

7<sup>th</sup> March 2017

## DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held in the Jacob's House, Castle Street, Dursley at 7.15pm on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

### Action Summary:

9753	Town Clerk to contact GCC highways re pothole repairs and resurfacing at Roseberry Road.	9760.4	The Town Clerk to submit the LCAS Gold level application.
9760.6	Town Clerk to respond to Hill Valley & Vale re Grant request.	9766.2	The newsletter and NDP leaflet to be printed and distributed.
9766.3	The Town Clerk to carry out recommendations of the CPWG		

### PRESENT

Cllr N Grecian, Mayor

Councillors: M Nicholson, J Ball, A Sheffield, S Ackroyd, L Patrick, A Stennett, W Thomas, M Laybourne J Burdge & F Firth, B Cairns, S Abraham, P Hayes and S Creswick, M Woodward.

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk; Leah Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk, Cllr Lydon, Cllr Fryer, Cllr Hayward and two members of the public.

The decision was taken to hold the meeting at Jacobs House as the Fire Station was locked and access wasn't possible. All members of the public and press present informed of the change of venue and were provided details of how to get to Jacobs House.

### TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

9749

There were no apologies for absence.

### VACANCIES FOR TOWN COUNCILLORS

9750

One application was received for the vacancy in the Kingshill ward and circulated to town councillors prior to the meeting.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** for Mandy Woodward to be co-opted to the council, sign the declaration of acceptance of office and join the meeting.

### MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

9751

Cllr Cairns & Cllr Creswick declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Pension Scheme (Item 9760.6, Agenda Item 12.6)

Cllr Thomas declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Environment Agency Pension Scheme (Item 9760.6, Agenda Item 12.6)

Cllr Ball declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Environment Agency Pension Scheme (Item 9766.3, Agenda Item 18.2 as an employee of the Community Centre.

### REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

9752

There were no requests for dispensations.

### COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

9753

#### County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Lydon's report had been circulated to Town Councillors prior to the meeting.

Cllr Lydon highlighted the recent meeting held at Cam & Dursley Station and the agreement to provide some additional spaces. Cllr Lydon highlighted his concerns at the recent collapse of a carer provider to GCC (Cleeve Link) and the reduction of hours at the local health clinic. Cllr Lydon thanked the Clerk for arranging the recent Parking Enforcement meeting and confirmed £10k of Highways Local funding towards the Greenway project for Uley, Cam & Dursley. Cllr Lydon alerted Council to an issue with existing Disabled Blue Badge holders no longer meeting the scheme criteria and applications being refused.

Cllr Lydon reminded Council that this was his last meeting prior to the County Council Elections in May but it was a good time to suggest schemes to GCC Highways for the 2017/18 Highways Local funding.

#### District Councillors Reports

Cllr Fryer reported that a second Housing Tenant representative had been appointed and that he had joined a "task and finish" group to implement fixed term tenancies subject to government guidance.

Cllr Hayward had nothing further to add to her previously submitted report which had been previously distributed to Councillors.

Cllr Cornell had provided her apologies for the meeting.

The County & District Councillors faced a number of questions from Town Councillors regarding the rise in fly tipping and incorrect use of refuse bags since the new waste collection service had been introduced. It was noted that there had been a significant increase in many areas of the town including: Long Street, The Broadwell, Water Street, Parsonage Street, Oak Drive, Chestal and Heath Court. The storage of waste from flats or communal areas seemed to be a significant issue.

It was requested by the Town Council that Stroud District Council should review the policy for collection arrangements for communal areas and flats.

Cllr Nicholson highlighted the very poor quality of pothole repairs carried out in Roseberry Road.

**IT WAS AGREED** the Town Clerk would enquire with GCC Highways on the recent works and the planned resurfacing.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 9754

There were no representations from the public.

MINUTES 9755

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE 9756

9756.1 Council's Accounts 2016/2017

- (i) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments be authorised and signed by the Mayor.
- (ii) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Bank Reconciliation on be authorised and signed by the Mayor.
- (iii) Income received since the last Council meeting was noted.
- (iv) The monthly management/budget report was noted.

GREEN SPACES 9757

Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

The Chairman reported that the improvements to the BMX track had been completed and the Council had received positive comments on the upgraded facility.

The Chairman also highlighted to Councillors that they would shortly receive an update from the Deputy Clerk relating to a grave space where memorials not adhering the Cemetery regulations has been recorded.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES 9758

9758.1 Report of the Chairman of the Town Improvements Committee

The Chairman had no matters to report.

9758.2 Pancake Race 2017

The Town Clerk reported that the pancake race was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> February with three heats and a grand final. The 2017 winner was Jonny Marks, representing The Pulse.

Cllr Ball reported that £80 had been collected in charity buckets on the day. The final total to be donated to The League of Friends (Vale Hospital) would be confirmed soon.

9758.3 Tourism Group

The Deputy Clerk provided an update from the recent Steering Group which had received a presentation from Harris Ethical on the Cam and Dursley Station Travel Plan which has strong links with tourism in the area. The group have access to funding with three potential projects being considered including the feasibility of a taxi service from the station and the production of a locality leaflet/guidebook.

The Steering Group continue to work on the tourism strategy and will continue market testing the name "Cotswold Edge and Severn Vale" due to continued difference of opinion on the branding.

Cllr Firth added that each town given a template to record attractions, facilities etc. with the idea to produce a package of places to visit for families being produced. In 12 months, the group would like to have a website up and running to advertise the facilities and the unique areas including rare floras, fauna or archaeological areas of interest which may not be well known.

PLANNING

9759

9759.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to receive the Minutes.

9759.2 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Chairman had no matters to report.

It was agreed due to the confidential nature of the matter to consider the quotes for delivery of the NDP leaflet and Dursley Matters newsletter to be discussed in committee at the end of the meeting.

POLICY AND FINANCE

9760

9760.1 To receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to receive the Minutes.

9760.2 Report of the Chairman of the Policy & Finance Committee

9760.3 To approve the Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

The Town Clerk presented the draft Strategic Plan which had been updated following the annual budget setting process.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the Draft Strategic Plan.

9760.4 To approve the application for the Local Government Award Scheme

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Council submit the Gold application and that the Council publish online:

- a) A business (Strategic) plan covering a financial forecast for at least three years linked to revenue and capital plans for the council and its community.
- b) An annual report, online material and at least four news bulletins a year with evidence of:
  - i) engaging with diverse groups in the community using a variety of methods.
  - ii) community engagement leading to positive outcomes for the community.
  - iii) At least four positive outcomes achieved for the community in the last six months and a broad range of council activities including innovative projects.
  - iv) co-operating constructively with other organisations.

and the Town Council has prepared statements to be presented to the accreditation panel showing how it:

- a) Ensures that the council delivers value for money.
- b) Meets its duties in relation to bio-diversity and crime & disorder.
- c) Provides leadership in planning for the future of the community.
- d) Manages the performance of the council as a corporate body.
- e) Manages the performance of each individual staff member to achieve its business plan.

9760.5 To consider the Hill Valley & Vale Grant Request.

The request by the Hill Valley & Vale in relation to 2017/18 Urgent Grant was discussed by Council.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the 2016/17 grant should be returned to Council but the sum would be “ringfenced” and the organisation which takes over the storage of the Toy Library would be invited to submit a new grant application for 2017/18.

9760.6 To consider the request from Stroud District Council to take action on pension fossil fuels divestment.

**IT WAS AGREED** that any restrictions placed on pension investors would place more pressure on the pension fund to make its financial commitments, therefore the Council will not consider the request from Stroud District Council.

#### 9760.7 Councillors' Reports

**NDP Future Dursley** (25<sup>th</sup> Jan/1<sup>st</sup> Mar) – The draft consultation leaflet has been produced which will then be followed by the statutory six-week consultation period.

**Xmas Working Group** (26<sup>th</sup> Jan/2<sup>nd</sup> Mar) – The group do require further volunteers with only three attending the last meeting. The group plan to review: Lighting, Town Hall, Staging, Xmas tree location before the 2017 event on 24<sup>th</sup> November. The next meeting is at 6pm on 20<sup>th</sup> April at Jacobs House.

**GRCC Parish Event** (26<sup>th</sup> Jan) – The Deputy Mayor reported that this was a good opportunity to network.

**Dursley Town Trust** (26<sup>th</sup> Jan) – Cllrs Grecian and Stennett attended. The lift project is short of capital investment and the estimated costs don't appear fixed.

**Youth Service Review** (2<sup>nd</sup> Feb) – The Town Clerk reported that sessions at Vibe continued to be well attended and running smoothly. There was one exception when some of the young people from the Girls Group behaviour resulted in the session being closed early and the young people being temporary suspended from the youth centre.

**Dursley Business Inclusive** (9<sup>th</sup> Feb) - The group have nearly completed the town leaflet project with revenue from adverts now matching the Town Council's grant funding. Parking enforcement remains a concern with traders. Wayne Paice provided a Carnival update, but they remain short of volunteers and committee members.

**Dursley Welcomes Walkers** (13<sup>th</sup> Feb) – Pre-festival postcards now available. Plans for a town centre notice board highlighting walks in Dursley and surrounding area underway. The Group are working jointly with Cam Styles Project to improve facilities.

**Parking Enforcement** (21<sup>st</sup> Feb) – The Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk met with representatives from GCC to discuss parking enforcement. The Town Clerk was able to publish notes from the meeting in an attempt to dismiss rumours and clearly establish the restraints on loading/unloading and other parking issues.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Town Improvements Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017 should include an agenda item to discuss parking and other traffic matters within the town centre.

**Kingshill House Management Committee** (23<sup>rd</sup> Feb) – There was no Council representative able to attend this meeting.

**Dursley In Bloom** (27<sup>th</sup> Feb) – The Committee have a new Chair and there is a lot of new ideas and interest. New planters are about to be installed in Parsonage Street with the floral displays having a theme. Crocus bulbs are flowering and will be shortly followed by the tulips.

**Vibe Users Group** (2<sup>nd</sup> Mar) – A small gathering shared information and updated each other on upcoming activities.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9761

9761.1 To receive the Minutes of the Staff Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

9761.2 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

The chairman had no matters to report.

BUSINESS RELATING TO HIGHWAYS

9762

Cllr Hayes reported that some potholes had been repaired in the town recently although the quality was poor, particularly Roseberry Road and Tait's Hill.

The Town Clerk provided an update on the abandoned car on Castle Street which has been parked since 19<sup>th</sup> February, following discussions with Stroud District Council and the local police. The owner has accepted responsibility and the car has been deemed "not a severe obstruction" therefore it is the owner's responsibility to move the vehicle. At the current time the Town Council haven't been made aware of the date when the car will be removed.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

9763

9763.1 To receive a report from the Council's Police Representative

Cllr Nicholson reported that he is seeking volunteers to resurrect the Speed Watch Group which has previously been successful in the town. The Town Clerk agreed to raise the groups profile by doing some media communications.

Cllr Nicholson highlighted a scheme in Cornwall which allowed members for the Town/Parish Council's to be trained to carry out enforcement for dog fouling and litter. Cllr Nicholson would like the Council to consider this when responding to an upcoming Stroud District council consultation on the change of Dog Control Orders to Public Space Protection Orders.

**IT WAS AGREED** to consider this in the future although there were safety concerns raised.

It was noted a resident was offering free bags to dog walkers in an effort to encourage them to collect up after their animals.

9763.2 To receive a report from the Local Neighbourhood Police Representative

In the absence of the representative there was no report.

CLERK'S REPORT

9764

The Clerk reminded Councillors that there was a photograph opportunity to raise the profile for the Highfields Play Area Community Day. The event has been selected by the Tesco Bag for Help fund as one of three local projects which would be voted on in April/May.

The Clerk highlighted that places remain on the Defibrillator and Cardiac Arrest briefing being held on the 1<sup>st</sup> April and that Councillors should reserve their place should they wish to attend the public event.

MONTHLY AREA INSPECTIONS AND AUDIT CHECKS

9765

Details of Councillors scheduled to undertake inspections for March and April 2017 were noted.

The Town Clerk referred to the internal control checks, which have been altered to one visit per month, that in the event of a Councillor being unable to carry out their check they arrange to swop with another Councillor.

BUSINESS DEALT WITH IN COMMITTEE

9766

9766.1 To resolve to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to carry out the remainder of business in committee due to the confidential nature of the business. There were no members of the press or public present.

9766.2 To consider the quotes for delivery of the NDP leaflet and Dursley Matters newsletter

The Council discussed the practicalities of delivering the leaflets and newsletters.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to confirm that Royal Mail are selected to deliver the leaflets/newsletters and for Clarendon Press to print the leaflets and newsletters. There were 15 votes for and 1 abstention.

9766.3 To receive an update from the Community Project Working Group

The Councillors had received a copy of the notes from the recent meeting of the Project Working Group and a valuation report from Bruton Knowles.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** for the Town Clerk to progress the recommendations of the Working Group based on the information provided by Bruton Knowles.



The Councillors were reminded on upcoming site visit and meetings related to the S106 Community Facility Funding.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:10 pm.

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Town Mayor

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Date