

7th November 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 7th November 2017.

Action Summary:

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| 9915.3 | Clerk to respond to Stroud Valleys Project re quote carry make compost bays | 9916.3 | Clerk to progress CCTV project. |
| 9915.4 | Clerk to respond to John Clegg & Company re Woodland for sale. | 9918.4 | Clerk to respond to Boundary Commission review for South West |
| 9922 | Clerk to write to Board of Governors at Marling School (ASB) and David Hagg (Fixed Penalty Notices) | | |

PRESENT

Cllr N Grecian, Mayor

Councillors: S Creswick, W Thomas, B Cairns, M Stennett, A Stennett, M Woodward, M Nicholson, J Burdge, W Paice, S Ackroyd, L Patrick and P Hayes.

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk, Leah Wellings, Deputy Clerk; SDC Councillor Colin Fryer; Acting Chief Inspector Brian Clifford and PCSO (Wotton-under-Edge) Mike Lifton.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 9907

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Abraham, A Sheffield, J Ball & F Firth (all personal).

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 9908

There were no declarations of interest.

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9909

There were no requests for dispensations.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS 9910

County Councillor Report

Cllr Patrick reported that following a meeting with officers from Gloucestershire County Council, no further action could be taken re Parking in Parsonage Street.

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Cllr Patrick refereed to the tow traffic orders running concurrently with regard parking and access restrictions. She advised people to treat it as if double yellow lines were in place, confirming loading and unloading were permitted under the legislation.

Further training of Civil Parking Enforcement officer was continuing, and the machine takes at least 5 minutes to issue a ticket allowing a reasonable period for monitoring.

Cllr Patrick encouraged any tickets receive during loading/unloading activities to be challenged but evidence would be required to successfully challenge the fixed penalty. Cllr Patrick advised that serial abusers of the traffic laws should be reported to GCC.

An Ofsted report for GCC Children's Services had been released by a GCC Councillor but not in an official capacity, Cllr Patrick had not yet had the opportunity to view the report but would report back at a later date.

Cllr Patrick is attending panel meeting at GCC tomorrow and will raise the matter of a subscription of £30k by the Police Crime Commissioner to the Association of Police Crime Commissioners.

District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Fryer had nothing to report.

Apologies were received from District Councillor Cornell and Hayward.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 9911

There were no representations from the public.

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING 9912

The Mayor welcomed Acting Chief Inspector Brian Clifford and PCSO Mike Lifton to the meeting. ACI Clifford provided an update on recent incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and the Under 18 event at Capones for students of Marling and Stroud High School. ASB in Dursley had seen an increase over the summer period but compared to 2016 the number of incidents has remained "flat" with similar number s recorded.

Police resources are stretched, with a Sergeant, two PCSO's being assigned to Dursley. In addition, the Stroud Neighbourhood team (including Dursley) have 6 officers who prioritise safeguarding, investigations response cover and community engagement. Although the Police Crime Commissioner is responsible for the budget, it is the role of the Chief Constable to make decision on staffing. It's unlikely that police resources for fetes, road closures etc will be available going forward.

ACI Clifford responded to questions from Councillors on panel meetings, recent thefts from vans, alternative measures to dealing with young offenders and the

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capacity to deal with mental health issues of people arrested or investigated by the police.

It was clear that reporting these crimes was important and the public should be encouraged to do so.

The Mayor thanked ACI Clifford and PCSO Lifton for attending and they left the meeting.

MINUTES 9913

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 26th November 2017 were signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE 9914

9914.1 Council's Accounts for 2017/18

- (i) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments made to be authorised and signed by the Mayor.
- (ii) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Bank Reconciliation be authorised and signed by the Mayor.
- (iii) The income received was noted and it was noted that the allotment payments were an overdue payment from April and a new allotment holder.
- (iv) The management/budget report was noted, it was highlighted that the printing costs were much higher than the estimated costs and that Town Improvements Committee spend was quite low. The Clerk replied that this estimated printing costs had been raised for 2018/19 and projects within Town Improvements had been a lower priority than other areas of the Council. The annual Christmas event would result in expenditure over the next few months from this budget.

9914.2 2018-21 Budget

It was noted that Council would meet to confirm the draft 2018-21 budget on Tuesday 21st November 2017.

GREEN SPACES 9915

9915.1 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on 10th October 2017.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the meeting.

9915.2 Report of the Chair of the Green Spaces Committee

The Committee Chair reported that following the professional advice there was very little work to be carried out within the cemetery and a license was not

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required. The neighbouring residents would require a license to prevent the badgers accessing their properties. The report from Natural England officer has been shared with those affected.

9915.3 Kingshill Cemetery/Allotments – Composting Bins

The Councillors considered the quotation and alternative options to build the compost bays.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the compost bays would be built “in-house” by volunteer Councillors, including Cllrs Paice, Stennett, Nicholson and Hayes. The Clerk to confirm with Stroud Valleys Project that on this occasion we could accept this quotation.

9915.4 Hermitage Woodland

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Town Council remained interested in Lot 2 Gravel Pit Wood which borders Twinberrow Wood. However, any capital would need to be raised from the community. Cllrs Stennett and Paice would investigate and commence with a Crowd Funding opportunity to raise funds.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9916

9916.1 To receive the Minutes of the Town Improvements Committee Meeting held on 17th October 2017.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the meeting.

9916.2 Report of the Chair of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Committee Chair reported that the Committee had agreed to fund a plaque to commemorate RA Lister, the plaque would be placed on the Priory building in Long Street. The Chair would like to have an unveiling of the plaque soon.

9916.3 CCTV Project

The Town Clerk updated the Council that the consultant rates were £695 per day, with two days required to carry out a survey and report of the CCTV requirements. Investigations had led the Clerk to discover the equipment specification being used by SDC/Police was both very expensive and top of the range, likely to be outside of the Town Council’s more modest budget restrictions.

IT WAS RESOLVED that this consultant report was not the best use of Council funds and the original “stand alone” system should be reinstated to include additional requirements following the proposed car park in Long Street. However, the system should be adaptable to allow connection with the SDC/Police monitoring system in the future.

PLANNING

9917

9917.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 17th October 2017.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the meeting.

9917.2 Report of the Chair of the Planning Committee

The Chair noted that there had been quite lot of comments on the SDC Local Plan review, particularly the proposed sites on the edge of Dursley. There had been at least two leaflets delivered to residents encouraging them to attend the upcoming Local Plan review meetings in Dursley and Cam.

9917.3 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Directions 2012: Regulation 14 consultation.

IT WAS RESOLVED to commence with the statutory "Regulation 14" consultation for the Future Dursley: Neighbourhood Development Plan from Friday 10th November 2017 to Friday 12th January 2018. It was acknowledged this period was longer than the 6-week statutory period, but includes the traditional holiday period at Christmas/New Year.

POLICY AND FINANCE

9918

9918.1 To receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on 24th October 2017.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the meeting.

9918.2 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Chair reported that with Cllr Ackroyd the annual review of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations had been carried out, reporting back to the Policy & Finance committee on the 12th December.

9918.3 Committee Terms of Reference

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the revisions to the Terms of Reference for the Council's committees.

9918.4 Boundary Commission "Revised Proposals"

The Councillors considered the revised proposals for the new constituency boundaries in the South West, which included Dursley being moved to a new MP constituency shared with Thornbury & Yate.

IT WAS RESOLVED to uphold our previous objection because:

- a) The geographical links to Stroud District and Stroud.

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- b) The organisational structure of local government in Gloucestershire with our links to both Gloucestershire County Council and Stroud District Council who would be in a different MP constituency.
- c) The existing community links with Stroud, Berkeley and other Stroud District towns and villages. There are no links with Thornbury, Yate or South Gloucestershire.

9918.5 Councillors' Reports

- (i) **SDC Tourism** (11/10/17) – The Deputy Clerk reported that this networking and information sharing had been informative and following the meeting communication has been much better.
- (ii) **Dursley in Bloom** (12/10/17) – Cllr Creswick reported that winter planting costs would be reduced due to the new perineal plantings. The AGM would take place in December.
- (iii) **Festive Dursley Working Group** (18/10/17) – The Halloween stall raised £233 and the fireworks have now been fully funded. Dignity Funerals raised £70 with a raffle. Marshall volunteers still needed for 24th November. Lighting works ongoing including Town Hall. Mark Cummings (Radio Glos) will be attending this year's event. Next meeting takes place on 8th November.
- (iv) **Dursley Welcomes Walkers** (23/10/17) – This year's festival was the busiest yet, with over 500 walkers and some walks over subscribed. Lots of helpful feedback received and plans now commencing for the 2018 festival.
- (v) **The Door Youth Project AGM** (30/10/17) – The Mayor attended, with annual awards given out and update form the youth works across the district. The Door rely heavily on volunteers with only 5 full time staff out of 23 staff and over 80 volunteers.
- (vi) **Dursley Fireworks** (4/11/17) – The Mayor opened the successful event, estimated attendance of approximately 2000 with £7000 donated to charity.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9919

9919.1 To receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on 24th October 2017.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the meeting.

9919.2 Report by the Chair of the Staff Committee

The Committee Chair reported that the Committee had agreed to an early public closure of the offices in December to allow the staff to carry our archive filing. The office would remain open for urgent matters only from 18th December and close for the festive period on the 22nd December, reopening on Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

The Assistant Amenity Grounds Person Post was now advertised, closing date 1st December 2017.

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HIGHWAYS

9920

To receive a report from Council's Highways Representative

Councillor Hayes had no matters to report.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

9921

To receive a report from Council's Police Representative

Cllr Nicholson reported that there had been several reports of nails being placed in front of tyres in the town, but very few had been reported to the police. The police don't monitor Facebook therefore reporting these things on social media is not the same as reporting to the police on 101.

Halloween had passed with only one incident reported to the police of "trick or treat". Witnesses were recorded to have seen the incident on social media but hadn't reported details to the police. Overall it had been a nice community atmosphere with the majority of "trick or treaters" only visiting house displaying pumpkins etc.

Cllr Nicholson reported that Speedwatch would continue to the end of November. The most recent session had recorded 18 speeding drivers, highest speed recorded was 46mph (in 30mph limit). Use of mobile phones whilst driving monitoring could be included in future Speedwatch sessions, but this would require a witness statement to secure a conviction.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Nicholson and the volunteers for their continued support of the Speedwatch group in 2017.

CLERK'S REPORT

9922

The Clerk's report was noted, Councillors were reminded of their Civic Duty to attend the annual Remembrance Service on Sunday 12th November.

Cllr Hayes commented the poppy "yarnbombing" of the town was an excellent display and congratulated the organisers.

It was noted that no response had been received to recent correspondence to Marling School and SDC Environment. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk would follow up these matters with another letter.

INSPECTIONS

9923

The inspections for November and December were noted.

9924.1 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 left the meeting.

9924.2 To receive an update on Town Centre Car Park

The Town Clerk confirmed our solicitor had informed us that exchange of contract was expected by the end of the week and the completion of the purchase should follow shortly afterwards.

9924.3 Car Park Committee

IT WAS RESOLVED to create a Car Park Committee with the following members: Cllrs Grecian, Abraham, Paice, Woodward, Burdge, Ackroyd, Hayes and Nicholson. The aim of this committee is: To facilitate the development of a new car park in Long Street.

The Clerk will arrange the initial meeting and for the Committee to draft terms of reference for Council to approve.

The meeting closed at 8.55p.m.

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Town Mayor

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Date