

3rd December 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 3rd December 2019.

Action Summary:

No Actions

PRESENT

Cllr N Grecian (Mayor)

Councillors: M Woodward (Deputy Mayor), J Burdge, P Hayes, K Reynolds, A Stennett, S Creswick, A Whitwell, M Stennett, A Sheffield and W Thomas.

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk; Leah Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk, PC Peter Lay, Stroud District Councillor Doina Cornell and John Rubin.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 10334

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Ackroyd, J. Ball, J Smee, D Thirlwell (all personal) and Councillor L Patrick (business).

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 10335

There were no declarations of interest.

TOWN COUNCILLOR VACANCY (HIGHFIELDS WARD) 10336

IT WAS RESOLVED to co-opt Mr John Rubin to Council. Mr Rubin signed the Declaration of Acceptance and took his place at the meeting.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY OR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS 10337

Cllr Cornell reported that the District Council were preparing for the upcoming general election including bad weather planning. The Cambridge House site is now proposed to be redeveloped for social housing; this proposal will be considered by the Housing Committee next week. SDC also considering the future of three small garage sites in the Dursley area. Cllr Cornell noted the Local Plan consultation was open and highlighted the land of Shakespeare Road was not included in the current draft. There are still implications on the Dursley area with the development proposed in neighbouring Cam.

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SDC are reviewing their future strategy for play areas traditionally maintained from housing budgets. Dursley Climate Action Group is part of a growing network with aims to achieve carbon neutrality.

Cllr Cornell thanked the Town Council for the Christmas Light Switch On event which was very successful.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

10338

PC Lay reported that the culprit of two bin fires on the War Memorial Recreation Ground had been interviewed, a report will be sent to the families first panel. The culprit of the third bin fire remains unidentified and the case has been closed.

At this time of year residential burglaries are a concern with a small increase over the last two months compared to the same period in 2018. It was noted that although there has been an increase the number of burglaries remains very low in both Cam and Dursley. Two people suspected of being responsible for recent incidents have been arrested.

PC Lay left the meeting.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

10339

There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES

10340

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 19th November 2019 were signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

10341

Council's Accounts for 2019/20

- 10341 (i) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Mayor would sign the schedule of payments. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Amazon Prime subscription had been cancelled and a refund provided.
- 10341 (ii) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Mayor would sign the bank reconciliation. The Town Clerk confirmed that direct debits and other card payments were not necessarily inputted on the financial system on the same day as the payment is made hence there are include as an "unpresented cheque" on the financial reports.
- 10341 (iii) The income received since the last Council meeting was noted. The Town Clerk confirmed that a grant and S106 funding had provided enough funding for the recent installation of the petanque court.

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10341 (iv) The management/budget report was noted. The training expenditure is under the estimated spend figure due to the Town Clerk not currently studying for any professional qualification.

GREEN SPACES

10342

Report of the Chair of the Green Spaces Committee

The Chair had nothing to report.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

10343

10343.1 Report of the Chair of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Chair had nothing to report.

10343.2 Remembrance Events

The Town Clerk provided a report on a very well attended remembrance event on Sunday 10th November 2019 and thanked the local neighbourhood police team for their support. PC Lay has asked the Council to ensure marshals and road closure signs are available at next year's event.

10343.3 Festive Dursley Event

The annual switch on event was very busy with a new winter walkabout garden located in the church grounds. The Mayor thanked the staff for their efforts in arranging the event. It is clear that to continue to put on such an event more volunteers are required to join the Festive Dursley committee and to help on the day.

PLANNING

10344

10344.1 Report of the Chair of the Planning Committee

In the absence of the chair there was nothing to report.

10344.2 Local Plan Working Group

It was noted that all Councillors were invited to stay behind after Council to discuss our response to the Local Plan consultation.

POLICY AND FINANCE

10345

10345.1 Report by the Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Chair had nothing to report.

Cllr Hayes joined the meeting.

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10345.2 To receive reports from the following meetings:

- (i) **Youth Centre Management** – The group met with representatives of Community Mentoring & Support regarding the ongoing issues with damage to the building.
- (ii) **Cotswold Edge & Severn Vale Tourism** – The Steering Group meeting focused on reviewing the ‘eating and drinking map’ leaflet, which had been published and well received. The group was holding an informal meeting for potential new members on 19/12/19 and would be reviewing the Strategy in early 2020.
- (iii) **SDC Homelessness Session** – Issues in many urban areas, not necessary an issue in Dursley. The meeting provided contacts for support if/when help is needed.
- (iv) **Dursley Creatives** – A group of local people trying to encourage arts in the area. Provided update on projects including a new sculpture, resident artist and writing competition.
- (v) **SDC Public Toilets** - The Town Clerk met with officers to discuss the future of the facility. SDC carrying out a review of all public toilets on 2020 with a report expected in the late summer/autumn.
- (vi) **Dursley in Bloom** – Winter planting completed.
- (vii) **Town Trust** – The current chair is resigning from the trust; a new chair hasn’t been appointed. The Trust needs support from the Town Council and new membership would help. **IT WAS AGREED** that an agenda issue would be include in the January meeting of Council to discuss how the Town Council can support the Town Trust. **IT WAS AGREED** the Town Council could be used for contact in the short term for Town Trust enquiries.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

10346

Report by the Chair of the Staff Committee

In the absence of the chair there was nothing to report.

BUSINESS RELATING TO CAR PARK

10347

Report of the Chair of the Car Park Committee

10347.1 1To receive the Minutes of the Car Park Committee Meeting held on the 12th November 2019.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt and sign the Minutes of the meeting. In the absence of the Chair the Mayor signed the minutes.

10347.2 Report of the Chair of the Car Park Committee

In the absence of the chair there was nothing to report.

10347.3 To receive a progress report.

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The Town Clerk reported that the ANPR camera required to be upgraded.

10347.4 To consider the recommendations of the Committee

IT WAS RESOLVED to dissolve the committee and to transfer the management of the car park to the Town Improvements & Amenities Committee.

HIGHWAYS

10348

To receive a report from Council's Highways Representative

Cllr Hayes reported that an emergency repair had been carried out opposite Dursley Garage on Kingshill Road, but the manhole needs to be repaired. Various drains in the town remain cleaned and we have flooding issues following heavy rain. The parking on Whiteway remains an issue with the white line not being observed by all.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

10349

To receive a report from Council's Police representative

There was nothing to add to the matter discussed earlier in the meeting (Minute: 10338).

CLERK'S REPORT

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The Clerk's report was noted, The Mayor will be attending the annual Rotary Carol Service.

INSPECTIONS

10351

The inspections for December and January were noted.

The meeting closed at 20:10pm.

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Town Mayor

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Date