

## DURSLEY TOWN MEETING

27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the ANNUAL ASSEMBLY of the DURSLEY TOWN MEETING held online using the 'Zoom' platform, at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.

### PRESENT

Councillor N Grecian, Town Mayor in the Chair

26 people were present online.

Apologies were received from County Councillor L Patrick.

### 1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Town Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings at that meeting. No Annual Assembly was held in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### 2. MATTERS ARISING

In relation to the minutes dated 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 the following points were noted:

Item 10. i) (page 7), Following discussions between the Town Council, County Councillor and Gloucestershire Highways, work had been undertaken by the highways team to improve a pinch point located on the Silver Street pavement, outside the Oxfam Shop.

### 3. REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR

The Town Mayor reported upon the activities of the Town Council during the past year (outlined in the Annual Report 2020/21), including the engagements that he had attended as Mayor.

The Town Mayor highlighted the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, its impact on the community and the Council's working practices. Also the improvements undertaken in the town, including the refurbishment of the bus stop on the Uley Road, the installation of new play equipment at Highfields Play Area and work to improve the Garden of Remembrance areas at Kingshill Cemetery, as well as creation of a new Garden of Rest.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone involved for all their hard work over the year and expressed what an honour and a privilege it had been to serve as Town Mayor, alongside fellow councillors.

It was noted local elections were taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

Those present were encouraged to visit the Council's website to find out more [www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk).

4. RESIDENTS FROM OUTSIDE DURSLEY

It was resolved to allow residents from outside Dursley to speak at the meeting.

5. REPORTS OF COUNTY COUNCILLORS

It was noted that County Councillor L Patrick had given her apologies.

The Town Clerk read out County Councillor Patrick's written report provided for the meeting and available in the 2020/21 'Councillor & Community Group Reports' document (page 3).

6. REPORTS OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Town Mayor welcomed District Councillors Cornell and Hall to the meeting.

It was noted that District Councillors Cornell and Hall had provided full written reports that were available in the 2020/21 'Councillor & Community Group Reports' document (pages 4-5).

In addition to the reports, Councillor Hall spoke about the challenges of the year due to Covid-19 and how he had helped as a Street Volunteer. Councillor Hall also spoke of the forthcoming Stroud District Council meeting and discussions on the emerging draft local plan. It was noted that the area of land behind Shakespeare Road had not been included in the plan as a potential development site.

Councillor Cornell spoke about the community response to the Covid-19 pandemic, highlighting GL11 as an exemplar model of support delivery within a community and the fantastic vaccine roll out locally.

Councillor Cornell also spoke of the recovery support work that is taking place and positive news of businesses returning.

It was noted that Councillor Cornell had stood as a Town Council candidate in the forthcoming May elections and as these were uncontested would be taking up the role in the Highfields ward at the Town Council Annual Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021, something she was very much looking forward to.

There were no questions.

7. TO RECEIVE PRESENTATIONS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

The Mayor introduced the Annual Assembly of Dursley Town Meeting 2021 'Councillor and Community Group Reports' document, circulated to councillors and posted online at Dursley Town Council's website: <https://www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk/> .

Included in the pack: **Cam, Dursley & Uley Greenway, Cam & Dursley Youth Forum, Cam, Dursley & Uley Joint Woodlands Management Committee, Churches Together in Cam and Dursley and District, Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper, Dursley in Bloom, Dursley United Charity, Dursley Welcomes**

**Walkers, Festive Dursley, GL11 Community Hub, Great Western Air Ambulance Charity, SDC Neighbourhood Warden Service, The Door, Vale Vision.**

Those groups present were invited to add any key points not already included in the published document.

Colin Levine from the GL11 Community Hub thanked Dursley Town Council for grant support and collaboration in relation to the Covid response and setting up the Street Volunteer Scheme, the Council office had helped make up and distribute the official ID badges.

The Town Mayor thanked GL11 for all their hard work in supporting the community.

Victoria Robson from The Door thanked Dursley Town Council for its flexible approach to the delivery of youth support within the existing contract, which enabled The Door team to adapt quickly in the face of Covid-19 to continue to engage and support the needs of young people during the pandemic.

The Town Mayor thanked The Door all their hard work during the pandemic to support young people in Dursley during a difficult and uncertain time.

Councillor Wendy Thomas, representing the Cam and Dursley Transportation Group, gave an update on what had been a quiet year for the group due to Covid-19. Now that restrictions were starting to lift the group wanted to focus on the development of a Local Car Share Scheme linking to the Cam and Dursley Railway Station.

David Smith, also from the group, mentioned that the May Lane Bus Station now had a real time indicator showing arrival times/delays.

It was noted that Dursley is now a Cotswold Gateway Town with new information boards installed at the long stay car parks and at the Cam and Dursley Railway Station. Dursley Welcomes Walkers were thanked for all their hard work on this project.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for contributing, highlighting the great amount of positive work in the town that is down to hardworking, committed volunteers.

8. TO DISCUSS TOWN MATTERS GENERALLY

The Town Mayor invited those present to raise any town matters to discuss.

There were no matters raised.

The Town Mayor reminded everyone that members of the public can raise matters with the Council at any time and meetings are open to the public.

9. LESLIE D GALE AWARD 2021

The Town Mayor explained that the Leslie D Gale Award was instituted in 1994, as a tribute to the late Mr. Gale, who was the last Chairman of Dursley Parish Council and

the first Mayor of Dursley, and who served the community in so many ways. The Leslie D Gale Award not only recognises longevity of service to the community but also impact.

The 2021 awards were announced by the Town Mayor.

The Leslie D Gale award for **Outstanding Service to the Community of Dursley** was awarded to Charlotte Tuckwell in recognition of her commitment to looking after her family home and caring for her younger brothers while her parents, both keyworkers, worked during the pandemic. This included home schooling her brother and supporting her siblings with their activities. Charlotte also engaged in volunteering activities at Cam Hopton School and Brownies, as well as having a part time job. It was recognised that Charlotte had gone above and beyond what a 16 year old would normally be expected to do.

The Leslie D Gale award for **Outstanding Service to the Community of Dursley** was awarded to Sarah Lancaster in recognition of her work coordinating the Sew for Keyworkers Glos and the Community Mask Trees in Cam, Dursley and the local area. This was a massive undertaking: sourcing the fabric, recruiting the sewing volunteers (and knitters), recruiting people to host the Community Mask Trees and then keeping them stocked, distributing the masks and PPE equipment.

The Leslie D Gale award for **Outstanding Service to the Community of Dursley** was awarded to the GL11 Community Hub in recognition of their service to Dursley during the pandemic. The work included setting up a telephone hub which took over 3000 telephone calls in the first month of the initial lockdown; a huge effort to set up and organise more than 300 Street Volunteers to visit every house in Cam and Dursley; sharing information on support from GL11 and other local organisations, establishing which local residents needed support. The Street Volunteers themselves provided grocery and medicines deliveries, helping the most vulnerable residents.

It was recognised that, throughout the pandemic, GL11 continued to provide practical help – shopping and prescription collection for anyone shielding or isolating, providing information on benefits, financial advice and employment support. The hub also provided tablets to those unable to contact families during lockdown and emotional support and a listening ear to those who have experienced loneliness and/or isolation including hosting online social sessions. They managed an Emergency Foodbank for those families most in need, helped deliver thousands of meals in the area and also aid the local vaccination programme at the Vale Community Hospital, sourcing over 100 volunteers, trained to help.

It was noted that arrangements would be made to present the 2020 and 2021 Leslie D Gale awards in person at the Summer Festival being arranged for 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The Town Mayor closed the Assembly at 7:35pm.

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27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Annual Town Meeting

Town Mayor

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Date