

7th September 2021

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held in the Dursley Community Centre, Rednock Drive at 7pm on Tuesday 7th September 2021.

Action Summary:

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| 10614.2 | Submit application for two oak trees for Queens Diamond Jubilee | 10615.2 | Inform RBL of decision to approve grant request |
| 10615.3 | To commence photocopying contract with Apogee | | |

PRESENT

Cllr S Ackroyd (Mayor)

Councillors: M Woodward (Deputy Mayor), N Grecian, P Hayes, D Horn, S Creswick, T White, A Stennett, J Ball, A Rowston and L Patrick.

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

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 10606

Apologies were received from Councillors J Rubin, D Cornell, W Thomas, A Whitwell (all business); M Stennett and D Savvidou (both personal)

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 10607

Cllr Ball declared a pecuniary interest for agenda item 7.1, minute 10611(i) as an employee of the Dursley Community Centre, Cllr Ackroyd declared a pecuniary interest as a director of the Chantry Centre for agenda item 7.1, minute 10611(i).

UPDATE FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

Cllr Ackroyd informed Council that he had attended two recent event as Mayor, the first being the Lions Club of Dursley 40th anniversary event at Stinchcombe Golf Course and the recent late night shopping event in the Town Centre.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS 10608

There were no County or District Councillors in attendance.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 10609

There were no members of the public in attendance.

MINUTES

10610

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 3rd August 2021 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

10611

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

- (i) The Mayor and Cllr Ball left the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the schedule of payments since the last Council meeting be authorised and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor and Cllr Ball returned to the meeting.

- (ii) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the bank reconciliation be authorised and signed by the Mayor.

The Clerk confirmed that upcoming direct debit and bank payments are listed within the “uncashed payments” as they have not necessarily been inputted into the financial recording system on the date of payment.

- (iii) The income received since the last Council meeting was noted.

- (iv) The updated income/expenditure summary reports were noted, with the Town Clerk explaining the timing of the allotment rental payments over the calendar year and that the actual income received is not compared to expected monthly profiles.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

10612

10612.1 Report of the Chair of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

In the absence of the Chair there was no report.

10612.2 To receive an update on “Welcome Back” funding and the role of a Market Town Tourism Officer.

The Deputy Mayor confirmed £300 had been awarded by Stroud District Council towards Craft Market banners and pavement signage from the “Welcome Back” Fund. It had proved to be time consuming and overly complicated process for such a relatively small sum.

The Market Town Council’s representatives continue to have discussions with regard the role of a Market Town Tourism Officer and have been invited to a meeting with Stroud District Council on the matter, but no date has been agreed. The Market Town Council’s representatives continue to be frustrated with the District Council’s lack of urgency on this matter.

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PLANNING

10613

10613.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 17th August 2021.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the meeting.

10613.2 Report of the Chair of the Planning Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

GREEN SPACES

10614

10614.1 Report of the Chair of the Green Spaces Committee

The Chair reported that overnight of the 4th / 5th September vandalism had occurred at the War Memorial Recreation Ground pavilion, resulting in a number of damaged slabs and a broken window. The Chair would like to consider additional CCTV coverage at this location at a future committee meeting.

10614.2 To consider Planting Two Oak Trees for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the offer from the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire and for the Green Spaces Committee to confirm the most suitable location(s).

POLICY AND FINANCE

10615

10615.1 Report of the Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Chair had no matters to report but commented that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding could be used to plant trees.

10615.2 To consider the request from the Cam & Dursley Branch of the Royal British Legion relating to the 2020 Small Grant.

The Town Clerk provided details of the request that due to Covid a sum of £330 had not been allocated to the original project (Veterans Café), the branch secretary had requested this sum could be considered for an alternative use which would see a poppies etc being projected onto St James Church during the remembrance period.

IT WAS RESOLVED to agree to the request, there were 7 votes for, 2 against and 1 abstention (Cllr Ball)

Cllr Patrick joined the meeting.

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10615.3 To consider the proposal from our Photocopier Supplier (Apogee)

The Town Clerk presented the background of the existing contract and new proposal from Apogee.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the proposal to change the photocopier to a HP Laserjet E78325 model and commence on the new agreement terms with a quarterly hire fee of £534.34 and estimated quarterly usage of £602.

10615.4 To confirm Council representation at the Holding Together in GL11 event on 30th September 2021.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Mayor and Cllr White would attend.

10615.5 To receive any Councillor reports or attendance at meetings.

Cllr Grecian highlighted the upcoming Walking Festival at the beginning of October and the updated Dursley Welcomes Walkers website where festival information and walks are available to download. Some copies of the walks will be made available at the Town Council office and Dursley library.

The Town Clerk update Council on the plans to hold a normal festive event on Friday 26th November if Covid restrictions allow. An application to a Market Town Event Fund will be made to Stroud District Council which may include a town centre PA system.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

10616

10616.1 Report by the Chair of the Staff Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

10616.2 Street Cleaning Operative Position

IT WAS AGREED to defer this matter to the next meeting of Council as no update had been provided by Ubico/Stroud District Council. It was noted that there was more litter in town, particularly discarded cigarette ends.

CLERK'S REPORT

10616

The Town Clerk confirmed that a maximum of three office staff were now working in the office, with a mixture of home working continuing. The level of correspondence had dropped due to the school holiday period and the reduced number of committee meeting in August. Staff appraisals would take place over the next month.

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INSPECTIONS

10617

The scheduled Councillor inspections and checks for September and October 2021 were noted.

The meeting closed at 7:35pm.

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Town Mayor

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Date