

22nd January 2019

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 22nd January 2019.

Action Summary:

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| 10168.5 | To submit the 2019/20 Precept Request to Stroud District Council. | 10174.3 | To accept the quotation from Redhand for the CCTV installation at the new car park. |
| 10174.4 | To apply for membership to the British Parking Association. | | |

PRESENT

Cllr N Grecian, Mayor

Councillors: M Woodward (Deputy Mayor), A Sheffield, J Ball, A Stennett, W Thomas, M Nicholson, B Cairns & A Whitwell.

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk, Leah Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk, Stroud District Councillor's Doina Cornell and Trevor Hall and PC Peter Lay.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 10161

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Stennett, P Hayes, S Abraham, S Creswick, L Patrick, J Burdge, S Ackroyd (all personal) and T Arnold (business).

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 10162

Cllr Ball declared a pecuniary interest for minute 10171.3 (Agenda Item 10.3)

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 10163

There were no requests for dispensations.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS 10164

Cllr Cornell reported that a meeting was taking place tomorrow (23rd January) to discuss the sale of land by Gloucestershire County Council adjacent to Dursley Rugby Club in Stinchcombe Parish. The meeting was being hosted by Dursley Town Council and interest in the land had been shown by Dursley Rugby Club and Dursley Running Club. Stroud District Council will be considering their budget on 24th January and are seeking a 2.99% increase on Council Tax, the equivalent of 12p per week on a Band D property. The Council are aware that GCC and the Police are likely to raise their share of the Council tax as well.

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2020 is the last year of multiyear settlement and the level of government funding post 2020 is not clear.

Stroud District Council and Parish/Town Councils will hold elections in 2020. An event will be held soon to encourage local residents to stand as Councillors at all levels.

The Local Plan consultation has closed and SDC will now begin reviewing the comments received. The three District Councillors for Dursley are opposed to the potential site allocation known as Site "PS29" North of Ganzell Lane.

The new Chief Executive for SDC had a tour of Dursley and met with the Mayor and Town Clerk. She visited locations including Littlecombe, Kingshill House and May Lane.

The proposed transfer to the charity managing Kingshill House is postponed as they are not yet in a position to complete the transfer.

The Council will consider the proposals of the car park report on 24th January, this will not impact Dursley but removal of existing charges in Stonehouse and Painswick is recommended. The Strategy & Resource Committee approved the recommendations for the Market Town Funding, including a £40k contribution to the new long stay car park in Long Street.

The Town Clerk thanked Cllr Cornell for her support in obtaining a rate relief at Reliance House for the period prior to demolition in July 2018. A saving of approximately £10.5k.

Cllr Hall was attending his first Town Council meeting as an observer and had nothing to add to Cllr Cornell's report.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 10165

There were no representations from the public.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY 10166

To receive a report from Council's Police representative

IT WAS AGREED to bring this agenda item forward and include it at this stage of future agendas.

PC Lay provided Councillors with an update on staff changes within the Stroud Neighbourhood Police team, this included a new PCSO based in Dursley, Abi Barker and other changes to personnel in Cam and Wotton. PC Lay acknowledge patrols had been reduced to lack of staff in the last few months. PC Lay provided an update on anti-social behaviour in the town and concerns with cannabis usage in the town by some young people. The statistics for the last twelve months show high levels of crime, but these are a little misleading due to the very high volume and encouraged reporting of ASB crime in the first

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part of 2018. Current levels of crime in the area are considered to be low. There continues to be several reports of suspicious “white vans” in the area but as yet no arrests have been made.

MINUTES

10167

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4th December 2018 were signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

10168

Council's Accounts for 2018/19

10168.1 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Mayor would sign the schedule of payments.

10168.2 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Mayor would sign the bank reconciliation.

10168.3 The income received since the last Council meeting was noted.

10168.4 The management/budget report was noted.

Council Accounts for 2019/20

10168.5 **IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the Budget and Works Programme for 2019-22 and to set the Precept for 2019/20 at £477,100. This is an increase of 19p per week on a Band D property. Cllr Nicholson abstained.

GREEN SPACES

10169

10169.1 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on 15th January 2019

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the meeting.

Report of the Chair of the Green Spaces Committee

The Chair reported that the compost bins would be installed at Kingshill Allotments in February/March and the new swing for Kingshill Play Area had been ordered, there is an estimated 8 to 10 week procurement. The existing swing can be reused at Highfields Play Area. The Deputy Clerk is awaiting a response from the contractor following receipt of an invoice for £500 for works that were completed without an order from the Town Council.

Schedule of Fees and Charges for 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the recommendation of the Green Spaces committee of increasing the Fees and Charges by 3%.

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Hedge Cutting

It was noted the annual flail cutting of the War Memorial Recreation Ground boundary hedge and St Mark's churchyard (boundary with Vizard Close) hedge will take place on 27th January 2019.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

10170

10170.1 To receive the Minutes of the Town Improvements Committee Meeting held on 15th January 2019

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the meeting.

10170.2 Report of the Chair of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

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

10170.3 Pancake Race 2019

It was noted that the annual pancake race will be held in Parsonage Street at 12pm on Tuesday 5th March 2019. This year's chosen beneficiary will be the Henlow Court Activity Fund.

PLANNING

10171

10171.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 11th December 2018 and 15th January 2019.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the meetings.

10171.2 Report of the Chair of the Planning Committee

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

10171.3 Stroud District Council's Emerging Local Plan Consultation

Cllr Ball left the meeting.

It was noted that the response to the consultation had been submitted on 18th January and positive feedback on the content had been received from members of the NDP Steering Committee. The staff were thanked for their contribution by the Town Clerk who highlighted his disappointment that the 6-week consultation period included the festive period making it a very tight timescale for responding.

Cllr Ball returned to the meeting.

10172.1 To receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on 11th December 2018.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the meeting.

10172.2 Report by the Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee

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

10172.3 To receive reports from the following meetings:

- (i) **Festive Dursley** (7/1/19) – The date for the 2019 Xmas event is Friday 29th November. The group are meeting on 11th February to begin plans. The group have also taken on the role of arranging the Summer Festival in the town centre, a meeting on 24th January is being held to discuss stalls and other arrangements.
- (ii) **Meet and Greet – New SDC Chief Executive** (10/1/19) – The Mayor and Town Clerk met the Kathy O’Leary with the District Councillors for Dursley, including the recently elected Cllr Trevor Hall. Many local matters were discussed including the new car park, business rates, fixed penalty notices for dog fouling, Littlecombe and the local plan consultation.
- (iii) **Dursley Business Inclusive** (10/1/19) – The group agreed not to meet on a monthly basis due to lack of numbers. The WhatsApp messaging group would continue as a way of sharing information and some members were keen to get involved in the arranging of the summer festival. Some members are taking part in the Radio Gloucestershire Quiz on week commencing 28th January.
- (iv) **Joint Woodlands Committee** (14/1/19) – The Chair of the group announced her resignation The committee reported successful grants from Cam, Dursley & Uley Parish/Town Councils. The Committee considered the request about a proposed squirrel cull.
- (v) **Stroud Roads Safety Group** (16/1/19) – The group seem focused on installing cameras and lowering of speed limits which are not quite the view of our representatives. Cllr Nicholson provided feedback on the successes of our Speedwatch project.
- (vi) **Dursley Welcomes Walkers** (16/1/19) – The group had a social occasion to thank volunteers and to gain ideas for next year’s festival which is again held over the first weekend in October.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

10173

Report by the Chair of the Staff Committee

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

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BUSINESS RELATING TO CAR PARK

10174

10174.1 Report of the Chair of the Car Park Committee

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

10174.2 To receive a progress report.

The Town Clerk confirmed that works were delayed in December due to the wet weather, but progress had been made on drainage, earthworks and the building of the retaining wall in January. This week would see the kerbing a sub-base commencing with a view to completion in late February.

The Market Town Funding and business rate relief had now both been agreed by Stroud District Council, providing approximately £50.5k of funds towards the project.

10174.3 To consider CCTV quotation.

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the quotation for 4 No. CCTV cameras including an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) camera for the new carpark from Redhand Network Connections (UK) Ltd. The total amount for the installation is £7,160.40 (incl VAT) with an annual maintenance & support fee of £864 (incl VAT).

10174.4 To consider membership to the British Parking Association.

IT WAS RESOLVED to submit the application form and apply for membership.

HIGHWAYS

10174

To receive a report from Council's Highways Representative

In Cllr Hayes absence there was no report.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

10175

To receive a report from Council's Police representative

Cllr Nicholson reported that the WhatsApp messaging provided instant, discreet and active reporting within the traders of the town, helping share information quickly. In the spring the Speedwatch group would commence monitoring sessions with the local police and volunteers.

CLERK'S REPORT

10176

The Clerk's report was noted. The Clerk advised Council that the electrical inspection was taking place on the 2th January and that the Annual Assembly had been booked for 7pm on Tuesday 21st May at Kingshill House.

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INSPECTIONS

10177

The inspections for February & March were noted.

The meeting closed at 8:05p.m.

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Town Mayor

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Date