

3rd June 2021

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held in Lister Hall at the Chantry Centre, Long Street at 7pm on Tuesday 3rd June 2021.

Action Summary:

10566	Council Office to update Councillor information.	10570.2	The Town Clerk to submit the completed Annual Return to the External Auditor.
10574.2	The Town Clerk to submit Council's Local Council Award Scheme: Quality Gold application.	10579	The Town Clerk to investigate the possibility of retaining the street cleaning operative, for a few hours per week, in Dursley

PRESENT

Cllr S Ackroyd (Mayor)

Councillors: J Ball, N Grecian, S Creswick, D Cornell, W Thomas, J Rubin, T White, L Patrick, D Savvidou, M Woodward and A Rowston.

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk and Leah Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk.

Absent: Councillors A Stennett and M Stennett

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 10564

Apologies were received from Councillors D Horn, P Hayes and A Whitwell.

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 10565

Councillor Ball declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.1 i) minute 10570.1, as an employee of the Dursley and District Community Association.

REGARDING THE VACANCY FOR TOWN COUNCILLOR HIGHFIELDS WARD 10566

Members considered two applications received for the Town Councillor vacancy, from Matt Nicholson and Anja Rowston. Anja Rowston introduced herself at the meeting, Matt Nicholson had been unable to attend in person and had sent apologies.

IT WAS RESOLVED to hold a signed ballot.

Completed ballot papers were counted by the Town Clerk and the result of the vote announced by the Town Mayor.

IT WAS RESOLVED to co-opt Anja Rowston as Town Councillor for the Highfields Ward.

Councillor Rowston signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting as a Town Councillor.

3rd June 2021

REPRESENTATIONS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS 10567

County Councillor Thomas reported on a new community ownership fund announced by Siobhan Baillie MP totalling £250,000; the fund could help communities take over local assets of value; details would be announced on the Government's website shortly and a link forwarded to the Town Clerk.

District Councillor Cornell reported on: Stroud District Council's Annual General Meeting and the alliance between Labour, the Green Party and Liberal Democrats; the Local Plan, which is now in the final stage of consultation; the Littlecombe Zone E Planning Application (S.20/2098/FUL) which had now been called into the Development Control Committee based on the Town Council and resident objections; the Market Town Forum and the opening up high street support funds; local meetings around tourism with the Economic Development Officer and Covid cases, which currently remain low.

Following a question relating to the District Council's plans for the derelict 11 May Lane building, Councillor Cornell confirmed that work to look at options for the site had been delayed and agreed to chase and provide an update.

District Councillor Patrick reported on taking up positions on the Housing Committee and Development Control Committee (DCC); the new, easier process to call things to the DCC; the desire to revive markets, looking at the recent work in Stonehouse and her work alongside Town Councillors White and Woodward around a new mental health support group for veterans and blue light service personnel.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 10568

There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES 10569

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 13th May 2021 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE 10570

10570.1 Council's accounts for the financial year 2021/22:

- (i) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments since the last Council meeting be authorised and signed by the Mayor. Councillor Ball abstained from the vote.
- (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.

3rd June 2021

10570.2 Council's accounts for the financial year 2020/21:

- (i) It was noted that the Annual Internal Auditor Report had been approved and signed by the auditor.
- (ii) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk and Town Mayor complete and sign Section 1 of the Annual Return – Accounting Statement.
- (iii) **IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the figures in Section 2 and for the Mayor to sign Section 2 of the Annual Return – Accounting Statement.
- (iv) It was noted that the Public Inspection Period for the accounts runs from Monday 15th June to Friday 24th July 2021.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

10571

10571.1 Report of the Chair of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

PLANNING

10572

10572.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 25th May 2021.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the meeting.

10572.2 Report of the Chair of the Planning Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

GREEN SPACES

10573

10573.1 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 25th May 2021.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the meeting.

10573.2 Report of the Chair of the Green Spaces Committee

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, there were no matters to report.

POLICY AND FINANCE

10574

10574.1 Report of the Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

3rd June 2021

10574.2 To resolve that Council confirms that all documentation and information is in place for the Local Council Award Scheme: Quality Gold application.

IT WAS RESOLVED and confirmed that all documentation and information was now in place for the Local Council Award Scheme: Quality Gold application. The Town Clerk would proceed with the application process.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF 10575

10575.1 Report by the Chair of the Staff Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

CLERK'S REPORT 10576

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Covid homeworking rota arrangements for office staff was still in operation - only 2 people working from the office at one time. The Ground staff working arrangements continue to operate as normal.

Councillor Thomas withdrew from the meeting.

INSPECTIONS 10577

The scheduled Councillor inspections and checks for June and July 2021 were noted.

BUSINESS DEALT WITH IN COMMITTEE 10578

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

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFFING 10579

The Committee Chair gave a verbal report on the Ubico street cleaning operative position, which would cease when the current operative retires in June 2021.

It was noted that the position currently covers the area of Dursley, Wotton-under-Edge and Stroud town. It was suggested that Ward District Councillors in the towns should be consulted regarding the change and its potential impact.

IT WAS RESOLVED to investigate the possibility of the Town Council retaining the street cleaning operative for a few hours each week in Dursley.

The meeting closed at 7:34pm.

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Town Mayor

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Date