport team.
Hold a meeting with the handful of people who own all the town centre properties and discuss potential investments that people want to make	The Committee felt that this wasn't practical due to a large number of "absent" landlords in the town.
Develop marketing of Dursley as a destination on the Cotswold way	This is already being promoted through the Dursley Welcomes Walkers/Cotswold Edge & Severn Vale groups.
The introduction of a one-way system around Highfields estate	The Committee did not support this proposal.
More shops, shoes (shoe shops?) and tailors in Dursley	The Committee are not able to influence businesses operating in Dursley.
The approach into the town centre from Cam (the old Dursley motors building) has been described as a big eyesore	This building is privately owned and subject to a planning application to demolish and build housing units.
Improvements can be made to the pavement near Oxfam. It has been described as far too narrow. (Silver Street)	The Committee support this request and will continue to liaise with GCC Highways.
Suggests recycling the litter bins in the town.	Forward to Stroud District Council – Public Space team.
Better bus services in Dursley, suggests introducing a more frequent 'dedicated' service from Dursley to Cam and Dursley rail station.	Some improvements have been made in recent months and it is an ongoing process with a number of stakeholders.
Co-working space for small and micro businesses and also for self-employed people.	Suggestion to be highlighted to Cllr Doina Cornell, Stroud District Council.
Tidy the area of the lay-by and steps at Highfields Approach and Roseberry Mount. (Fly-tipping)	Forward to Stroud District Council – Public Space team and Neighbourhood Warden

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Brief Description of Suggestion	Committee Comment/Action
Speed restriction or camera, to cut down speeding motorist noise (from Bull Pitch to the Market Place)	Report incidents to the police. Possible location for Speedwatch Group. Could be linked to footway/carriageway safety improvement on Silver Street (Oxfam)
New Watering Cans and new tap fittings at Kingshill Cemetery.	To be considered by Green Spaces Committee
Please check office opening hours on the DTC website	This has been updated by the Town Clerk.
Silver Street – Create a speed table (similar to Sainsbury's in Castle Street)	The Committee support this request and will continue to liaise with GCC Highways.
I would love to see Dursley town centre looking as attractive, visitor-friendly and quintessentially Cotswolds as other towns in our area.	A review of the previous town design guide to be considered by Town Improvements Committee
I believe that painting the buildings of the pedestrian high street in a selection of vibrant colours would make the town eye-catching and inviting. It could help attract locals and tourists to shop here, as well as encourage new businesses to try a lease.	A review of the previous town design guide to be considered by Town Improvements Committee
Parsonage Street could be closed to deliveries for a few hours over the middle of the day then businesses could spill further out into the pedestrian space or pop up events could be programmed to attract families and young people?	Not possible, due to no alternative access to many businesses on Parsonage Street.
Build a skate park on the War Memorial Recreation Ground.	Skating facilities improvements to be considered by Green Spaces Committee

The meeting closed at 8:00pm.

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Chair

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Date