

1st March 2022

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held in the Chantry Centre, Long Street, Dursley at 7pm on Tuesday 1st March 2022.

Action Summary:

10697	Advertise Councillor (Central Ward) Vacancy	10707.5	Write to Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
10704.2	Progress Tourism initiatives/projects.		

PRESENT

Cllr S Ackroyd (Mayor)

Councillors: P Hayes, D Horn, S Creswick, A Stennett, J Rubin, L Patrick, T White, D Cornell and T Kinnison.

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk; Leah Wellings, Deputy Clerk and Matt Smith, Full Fibre.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 10695

Apologies were received from Councillors M Woodward (Deputy Mayor), A Rowston, D Savvidou (all personal); N Grecian, W Thomas, M Stennett (all business).

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 10696

There were no declarations of interest.

RESIGNATION OF CLLR ADRIAN WHITWELL 10697

The resignation for Cllr Adrian Whitwell was received and that there was now a Councillor vacancy in the Central Ward.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS 10698

Cllr Thomas in her absence had supplied a written report with an update on highway matter and an upcoming bus driver strike.

Cllr Patrick had no Stroud District Council matters to report but responded to a query relating to the dilapidated property owned by Stroud District Council in May Lane. There are no immediate plans to do anything with the building, but the location is important to any future development at the rear of Prospect Place.

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It was noted that the Lions Club of Dursley had been approached by Stroud District Council about their property on May Lane and would be attending an upcoming Lions meeting.

Cllr Cornell joined the meeting but had no further matters to report.

UPDATE FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

10699

The Mayor commented that today's Pancake Race had been held in Parsonage Steet with 5 runners taking part. Radio Gloucestershire had attended the event.

It was noted that Dursley Lions were collecting clean clothes and blankets on Friday and Saturday (4th & 5th March) which were to be sent to Ukraine.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM FULL FIBRE

10700

Mr Matt Smith was invited to provide a brief presentation of the planned works to deliver fibre optic broadband to Cam & Dursley.

Full Fibre carry our fibre installations in the South-West and Midlands area and have been in existence for 5 years. They specialise in providing fibre to the door increasing download and uploads speeds. Full Fibre are not an internet service provider and do not sell internet access direct to the public but there is a connection fee for both businesses (£100) and residents (£25) to the upgraded network.

The ongoing works in Cam and Dursley include upgrading of existing copper wire service both underground and overhead, including the installation of some new poles where required, which is considered permitted development.

It was expected that the first businesses or residents could be connected in the next two to three months.

Mr Smith was thanked for his presentation and left the meeting.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

10701

There were no members of the public in attendance.

MINUTES

10702

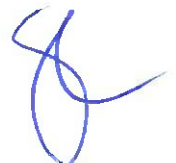
The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

10703

10703.1 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.



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- (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 updated income/expenditure summary reports were noted, with the Town Clerk confirming that allotment rent was expected in April 2022 and that there were sufficient funds in the Green Spaces: Land & Property Maintenance budget (Code 320).

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

10704

10704.1 Report of the Chair of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

In the absence of the Chair there was no report.

10704.2 To consider funding on Tourism Projects

The Deputy Clerk presented the report on Funding for Market Town Tourism Content Projects.

The meeting was suspended at 19:35 and recommenced at 19:55. Cllr White left the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the recommendations of the report in full:

- a) That Council approves a contribution of up to £5,000 towards a Market Towns Tourism content project from reserves.
- b) That Council fully engages in the Smartphone Trails App Pilot Project, should it progress.
- c) That Council establish the level of interest within the town for a 'Visit Dursley' group and hold an initial meeting.

PLANNING

10705

10705.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 22nd February 2022

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the meeting.

10705.2 Report of the Chair of the Planning Committee

In the absence of the Chair there was no report.



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GREEN SPACES

10706

10706.1 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 15th February 2022.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the meeting.

10706.2 Report of the Chair of the Green Spaces Committee

The Chair reported that we had lost a few trees at Kingshill Cemetery and Highfields Play Area during the recent storms.

10706.3 Sale of Land at Harding's Drive

It was noted that our bid for the sale of Land at Harding's Drive had been unsuccessful.

POLICY AND FINANCE

10707

10707.1 To receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on the 22nd February 2022.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the meeting.

10707.2 Report of the Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

10707.3 To receive any Councillor reports or attendance at meetings.

Cllr Cornell reported that she and Cllr Hayes had attended the recent meeting relating to the urgent maintenance and planned improvements of Holywell Orchard. The bridge has been removed on safety grounds and a new bridge made of recycled materials has been ordered. Contact was being made with the Public Right's of Way team with regard to the condition of the path.

The orchard is situated within both Dursley Town Council and Cam Parish Council boundaries. A further meeting is to be scheduled to discuss the longer-term management of the orchard and Dursley Town Council would be invited to attend.

Cllr Hayes reported that he is in communications with GCC Highways about defective ironwork in Silver Street, Castle Street and Parsonage Street.



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10707.4 PARLIAMENT BOUNDARY REVIEW – SECOND CONSULTATION

IT WAS AGREED that Cllr John Rubin would review the proposed boundaries. Cllr Cornell would rely any comments on behalf of the Town Council at the Public Hearings in Gloucester.

10707.5 REGARDING HYBRID AND REMOTE MEETINGS

IT WAS RESOLVED to support the petition launched by Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) and the Association of Democratic Services (ADSO) on 5 January with regard to remote and hybrid meetings. We agree to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling on the Government to change the law to allow councils the flexibility to hold such meetings when they deem appropriate within agreed rules and procedures.

BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

10708

10708.1 To receive the Minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting held on the 15th February 2022.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the meeting.

10708.2 Report by the Chair of the Staff Committee

In the absence of the Chair there was no report.

CLERK'S REPORT

10709

The Town Clerk confirmed that currently there were a maximum of three members of staff working in the office, but this would be raised to four imminently, but the staff would continue to have the option of flexible and home working. Recent team meetings had been held in the office with the four-administration staff .


The Policy and Finance committee would review a draft Flexible Working Policy in April.

INSPECTIONS

10710

The scheduled Councillor inspections and checks for March and April 2022 were noted.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm.


..... Town Mayor
5th April 2022
..... Date

