

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE of the Council held in the **Methodist Church Rooms, Castle Street, Dursley** at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 18th February 2014 for presentation to the Council on the 4th March 2014.

PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor C Nelmes

Vice Chairman: Councillor L. V. Patrick

Councillors: J. A. Ball, S Creswick, N Grecian, R Blackwell-Whitehead
M Nicholson, T. G. Frankau, F Firth

In Attendance: Councillor V Harding, Town Clerk, Town Clerk's Assistant

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received and were accepted from Councillors A. Stennett (personal) and M. Laybourne (personal).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ball declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 14, as an employee of the Dursley and District Community Association.

3. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No representations had been received from the public.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee, held on the 17th December 2013, having been circulated among the members, were taken as read, considered, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had no matters to report.

7. ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

a) Members noted that the Assets of Community Vale (ACV) applications submitted by Council are being considered by Stroud District Council. Consideration was given to an e-mail from the Head of Planning regarding car park ACV applications and compliance with the legislation criteria.

The COMMITTEE AGREED that the Town Clerk would respond to the e-mail outlining the case for registering car parks, how they fit the criteria and the reasons why they are considered 'social interests'.

- b) Regarding the ACV application for The New Inn, Woodmancote, members considered a letter and information submitted by the owners relating to the viability and current status of the pub, which appears to be more of a family home.

The COMMITTEE AGREED to withdraw the application, it was considered unrealistic for the community to take this asset on, given the case submitted by the owners.

8. DURSLEY YOUTH CENTRE

The Chairman and Town Clerk gave members an update on the Youth Centre Project which is progressing.

It was noted that the construction specification for the centre has been revised and reissued to 3 contractors with the aim of reducing the costs. The Working Group will consider revised tender submissions in March.

Members were advised that local service providers met on 13th February 2014 to discuss how usage of the new youth centre could be maximised through joint working.

It was noted that an 'Our Place' funding bid has been submitted to Locality, which if successful, will help local partners to address youth services and deliver a range of different services to young people from the new centre (e.g. skills, employment advice, social, health and wellbeing); the grant support ranges from £3,000 to £33,000 and is split into 3 milestones: Getting Ready, Getting Going and Going Further.

9. RETURN OF A PERCENTAGE OF BUSINESS RATES TO TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk on an application seeking the return of a percentage of business rates to town and parish councils.

The COMMITTEE AGREED to write to the government in support of the application.

10. CAM & DURSLEY COMMUNITY PLAN 2020

The Town Clerk gave members an update on the Cam and Dursley Community Plan 2020.

It was noted that Vale Vision are taking action to address the points raised by Council; the Town Clerk has forwarded useful data being collated for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The COMMITTEE AGREED to monitor progress.

11. CIVIC CALENDAR 2014/15

Members considered the Civic Calendar for 2014/15 as proposed by the Town Clerk.

The COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS adopting the Civic Calendar as proposed and reminding each Committee that extraordinary meetings can be called when required.

12. DATA PROTECTION TRAINING

Members noted that the Town Clerk will be running training for staff and Councillors on Data Protection.

The COMMITTEE AGREED to arrange two training sessions, one to take place on a Wednesday morning and another during the evening.

13. LOCAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT 2014

Members noted an update from Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils on the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Councillor Ball withdrew from the meeting.

14. OUTSTANDING GRANT APPLICATIONS

Members reviewed outstanding grant applications:

- a) It was noted that Vale Vision returned the 2013 grant evaluation form on 18th February 2014.

The COMMITTEE AGREED to confirm the grant for £500.

- b) It was noted that the Chairman of the Dursley and District Community Association submitted a letter and Business Plan on 18th February 2014. The plan was considered along with the issues raised by Council during 2013. The importance of a strong Marketing Strategy was discussed; concerns were raised about income generation, refurbishment costs and reliance on S106 monies linked to the Littlecombe site, yet to be released.

The COMMITTEE AGREED to defer making a decision on the grant application until full Council in April 2014. The Town Clerk will arrange a meeting with all trustees and members of the association to discuss the following areas of concern: marketing, governing, income and the Business Plan. The meeting will take place before the end of March 2014; Councillors Laybourne, Nelmes, Harding, Patrick and Creswick will attend; the Town Clerk will consult Barbara Pond at Gloucestershire Rural Community Council.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date