

4th April 2017

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held in the Dursley Fire Station, Kingshill Road, Dursley at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 4th April 2017.

Action Summary:

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| 9782.3 | To forward Charities suggestions to Dursley AFC | 9785.3 | To process grant payment for Flower & Produce Show |
| 9786.3 | To issue Project Officer contract | 9791.2 | To appoint conveyance solicitor. |
| 9791.3 | To process DCLG borrowing application. | | |

PRESENT

Cllr N Grecian, Mayor

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

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk; Leah Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk, Anita Gambie, Project Officer; Cllr Cornell & Cllr Hayward.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 9774

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Nicholson, J Ball, B Cairns (business) and M Woodward (personal).

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9775

There were no requests for dispensations.

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 9776

Cllr Ackroyd & Cllr Thomas declared a non-pecuniary interest for the Grant Application from Transition Cam & Dursley (Item 9785.3, Agenda Item 12.3)

VACANCIES FOR TOWN COUNCILLORS 9777

There were no applications received

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS 9778

County Councillors' Reports

In his absence, Cllr Lydon's report had been circulated to Town Councillors prior to the meeting.

District Councillors Reports

Cllr Hayward reported that she was aware of problems with waste collection from communal collection areas, including several locations in the town. Cllr Hayward will be on a Task & Finish group to review Art Strategy.

Cllr Cornell reported that she had been at the recent well attended Townsend Residents Meeting. Issues raised included waste collection issues, noise from Capones and queries over the new Littlecombe link road including parking on the existing Lister Road.

A number of submissions have been made to Stroud District Council in relation to the licensing application for Capones including a submission from the Town Council and the Police. No date has been set for licensing hearing but likely to be after the elections on the 4th May.

Stroud District Council considering land opportunities in the area which would unlock potential development land. One location being investigated in the land behind May Lane which has multiple owners and proposed development haven't successfully obtained planning permission. A budget of £8m has been allocated to expand rental housing in the district.

The planning application for Land off Hardings Drive has been recommended by officers for refusal.

Cllr Cornell is the new Chair of the group reviewing the future of the Subscription Rooms in Stroud and they have received a number of expressions of interest.

Stroud District Council have been recognised as top performing Council in relation to preventing homelessness. Prevention average costs of £200 per case are a significant reduction on the average cost of £7,000 if a person become homeless as well as reducing the impact on the individuals.

Cllr Patrick stated that a review of land had previously been done, Cllr Cornell considered the current review to be an update of the previous study.

Cllr Friar had provided his apologies for the meeting.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

9779

There were no representations from the public.

MINUTES

9780

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 21st March 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

9781

9781.1 Council's Accounts 2016/2017

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

GREEN SPACES

9782

9782.1 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2017.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive the Minutes.

9782.2 Report of the Chair of the Green Spaces Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

9782.3 To nominate charities to receive funds from Stroud District Charity Cup

IT WAS RESOLVED to nominate: Cotswold Talking Newspaper, Dursley & District Association Transport of the Disabled & Elderly and Dursley United Charities.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9783

9783.1 Report of the Chair of the Town Improvements Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

9783.2 Tourism Group Update

The Deputy Clerk provided an update from the recent Network Steering Group which discussed strategy and terms of reference. Harris Ethical have access to funds for a limited time to help groups such as the network with transport related research projects.

The Town Improvements Committee will consider the Tourism Group's draft Strategy and Constitution at the meeting on the 11th April 2017.

PLANNING

9784

9784.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on Tuesday 14th March 2017.

9784.2 Report of the Chair of the Planning Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

9784.3 Distribution of Dursley Matters & NDP Leaflet

The Town Clerk provided an update to state that the Mayor had confirmed not to use the Royal Mail for the delivery of the newsletters and leaflets as agreed by Council. When the delivery was to be confirmed the quotation by Royal Mail was doubled and the papers had to be delivered to Swindon. The decision was taken to use the more competitive quote received from Keep it Gloucestershire.

Both the newsletters and leaflets have been printed and are due to be collected on Wednesday 5th April. Once started distribution will take approximately three days.

POLICY AND FINANCE

9785

9785.1 Report of the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

9785.2 To Receive an Update on the S106 Meeting on 28th March 2017.

The Town Clerk reported that five project leads had been invited to provide an update on their project and answer questions from members of the Community Project Working Group. The CPWG will meet on the 13th April to agree a recommendation which will be presented to Council on the 9th May 2017. Stroud District Council have requested our recommendation on or before the 31st May with the Strategy & Resources Committee considering this S106 funding on the 13th July 2017.

Mayor Grecian added that the meeting on the 28th March had been most helpful and informative for the CPWG members present.

9785.3 To consider the Urgent Grant Request for the 2017 Flower & Produce Show

The Councillors considered the application and it was proposed and seconded to offer Transition Cam & Dursley a sum of £450. The £450 grant was to fund the printing of show schedules (£250) and printing of posters, banners and prize cards (£200)

IT WAS RESOLVED after a vote (5 for, 5 abstentions and none against) to award and Urgent Grant sum of £450.

Cllrs Ackroyd and Thomas did not vote.

9785.4 Councillors' Reports

Dursley Business Inclusive (9th Mar) - 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.

SWLAC Seminar (16th Mar) – The Town Clerk attended the seminar which included a Q&A session with a representative from the Department of Communities and Local Government and two workshops: Employment and Legal Awareness.

UKLC Seminar (22nd Mar) – A seminar hosted by our website provider, The Town Clerk attended and reported on the items covered and future improvements.

Dursley Welcomes Walkers (30th Mar) – The Lantern Way will now be part of the festival. Leaflets including Walking4Health and Winterbotham Cam, Mills now available. Members of the DWW will be visiting Winchcombe soon. The AGM is on the 24th May 2017.

Neighbourhood Police Panel (30th Mar) – Mayor Grecian reported that the group priorities had been amalgamated: Town Centre/Young People/Crime Positively recruitment of additional PCSO's was ongoing.

Defibrillator Briefing (1st Apr) – The briefing was attended by 34 people. Comments on the day and afterwards have been positive. Another briefing maybe arranged if there is sufficient demand.

Joint Woodlands Committee (3rd Apr) – Cllr Sheffield attended for the first time and was welcomed by the group, reporting that some blocked paths had now been cleared and the grazing of Cam Peak had been agreed. The Committee would like to have a memorial for Cllr Brian Marsh and are considering planting trees in the woodland behind Kingshill Cemetery.

Dursley in Bloom (3rd Apr) – Cllr Creswick reported that under the new chair, the group were making good progress with town centre planters about to undergo replanting. The new wooden planters had received good comments and were a positive addition. The DIB group are going to write to Town Centre businesses regarding sponsorship, adoption of planters and becoming more involved in the annual "in bloom" competition.

The Town Clerk reported that with Penny Hyde, Dave Butterfield (both DIB), he had met with a representative of SDC's Public Space team about the planters Castle Street and the number of dead shrubs. It was agreed that the ownership would be confirmed (SDC or Sainsbury's), but funding from SDC was going to be very difficult due to budgetary pressure. The Town Clerk asked Cllrs Cornell and Hayward if they could assist with funding. Cllr Hayward agreed to investigate.

Roads Safety Group – Cllr Hayes reported that although he was unable to attend he had received the minutes which reported statistics from RTA's in the area and nationally in 2015 and the speed awareness sessions carried out by GCC.

9786.1 Report by the Chair of the Staff Committee

The chair had no matters to report.

9786.2 To Receive an update on the Apprentice Grounds Person

Unfortunately, the selected training partner (Slic Training) has gone into receivership and are no longer trading. The Town Clerk is investigating other potential providers and will report progress at the next Council meeting.

9786.3 Project Officer

The Town Clerk informed the Council that the existing Project Officer had accepted the offer of the role of Project Officer on a permanent basis.

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve this appointment at the recommendation of the Staff Committee on the 28th February 2017 and issue the contract.

BUSINESS RELATING TO HIGHWAYS

9787

Cllr Hayes reported that some potholes repairs were very poor, coming straight back out; Tait's Hill & Bull Pitch. The potholes repair within the bus station had been confirmed as temporary, but again had been pushed out by the buses turning.

Rosebery Road was currently being resurfaced.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

9788

9788.1 To receive a report from the Council's Police Representative

In the absence of Cllr Nicholson there was no report.

9788.2 To receive a report from the Local Neighbourhood Police Representative

In the absence of the representative there was no report.

CLERK'S REPORT

9789

The Clerk's report was noted.

MONTHLY AREA INSPECTIONS AND AUDIT CHECKS

9790

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

9791.1 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. Cllr Hayward left the meeting.

9791.2 To receive an update on Community Projects

The Town Clerk provided three quotes from solicitors for conveyancing works and provided some details on VAT implications.

IT WAS RESOLVED for the Wellers Hedleys to be appointed as our conveyancing solicitor.

9791.3 To Confirm Borrowing Application Form to Department of Communities & Local Government

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the application and for the Town Clerk to submit to GAPTC.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:05 pm.

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Town Mayor

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Date