

6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the 'virtual' MEETING of the COUNCIL held online via the 'Zoom' platform at 7pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

### Action Summary:

- |         |   |       |   |
|---------|---|-------|---|
| 10540.2 | Town Clerk to request grant financial information from <u>Shine PND Support</u> .                     | 10545 | Town Clerk to put the second grant instalment to Kingshill House on hold & write letters to Kingshill House, Stroud District Council & the Charity Commission |
| 10540.3 | Town Clerk to invite Woodland Manager & Sculpture Trail representative to attend Twinberrow meetings. |       |   |

### PRESENT

Cllr N Grecian (Mayor)

Councillors: J Ball, S Ackroyd, A Stennett, M Stennett, S Creswick, W Thomas, J Rubin, T White, L Patrick, D Savvidou, D Horn (from item 10538.2) and P Hayes (from item 10540.3).

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk; Leah Wellings, Deputy Clerk; Stroud District Councillor Doina Cornell.

Absent: Councillor J Smee.

### TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 10531

Apologies were received from Councillors M Woodward, A Sheffield and A Whitwell (all personal).

### MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 10532

There were no declarations of interest.

### REPRESENTATIONS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS 10533

County Councillor Patrick reported on the ongoing issues at the Broadwell concerning water contamination/drainage. Councillor Patrick was awaiting a date for the Severn Trent Inspection Team to visit the site and planned to be in attendance during their visit, to establish possible actions.

District Councillor Cornell reported on: Stroud District Council's Market Town Forum meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and Government plans to encourage opening up the high street/using open space, as part of these support plans the district has funding of £100,000 to be passed down to parish/towns for suitable projects; concerns raised relating to the increase in footfall on Stinchcombe Hill

6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

and how the Stinchcombe Hill Trust is supported to deal with the impact of this on footpaths and nesting birds and the next stages of the Local Plan, which include proposals being considered by Stroud District Council on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021, with a consultation planned for the summer.

In relation to Stinchcombe Hill and the concerns raised, Councillor Ackroyd made members aware that the Stinchcombe Hill Trust are taking steps to improve footpath signage and have ongoing works relating to tree cutting.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 10534

There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES 10535

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE 10536

10536.1 Council's accounts for the financial year 2020/21:

- (i) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments since the last Council meeting 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 since the last Council meeting was noted.
- (iv) The management/budget report was noted.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES 10537

10537.1 Report of the Chair of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Chair encouraged all to come along to the forthcoming Committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

PLANNING 10538

10538.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting.

10538.2 Report of the Chair of the Planning Committee

6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

The Chair had no matters to report.

Councillor Horn joined the meeting.

GREEN SPACES

10539

10539.1 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 16th March 2021.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting.

10539.2 Report of the Chair of the Green Spaces Committee

It was noted that The Pulse had hired space on the War Memorial Recreation Ground to run some classes outside.

POLICY AND FINANCE

10540

10540.1 Report of the Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

10540.2 Regarding the Urgent Grant Application: Shine PND Support

It was noted that the grant applicant had not provided the required financial information inline with the Council's Grants Policy.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk would make a further request for the required financial information, so that the application could be considered at the next meeting.

10540.3 Regarding the proposal to create a Twinberrow Committee

The proposal made by Councillor Creswick and circulated with the agenda, was considered.

Members discussed the pros and cons of changing the current format and creating a Twinberrow committee, either under standing orders or Charity Law. There was a general acceptance that the benefits of changing were not huge and the current system was effective.

It was noted that the Council as a body was the sole Trustee of Twinberrow and not individual Councillors.

Councillor Hayes joined the meeting.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to keep the current format and operation for the Twinberrow Foundation but invite the Woodland Manager and a management representative for the Sculpture Trail to attend the meetings.



6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

6

6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

10541

10541.1 To receive the Minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting held on the 9th March 2021.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting.

10541.2 Report by the Chair of the Staff Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

10541.3 Update by Town Clerk on Staffing Matters

The Town Clerk provided a report on working arrangements in light of the Government's Covid 'road map'.

It was noted that from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 the ground staff team was back to full capacity; the Council office would re-open to the public on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and from this date two members of the team could work at Jacob's House with home working continuing on a rota basis; working arrangements would continue to be kept under review.

CLERK'S REPORT

10542

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Dursley Annual Assembly would be held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7pm using the 'Zoom' platform, preparations were underway. The Annual Council meeting would take place in May after the elections and attendance would be required in person at a venue, either the Chantry Centre or Community Centre (to be confirmed).

The Town Clerk encouraged everyone to complete the online survey which is part of the Government's consultation on 'Local authority remote meetings: call for evidence'. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence> )

It was confirmed that Town Councillors Smee and Sheffield had decided not to stand for re-election. On behalf of the Council, the Mayor thanked them for their contribution and service to the town.

INSPECTIONS

10543

It was noted that the routine monthly inspections would restart in May 2021.

Councillors were advised to inform the Town Clerk which sites they could inspect so that the inspection rota could be compiled.

The Internal audit checks for April and May were noted.

6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

BUSINESS DEALT WITH IN COMMITTEE

10544

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

District Councillor Cornell withdrew from the meeting.

BUSINESS RELATING TO POLICY AND FINANCE

10545

The 2020/21 Revenue Grant to Kingshill House was considered alongside the Director Resignation letter circulated with the agenda.

It was noted that a second grant instalment payment awarded by Council (Minute 10467.4) was due to be paid to Kingshill House in May 2021.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to put the second grant payment to Kingshill House on hold and to write to the Kingshill House management board. The letter would raise concerns and seek clarification regarding the matters outlined in the resignation letter and request written evidence of what the first grant payment made by Council had been spent on, in line with the Council's Grants Policy. Council would also write to Stroud District Council and the Charity Commission to establish their response to the issues raised.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm.



Town Mayor

13/5/21

Date