

5<sup>th</sup> October 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 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

### Action Summary:

- 10628.4 Award and pay the small grant recipients      10628.5 Award the Revenue Grant recipients
- 10633 Award PAT testing contract to KJB  
Electrical

### PRESENT

Cllr S Ackroyd (Mayor)

Councillors: N Grecian, S Creswick, T White, A Stennett, A Rowston, J Rubin, D Cornell, W Thomas, A Whitwell, M Stennett and D Savvidou.

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

### TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 10618

Apologies were received from Councillors M Woodward (Deputy Mayor), L Patrick, J Ball, P Hayes, D Horn (all personal)

### MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 10619

Cllr Ackroyd declared a pecuniary interest as a director of the Chantry Centre for agenda item 11.5, minute 10628.5.

### REPRESENTATIONS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS 10620

Cllr Thomas acknowledged there remained problems with the local bus service and invited Council to send a representative to an upcoming online meeting to discuss the issues, on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

Cllr Cornell conformed the extension of the Economic Development Strategy consultation and provided an update on the Tourism Post at Stroud District Council for two years. Dursley Town Council and other market towns would be invited to attend upcoming meetings and the steering committee related to tourism and market town recovery. Cllr Cornell confirmed that some waste and recycling collections had been affected by driver shortages.

Cllr Stennett asked a question relating to the payment of school bus tickets to Applegates throughout the pandemic and whether or not their drivers had been furloughed, Cllr Thomas agreed to investigate.

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UPDATE FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

10621

Cllr Ackroyd informed Council that he had been unable to attend the meeting of Trauma Informed Community Initiative. Cllr Ackroyd encouraged Councillors to take part in the upcoming walking festival and that he would provide an update from the Stinchcombe Hill trust meeting in his next update.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

10622

There were no members of the public in attendance.

MINUTES

10623

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

10624

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 Deputy 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. The Town Clerk confirmed that the second instalment of the precept had been received since the receipts schedule had been produced.
- (iv) The updated income/expenditure summary reports were noted.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

10625

10625.1 Report of the Chair of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

Cllr Savvidou reported that she had chaired a meeting with some town traders relating to digital marketing and that the same topic may come under the remit of the soon to be appointed Tourism Officer. The recent Dursley After Hours events had been well received by the public.

It was noted the Dursley Digital breakfast was taking place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October between 7:30-9am at the Chantry Centre. This is a free business & community support group.

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10625.2 To receive an update on "Welcome Back" funding and the role of a Market Town Tourism Officer.

It was reported that £20k had been allocated from the fund towards the Tourism Officer post and that Dursley Town Council had obtained some funding for signage and banners.

PLANNING

10626

10626.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

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

10626.2 Report of the Chair of the Planning Committee

Cllr Grecian reported that some complaints had been made about earthworks on land at Littlecombe near The Knapp/Rednock Drive. Planning Enforcement had confirmed that no breaches of any permissions had been made and the land did not form part of current or proposed development and was not part of the conservation area.

It was suggested that Natural England may be interested in the works due to the presence of a badger sett. The Deputy Clerk agreed to forward the response received from SDC Planning Enforcement

GREEN SPACES

10627

10627.1 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

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

10627.2 Report of the Chair of the Green Spaces Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

POLICY AND FINANCE

10628

10628.1 To receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

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

10628.2 Report of the Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Chair reported that the annual budget setting process would commence this month, any ideas of projects should be sent to the Town Clerk.



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10628.3 To receive any Councillor reports or attendance at meetings.

Cllr White attended the recent Police Crime Commissioner roadshow which introduced the draft Gloucestershire Police & Crime Prevention Plan. The plan includes increased recruitment, reviewing the 101 non-emergency telephone issues and focussing on specific crimes including rural crime.

Cllrs M Stennett and Cornell attend the Cam, Dursley & Uley Joint Woodlands Committee and provided an update on matters including footpath wardens, ash die back, cycling, a beacon for the Queens Jubilee. The committee was aware of a parked horsebox at Cam Peak and the landowner was dealing with the matter.

Cllr Grecian reminded Councillors that this year's walking festival information was online and the usual quiz, talks and afternoon teas would take place over the weekend.

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on Vale Vision, including snicket map, finance, sculpture trail, walking for health, What's On publication. Concerns were raised by the group relating to parking in Lister Road, not being able to directly contact officers at Stroud District Council and the current issues with bus service in the Dursley area. The group would like to see a more local service introduced.

10628.4 Regarding Small Grants 2021/22

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations of the committee and award small grants to:

Homestart (Glos & Stroud) - £1000  
Dursley In Bloom - £500  
Dursley & District Good Neighbours - £500  
Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper - £200

10628.5 Regarding Revenue Grants 2021/22

Cllr Ackroyd left the meeting, in the absence of the Deputy Mayor, Cllr A Stennett assumed the role of Chair.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations of the committee and award revenue grants to:

Great Western Air Ambulance - £2,000  
Dursley Welcomes Walkers - £500 for three years  
The Chantry Centre - £4,500  
Citizen's Advice - £5,500

Cllr Ackroyd returned to the meeting assumed the role of Chair.



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10628.5 Regarding a Review of Standing Orders

It was noted that the standing orders had been reviewed but the committee had proposed no recommendations or revisions were required.

10628.6 Regarding Policy Reviews

**IT WAS AGREED** not to adopt the draft Data Protection Policy and to request that the Policy & Finance Committee review the policy in relation to personal data held by Council for service provision e.g. allotment tenants, cemetery records.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to adopt the following policies: Reserves Policy, Grievance Policy and Risk Management Policy.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

10629

10629.1 Report by the Chair of the Staff Committee

In the absence of the Chair there were no matters to report, the Town Clerk did confirm that staff appraisals were underway, and feedback would be reported to the upcoming Staffing Committee at the end of October.

10629.2 Street Cleaning Operative Position

**IT WAS AGREED** to defer this matter to the next meeting of Council and request a copy of the specification between SDC/Ubico and to express our disappointment that the recently retired employee is not being replaced. The condition of the town would continue to be monitored, Councillors were asked submit photographs of any locations where litter, cigarettes ends were present and not cleaned up by the routine visits.

The Town Clerk would inform staff to forward any reports of leaves on footpaths etc to SDC/Ubico over the autumn period as these were generally removed by the street cleaner.

CLERK'S REPORT

10630

The Town Clerk confirmed that a maximum of three office staff were now working in the office, with a mixture of home working continuing, whilst the grounds staff were working normally.

INSPECTIONS

10631

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

GA

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BUSINESS DEALT WITH IN COMMITTEE

10632

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to resolve to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business. There were no members of the public or press present.


BUSINESS RELATING TO POLICY & FINANCE

10633

Regarding PAT Testing

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £440 from KJB Electrical for the 2021/22 PAT testing of electrical equipment.

The meeting closed at 7:55pm.

  
.....  
Town Mayor

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021  
.....  
Date