

11th February 2020

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 7:30p.m. on Tuesday 11th February 2020 for presentation to the Council on the 3rd March 2020.

PRESENT

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

In Attendance: Town Clerk, J Kay and Deputy Clerk, L Wellings.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Burdge (personal), L Patrick and A Whitwell (both business).

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 10th December 2019 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Cllr Thomas joined the meeting.

5. **MISSION STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Cllr Thomas presented the draft statement; the Committee reviewed the document considering the extent and limitations of the influence that Dursley Town Council could have on environmental matters that we are not directly responsible for.

IT WAS AGREED to continue drafting the mission statement, cross reference with existing policies and other Committee aims/objectives. The updated draft to be reviewed at the next committee meeting to be held on 21st April 2020.

IT WAS AGREED that the Green Spaces Committee would consider ideas for inclusion on the mission statement at the meeting scheduled for 17th March 2020.

6. **ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

The assets which Dursley Town Council registered in 2013 had now expired and the Committee considered whether to re-register the buildings and facilities which were considered assets of community

IT WAS RESOLVED to relist the assets with the exception of the no longer functioning Long Street Car Park (original site) and Kingshill House due to the planned transfer to the Kingshill House Ltd charity. The new Long Street car park, the short stay 1-hour car park on Castle Street, Lloyds Bank building on Long Street and the public toilets on May Lane are to be considered for registration.

7. UNREGISTERED LAND – KINGSHILL HOUSE/KINGSHILL PLAY AREA

The Town Clerk provided a summary of the boundary issue dating back to 2009 which resulted in a legal impasse between Dursley Town Council and Stroud District Council that has never been satisfactorily resolved. The Committee considered the recent request from Stroud District Council to resolve this long-standing issue.

IT WAS RESOLVED that until Stroud District Council agree to recompense any expenditure by Dursley Town Council on this matter, then Dursley Town Council are unable to commit to confirming the legalities of any potential transfer. Dursley Town Council would not be in position to transfer the land until the legalities are mutually agreed by all parties.

Dursley Town Council remain open to resolving this issue and do not want to potentially hold up the planned asset transfer of Kingshill House from Stroud District Council to Kingshill House Ltd. Dursley Town Council would be willing to accept the fence being moved back to its original position to negate the need for the transfer but would expect Stroud District Council to fund the works required.

8. REVIEW OF ASSET REGISTER AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Deputy Clerk presented the updated asset register and our current insurance requirements. This information will form the basis of insurance quotes for the next three-year period with our current insurance policy expiring on 31st May 2020.

IT WAS RESOLVED that any individual items below a value of £200 to be removed from the asset register as an individual listing and be added to the miscellaneous tools/equipment.

IT WAS AGREED that the asset register and insurance information was sufficient to obtain quotes for the period 2020-23. The Committee indicated that a surveyor should be considered during this term to update replacement values for council owned buildings/facilities before the future renewal in 2023.

IT WAS AGREED to review the property to which Dursley Town Council hold title and/or act as trustees to ensure they are correctly listed on the asset register.

9. CIVIC CALENDAR

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the draft Civic Calendar dates for 2020/21 with the addition of a Green Spaces Committee on 14th April 2020.

10. HERALDIC SHIELDS

IT WAS RESOLVED not to purchase any further shields. Recipients of the Leslie D Gale awards are to receive certificates.

11. RECORDING OF PETTY CASH

The Town Clerk presented his report on the current recording of petty cash expenditure throughout the financial year and during the end of year accounts.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the petty cash reconciliation information to be presented to Council in addition to existing payment reports.

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12. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON INVESTMENTS

The investments at 31st January 2020 were noted.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm.

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Chair

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Date