

5th September 2017

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held in the Community Meeting Room at the Fire Station, Kingshill Road, Castle, Dursley at 7pm on Tuesday 5th September 2017.

Action Summary:

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| 9875.2 | Order the icicle Christmas lights for the Town Hall | 9877.2 | To review CCTV Project |
| 9878.2 | To review Green Spaces workload and works contracting | 9879.2 | To write to GCC Parking Manger re Parsonage Street |
| 9880.3 | To write to the Police Crime Commissioner re increase in antisocial behaviour | | |

PRESENT

Cllr N Grecian, Mayor

Councillors: S Abraham (Deputy Mayor), S Creswick, P Hayes, A Sheffield, W Thomas, B Cairns, M Stennett, A Stennett, M Woodward, M Nicholson, J Burdge, J Ball and S Ackroyd.

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk, SDC Councillor Doina Cornell and a Gazette reporter.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 9867

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fiona Firth, Loraine Patrick and Wayne Paice (all personal).

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 9868

There were no declarations of interest received.

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9869

There were no requests for dispensations.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS 9870

County Councillor report

There was no report as Cllr Patrick had sent her apologies.

Cllrs A Stennett & M Stennett joined the meeting.

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District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Cornell noted that the Town Council had been made aware of the recent complaint and press coverage relating to gender only swimming at The Pulse.

It was reported that Stroud District Council have some difficult budget and service decisions to make with the ongoing reduction of the grant from central government, which will see SDC paying money to central government rather than receiving a grant. This discussion is ongoing and would involve a collective meeting with parish and town councils, with an autumn programme being prepared.

A range of options are being considered which may include increasing revenues from car-parks managed by SDC to offset cuts to other services. This would include Dursley where existing parking is free. Cllr Cornell will have further details on this for next month's Council meeting and will keep the Town Mayor and Clerk up to date.

Cllr Cornell continues to chair the working group reviewing the future of the Subscription Rooms in Stroud, with a bid to be submitted from interested parties in mid-September.

Apologies were received from District Councillor Fryer and Hayward.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 9871

Mike Hammond, Stroud District Council's Community & Facilities Manager introduced himself and explained he was there to represent Stroud District Council for the CCTV agenda item.

MINUTES 9872

Cllr Thomas noted a grammar error in minute 9866.2 and this was amended.

The amended Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 1st August 2017 were signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE 9873

9873.1 Council's Accounts for 2017/18

- (i) The Town Clerk confirmed that the expenditure (line 249) was for a red ensign flag, flown in the town to celebrate Merchant Navy Day on the 3rd September and confirmed the expenditure from petty cash (line 259) for "communications" was postage costs.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the schedule of payments made to be authorised and signed by the Mayor.

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- (ii) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Bank Reconciliation be authorised and signed by the Mayor.
- (iii) The income received was noted.
- (iv) The management/budget report was noted.
- (v) The current position of Council reserves was confirmed.

GREEN SPACES 9874

Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

The Committee Chairman had nothing to report.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES 9875

9875.1 Report of the Chairman of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Committee Chairman had nothing to report.

9875.2 Christmas Event Expenditure

The Town Clerk presented the updated budget spreadsheet which showed the planned expenditure, but this did not include the proposed new lights for the Town Hall. It was also noted the figures did not include recent backdated invoices for electricity and administration charges for the Christmas displays from 2013. The administration fees were being queried by the Town and Council would be kept informed.

Cllr Woodward reported that some funding from the Dursley Lions may be available for the Town Hall Christmas lights.

IT WAS AGREED that the Town Council would approve expenditure from reserves to include the purchase (£1,765) and installation cost of the “icicles” for the Town Hall. This would allow the order to be raised, should any funding become available then the funding could remain in reserve or be considered for another element of Christmas lights.

PLANNING 9876

9876.1 To receive the Minutes of the Extraordinary Planning Committee Meeting held on 2nd August and the Planning Committee Meeting held on 22nd August 2017.

Cllr Ackroyd reported that there had been no plans available on the proposed Long Street realignment and this was not discussed at the planning committee

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meeting on the 22nd August. The Town Clerk agreed for this to be included in the September committee meeting agenda.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of both meetings.

9876.2 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Chair noted that a request had been made to Stroud District Council to investigate the recent building of an agricultural building in Ganzells Lane and a the apparent siting of a caravan within the building.

The Town Clerk reported that a retrospective application had been received and would be included in the September planning committee agenda.

9876.3 A Heritage Strategy for Stroud District

Cllr Cairns provided a details summary of the report and his recommendations, which had been made available to Councillors prior to the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the following recommendations made by Cllr Cairns for Stroud District Council and Dursley Town Council:

Proposed response to SDC re Consultation Document

Support of Objectives and Strategy Priorities

Support of Action Plan Priorities – perhaps particularly nos. 3, 4, 8 and 9, but not 10 (unnecessary diversion of time and energy from more important issues)

Proposals for Dursley Town Council

Consider undertaking Action Plan Priority no. 4 locally, in conjunction with a community group (Dursley has 85 Grade 2 Listed Buildings and 2 Conservation Areas–Dursley Centre and Woodmancote.

Ask NDP Group to consider implications of and response to Action Plan Priorities Nos. 5, 6 and 7.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Cairns for reviewing the document.

9876.4 “Planning Local” support service

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the recommendation by the Planning Committee to subscribe for one year the new “Planning Local” support service. A review to be carried out prior to the renewal of the subscription in 2018.

9877.1 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Committee Chairman reported that she is unavailable for the next meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee to consider the grant applications. The Vice-Chair has agreed to chair the meeting.

9877.2 CCTV Project

The Town Clerk reported that the Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) has concluded that he was unable to support “street level infrastructure” in relation to our CCTV project. The PCC was very supportive of our scheme and would consider funds towards making our project accessible at the Quedgeley HQ.

It was noted that our project would improve the quality of the imagery and add to the CCTV coverage in the town.

IT WAS AGREED to suspend Standing Orders to allow Mr Mike Hammond to contribute to the discussion. Mike is responsible for managing and maintaining the existing analogue CCTV in Dursley. Mike clarified that the signal would be sent a long a fibre optic cable, with the Stroud monitoring room being closed, transferring too Quedgeley HQ, with a “bank” of monitors for Gloucester, Cheltenham, Cirencester, Stroud and Dursley. This is monitored seven days a week and allows for suspects to be “followed” by the monitoring team until the police arrive. SDC currently budget £43k per annum for CCTV.

An advantage of having DTC cameras linked to Quedgeley HQ would be mirroring the “Stroud Safe” scheme in Dursley. This is a warning scheme with red/yellow card style warning and bans across the areas for offenders of antisocial behaviour, shoplifters etc. This isn’t currently available in Dursley. It was noted a similar “pub safe” scheme was not well received in Dursley when proposed by the local neighbourhood police team.

Concerns were raised about the quality of the existing cameras, it was acknowledged this would not be initially proved under current proposals by SDC, although any cameras that cease to work will be replaced by digital cameras.

IT WAS AGREED to return Standing Orders.

IT WAS RESOLVED to re-consider the best locations for CCTV in Dursley, investigating the best technical solution to achieve monitoring in Quedgeley HQ and to produce a reasoned future CCTV report for Council to consider.

9877.3 Councillors’ Reports

- (i) **Dursley Business Inclusive (3/8/17)** – The group invited GCC Parking Manager to the meeting, but he unfortunately did not attend on the day. Following correspondence has resulted in admission by GCC that

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loading/unloading is permitted in Parsonage Street and no £10 waivers should be required here. GCC have agreed to change the misleading "pedestrian zone" signage. It was noted appeals are not accepted by GCC once the penalty charge has been paid.

- (ii) **Dursley Welcomes Walkers** (7/8/17) – Final preparations for this year's walking festival, programmes now available. Lots of other events coinciding with the festival including an Arts Festival, DODS performance and a concert in the Methodist Church.
- (iii) **NDP Future Dursley** (9/8/17) – The final draft plan has now been proofread by Cllr Thomas. It was agreed the consultation phase is sufficiently completed at this stage of the plan.
- (iv) **Youth Service – Quarterly Review** (10/8/17) – The Clerk reported the youth service had continued over the summer, a mixture of sessions at Vibe, detached sessions in the town and organised trips including Thorp Park. The group had discussed in depth the procedure for dealing with disruptive behaviour including the process for "re-entry" to the youth centre.
- (v) **Xmas Group** (23/8/17) – A fund raising quiz and curry night is taking place on the 23rd September. Cllr Woodward inspected with Ian Pullen a tree that has been donated by one of the local business owners. A lorry with a crane will be required to assist with the town's Christmas tree.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9878

9878.1 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

9878.2 To receive an update on the Apprentice Grounds Person Apprentice

The Town Clerk presented his report following the recent interviews.

IT WAS AGREED to accept the recommendation of the Town Clerk to abandon the apprentice recruitment and to carry out an immediate review of the workload and contracting of Green Space activities.

HIGHWAYS

9879

9879.1 To receive a report from Council's Highways Representative

Councillor Hayes reported Bull Pitch had been resurfaced and he was pleased with the outcome of the works. There had been complaints about traffic displacement, including the restriction of access to Henlow Drive area and the lack of detailed warning.

Roseberry Mount to be resurfaced on 6th October 2017.

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9879.2 Parsonage Street – Traffic Regulation Order

IT WAS RESOLVED to write to Gloucestershire County Council's Parking Manger and to request that he oversees an investigation, review to finally resolve the issues relating to the existing traffic regulation order in Parsonage Street, Dursley.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

9880

9880.1 To receive a report from Council's Police Representative

Cllr Nicholson reported that Speedwatch has been continuing over the summer period, with lots of vehicles recorded breaking the speed limits in Uley road and Woodmancote, additional locations being assessed.

The only disappointment has been the lack of support from the Special Constables joining our sessions. Cllr Nicholson will continue to request attendance from Sgt Lovell.

Cllr Nicholson repeated his previous request for entry point signage and repeater signage to aid sessions.

9880.2 To receive a report from the Local Neighbourhood Police

There was nobody present from the Police to provide a report, but the new PCSO, Diane Howells would be attending the Policy & Finance committee on the 12th September.

9880.3 To write to the Police Crime Commission following the increase in anti-social behaviour

IT WAS RESOLVED to write to the Commissioner to request additional resources due to the increase in antisocial behaviour within the town and include our CCTV conclusions.

It was noted that there had once again been a spike in anti-social behaviour in the Long Street area of town following a late license event at Capones during the recent bank holiday weekend.

CLERK'S REPORT

9881

The Clerk's report was noted.

INSPECTIONS

9882

The Mayor reminded Councillors to check which inspections they had been allocated in September and October.

9883.1 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. The Gazette reporter and Mike Hammond left the meeting.

9883.2 To receive an update on Community Projects

The Clerk informed Council that we have received no further indication that our application would be passed to the Development Control Committee from Stroud District Council, so a decision should be made in September unless they notify us otherwise.

IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk should investigate the usage of the car park in the "interim" period prior to our proposed demolition works and a meeting of the Community Project Working Group should be arranged to discuss option.

The meeting closed at 8.40p.m.

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Town Mayor

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Date