

6th November 2018

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, Dursley at 7pm on Tuesday 6th November 2018.

Action Summary:

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|---------|--|---------|--|
| 10128.4 | Submit comments for Long St/Bymacks Lane consultation | 10129.3 | To confirm grant award to Cam, Dursley & Uley Joint Woodland Committee |
| 10129.4 | To confirm acceptance of protocol for Issuing Fixed Notices to SDC | 10129.5 | To upgrade broadband to a fibre supply. |

PRESENT

Cllr N Grecian, Mayor

Councillors: M Woodward (Deputy Mayor), P Hayes, A Sheffield, L Patrick, J Ball, S Creswick, M Nicholson (from minute 10122), A Stennett, A Whitwell & B Cairns.

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk, Leah Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk, SDC Cllr Doina Cornell, Mr David Smith (Cam & Dursley Transportation Group), Miriam Yagud, Yvonne Dignon (Prospective District Councillor candidate for Green party), one member of the public and a Gazette reporter.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 10118

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Burdge (personal), S Abraham (business, W Thomas (personal), S Ackroyd (business) and M Stennett (business).

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 10119

Cllr Ball declared a pecuniary interest as an employee of the Dursley & District Community Centre and a member of the Cam & Dursley Branch of the Royal British Legion, for minute 10125 (i) (Agenda Item 8.1).

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 10120

There were no requests for dispensations.

COUNCILLOR VACANCY (HIGHFIELDS WARD) 10121

The Town Clerk confirmed that two expressions of interest had been received from Mr Tom Arnold and Ms Miriam Yagud. Mr Arnold had sent his apologies for not being able to attend this evening meeting due to work commitments but would like to be considered for the position in his absence.

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Ms Yagud provided some further back ground including that she had served on the Council approximately nine years ago and her links to the Highfields Ward with a number of projects.

In response to a question from Council, Ms Yagud confirmed a keen interest in planning matters and had previously supported local business premises not been turned into residential properties.

IT WAS AGREED to suspend Standing Orders and that a ballot would take place to choose the successful candidate.

The Mayor announced Mr Tom Arnold as the new Town Councillor, having received the most nominations and thanked Ms Yagud for applying. The Town Clerk will contact Mr Arnold to arrange signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as soon as possible.

IT WAS AGREED to reinstate Standing Orders

REPORTS FROM COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

10122

Cllr Cornell reported that 2019/20 budget would be discussed over December and January with final decisions being made in February 2019. SDC plan to use reserves in this budget but face a budget deficit in future years. The likely proposal will be 2.99% increase in Council Tax for 2019/20. The new SDC Chief Executive will be starting later this month and will be prioritising meetings with Town Councils.

The government is carrying out a Fair Funding Review which will be presented in the summer of 2019. 2019/20 is the last year of a 4-year agreement for funding from central government. The budget announced a business rates relief which is now available, no loss of income to SDC as any relief would be compensated.

SDC reviewing digital services with a view to improve access to the council both online and traditionally.

The Housing Revenue Cap has now been removed, SDC could now borrow funds for more Council Housing, although land would need to be obtained. The decision on car parking charges would formally be made at full council but would not change anything in Dursley. It was noted the consultation had raised questions about users of the Pulse and the reinstatement of cycle racks in the car park.

In response to the 2050 consultation, the Severn Vale Delivery Board will look into a proposed Severn rail crossing.

The final decision on the Market Town funding will be confirmed in December. A report will also be received with regard to the transfer of Kingshill House to the trust. The cottage has been renovated and is now providing an income.

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In response to Councillor comments on the budget position, Stroud District Council had cross party support for increasing housing provision which was require, any borrowing would need to be affordable. Spending of reserves is forecasted until 2023.

Cllr Nicholson joined the meeting.

Cllr Patrick requested confirmation from Cllr Hayes over uncleaned drains in the town and updated Council on changes to the 66F (Frampton) bus service which will now incorporate Dursley. The 66F will commence from Dursley bus station at 07:13 arriving in Gloucester at 08:37. This new service will commence from 25th November. Two buses leaving Gloucester at 17:00 and 18:00 will complete the return journey. This was the best solution available as the reinstatement of the original service was not feasible.

Cllr Cairns commented that this was at best a compromise but made it a very long travel time for the passengers. It was noted that Stagecoach had not been open to any suggestions put forward and had not made the passenger figures available to Cllr Patrick.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

10123

Mr David Smith, representing the Cam & Dursley Transportation Group provided a summary of the recent cuts to bus services and meetings held in Dursley with David Drew MP, Cllr Loraine Patrick and representatives from Stagecoach. These culminated in the additional 66F bus service as detailed in minute 10122. Mr Smith highlighted the lack of notice and poor publicity of the changes by Stagecoach and the group are attempting to obtain the policy on subsidising bus routes from Gloucestershire County Council. The group would like to know what the Town Council can do including the possibility for subsidising routes.

It was noted that several years ago the Town Council did participate in a subsidised bus service, but it proved to be uneconomic to continue.

Mr Smith left the meeting.

MINUTES

10124

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2nd October 2018 were signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

10125

Council's Accounts for 2018/19

- (i) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments made to be authorised and signed by the Mayor. The grass cutting payment to Stroud District Council was confirmed to be the full request.

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- (ii) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Bank Reconciliation not to be authorised and signed by the Mayor due to the reconciliation not balancing. An overpayment by Dursley Town AFC was the reason which would be balanced following receipt of their next payment.
- (iii) The income was noted.
- (iv) The management/budget report was noted, it was confirmed the expenditure for the Speedwatch group was for signage.

GREEN SPACES

10126

10126.1 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on 9th October 2018

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the meeting.

10126.2 Report of the Chair of the Green Spaces Committee

The Chair had nothing to report.

10126.3 Annual Fireworks Event

It was noted that the event had been successful and very well organised with some police in attendance. There had been some comments regarding the entrance fee, but it seemed to be cheaper than several other local events. The display in Uley was heavily subsidised and was an unfair comparison. The decision not to have a fair makes the event much more manageable.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

10127

10127.1 To receive the Minutes of the Town Improvements Committee Meeting held on 16th October 2018

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the meeting.

10127.2 Report of the Chair of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

In the absence of the Chair, there was nothing to report.

PLANNING

10128

10128.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 16th October 2018

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the meeting.

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10128.2 Report of the Chair of the Planning Committee

The Chair had nothing to report.

10128.3 To receive an update on Future Dursley.

It was noted that the referendum would take place on Thursday 15th November 2018.

10128.4 To consider draft no waiting and one-way proposals for the Long Street/Bymacks Lane junction.

IT WAS RESOLVED to provide the following comments:

- The parking problem in this area is at its worst in the evening, with Long Street regularly blocked by parked vehicles ignoring the existing waiting restrictions. Councillors agreed that the proposal for more waiting restrictions would only be effective if enforcement included evenings in this area.
- The proposals only include the new junction area. Council are disappointed that Lister Road, Victoria Close and new link road have not been included. The existing parking has been brought up several times during the planning process but GCC do not seem to acknowledge that the existing parking will conflict with the additional traffic once this becomes an alternative through route. Why not?
- Council queried why the new road has been given priority over Long Street. Can this be explained?
- The Council are concerned that the new widened section of footway narrows the carriageway, with no warning to drivers. This was unclear on the drawings and the Councillors believe this is a hazard. Has the new layout received a safety assessment?

There were no comments on the proposed one-way section of highway leading to Bymacks Lane.

POLICY AND FINANCE

10129

10129.1 To receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on 16th October 2018

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the meeting.

10129.2 Report by the Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Chair had nothing to report.

10129.3 To consider the urgent grant request from the Cam, Dursley & Uley Joint Woodlands Management Committee.

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IT WAS RESOLVED to award the grant of £1000 to be made payable to the committee in May 2019. Cllr Ball abstained.

10129.4 To approve the amended draft protocol of Issuing Fixed Penalty Notices

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the recommendation of the Policy & Finance committee and approve the draft protocol. It was noted the training would take place in December 2018.

10129.5 To consider upgrading to fibre broadband

The Town Clerk reported that the local police had requested access to the new CCTV system and that fibre broadband would be required to provide this link. The existing broadband continues to be slow and intermittent in the office, with our provider stating that fibre would help the connection. It was noted that fibre does not seem to be available to all properties within the town centre and Jacobs House may be affected.

IT WAS RESOLVED to upgrade to fibre broadband with an estimated cost of between £10-15 per month subject to availability. Cllr Stennett abstained.

10129.6 To receive reports from the following meetings:

- (i) **Five Valleys Road Safety** (11/10/18) – The meeting was attended by Richard Olpin, member of the Speedwatch group. The meeting attended by David Drew, senior police figures and many Parish/Town Councils focussed on speeding vehicles, ANPR cameras, funding and police support.
- (ii) **Joint Woodlands Committee** (15/10/18) – Cllr Sheffield reported that a new clerk was appointed, and they agreed to submit grant applications to Dursley Town, Cam Parish and Uley Parish Councils.
- (iii) **Youth Centre Management** (18/10/18) – The Town Council were asked to confirm their keyholders, with a training refresher to be carried out soon.
- (iv) **Festive Dursley** (22/10/18) – With three weeks to go, last minute arrangements and preparation are ongoing. Volunteers required.
- (v) **Dursley Welcomes Walkers** (29/10/18) – Festival Update: Despite a very wet Saturday, numbers were up to over 500 walkers, a rise of approximately 100 from 2017 with more families involved. Lots of positive feedback received with the dates confirmed as 2nd to 6th October 2019 for next year's festival. An information event to be held in January to encourage new members and to share ideas for 2019.

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BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

10130

10130.1 To receive the Minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting held on 30th October 2018

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the meeting.

10130.2 Report by the Chair of the Staff Committee

The Chair had nothing to report.

BUSINESS RELATING TO CAR PARK

10131

10131.1 Report of the Chair of the Car Park Committee

The Chair had nothing to report.

10131.2 To receive a progress report.

The Town Clerk reported that the planning amendment had now been approved and the Party Wall legal agreement was complete.

A pre-works meeting with our contractor Alun Griffiths Ltd would be taking place on Wednesday 7th November.

HIGHWAYS

10132

To receive a report from Council's Highways Representative

Cllr Hayes reported that drains remained uncleaned on the A4135 Whiteway Hill. The resurfacing on the A38 has been successfully completed. The road closure of Castle Street has been postponed and will now be April 2019 at the earliest. Long Street to be closed between 17th to 19th December 2018 for resurfacing works.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

10133

To receive a report from Council's Police representative

Cllr Nicholson reported that Richard Olpin observed a recent county wide police operation. The police were targeting speeding, tax, insurance and seatbelt offences. It was noted that Special Constable Jasmine Smart recently received a commendation award from the Chief Constable.

There has been a recent rise in tool thefts from parked vehicles.

CLERK'S REPORT

10134

It was noted the Staffing Committee meeting on the 13th November would be at the library, all further committee meetings would return to the meeting rooms at the Methodist Church.

Councillors were reminded to attend the Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 11th November.

The Mayor noted that he had attended the unveiling of the new sculpture at the Vale Hospital on the 1st November.

INSPECTIONS

10135

The inspections for November and December were noted.

The meeting closed at 8:30p.m.

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Town Mayor

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Date