

6th June 2017

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held in the Community Meeting Room at the Fire Station, Kingshill Road, Castle, Dursley at 7pm on Wednesday, 6th June, 2017.

Action Summary:

9820	Report to SDC concern's over the security of No. 11 May Lane	9825	Submit the 2016/17 Annual Return
9829.3(v)	Check with SDC on coverage of CCTV at Broadwell re plant damage	9833.3	To authorise the planning application submission.

PRESENT

Cllr N Grecian, Mayor
Cllr S Abraham, Deputy Mayor

Councillors: S Creswick, A Stennett, J Burdge, P Hayes, A Sheffield, S Ackroyd, W Paice, M Woodward, W Thomas, M Nicholson, J Ball, L Patrick, F Firth.

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk and Leah Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk; Stroud District Councillors D Cornell and A Hayward; Mark Graham, SDC Public Spaces and Eddie Bisknall, Gazette reporter.

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 9817

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor M Laybourne (personal) and Councillor B Cairns (business)

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 9818

Councillor Ball declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 9.1 (i), minute item 9825.1 (i), as an employee of the Dursley & District Community Association.

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9819

There were no requests for dispensations.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS 9820

District Councillors' Reports

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Councillor Cornell reported that the Minor Injury Unit at the Vale Hospital had been closed recently due to staff shortages. The details of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan are expected in the Autumn, but savings totalling £220m are required and the plan is to reduce hospital visits by increasing community projects, including Social Prescribing which has been piloted at the Walnut Surgery and will be run District wide.

SDC have been revising their plans for the business units in Littlecombe Business Park due to the higher than expected quotations, the project is very much a priority for SDC and will be considered at the next Strategy & Resource Committee meeting.

Cllr Cornell responded to a question about No. 11 May Lane, that it is indeed owned by SDC. The security of the fencing was highlighted as a concern.

Cllr Firth reported on the "join" project, a packet of cards with details of social groups in the area, which is available at surgeries.

It was noted that the Vale Hospital had never provided a 24-hour A&E service.

REPORT FROM STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL: PUBLIC SPACES 9821

The Mayor introduced Mark Graham, Public Spaces Officer from Stroud District Council and invited Mark to provide an update on the recent changes to waste collection in the district.

Mark reported that the Public Spaces team were responsible for Grounds Maintenance, Waste Collection, Street and Building Cleaning.

Due to government targets of 60% recycling by 2020 being enforced by financial penalties, SDC introduced a new waste collection service in 2016 from 52,000 households. This has been very successful with SDC now the top performing district in Gloucestershire and have moved from the bottom 10% in the UK to the top 2%.

There have been problems with multiple occupancy dwellings, flats and communal areas. This is mostly due to storage issues, tenancy changeover and incorrect presentation of waste. Friday is the worst day in Dursley as this is now the collection day for the town.

SDC have been targeting the problem areas in Dursley with a number of measure including working closely with housing associations. SDC do have the power to issue penalty charge notices for incorrect presentation of waste, but it is quite a lengthy process. To date 23 penalties have been issued in Dursley.

Fly tipping has increased nationally and the statistics show that this is not directly linked to the recently introduce charge for bulky waste uplifts. Fly tipping is a criminal offence and to date 5 penalties have been issued in Dursley.

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Mark received a number of questions from the Councillors, it was confirmed that additional waste capacity was available for households with six or more persons and for medical needs. People should refer to the information provided to help decide what a what can be recycled. SDC do not have the capacity to recycle every material or product. SDC should be contacted if you have an unforeseen event e.g. extra food waste due to a freezer breakdown etc. These can be accommodated for during collections.

Furniture or other deposits on public land would be regarded as fly tipping and should be reported to SDC. Heath Court was highlighted as an ongoing "hot spot" for fly tipping with materials currently dumped here awaiting removal.

Loose black bags would not be collected during routine collections, as they need to be investigated to see if the identity of the culprit can be traced.

Mark was not aware of any plans to review the charges for bulky waste.

The Mayor thanked Mark for his report and answering the questions posed, Mark left the meeting.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 9822

There were no representations from the public.

REPRESENTATIONS ON OUTSIDE BODIES 9823

IT WAS RESOLVED for Cllr Jan Burdge to be the Council representative for the DATE Minibus Association.

MINUTES 9824

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 9th May 2017 were signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE 9825

9825.1 Council's Accounts for 2017/18

- (i) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments made to be authorised and signed by the Mayor.
- (ii) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Bank Reconciliation be authorised and signed by the Mayor.
- (iii) Income received up to 31st March 2017 was noted.
- (iv) The management/budget report was noted.

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9825.2 Council's Accounts for 2016/17

- (i) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that Section 1 of the Annual Return – Annual Governance Statement be authorised and signed by the Mayor.
- (ii) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that Section 2 of the Annual Return – Accounting Statements be authorised and signed by the Mayor.
- (iii) It was noted that the Public Inspection period for the accounts would run from Monday 12th June to Friday 21st July 2017.

GREEN SPACES

9826

9826.1 Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

The Committee Chairman reported a bonfire had been held on the WMRG on the 19th May; a vehicle was reported to have been driving on the Highfields Play Area on the 24th May; the Community Day was held at Highfields on the 29th May but some of the work was vandalised the following day. The culprits were caught by the police and will be carrying out some restorative justice on Thursday 8th June.

Cllr Stennett also reported that Ray Pekala from Breakheart Quarry had been commissioned to build a 4-seater memorial bench for Brian Marsh using local wood which would be installed in Twinberrow Wood in the summer.

9826.2 Highfields Community Day

The Council received a grant of £1k from the Tesco Bags for Help Fund. The Community Day was held on the 29th May with resident volunteers, Councillors and staff. Due to the wet weather, no painting could be done, but fence repairs, strimming, vegetation clearance were all carried out. This including clearing two benches which were completely hidden in the undergrowth.

The volunteers were provided tea/coffee from the Hummingbird Café and a BBQ from Cam Family Butcher.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9827

9827.1 Report of the Chairman of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9827.2 Tourism Update

The Tourism meeting originally scheduled for 10th May 2017, was postponed and will now be a Steering Group meeting at 6.30pm on 7th June 2017 at Jacobs House. The next network meeting will be held in July 2017.

PLANNING

9828

9828.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 16th May, 2017

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes.

9828.2 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9828.3 Streetnames: Littlecombe Phase 3 Development

It was noted that SDC will have selected Bailey, Graham, Wyatt & Ashton for the remaining unnamed streets in Littlecombe.

- Bailey (the Bailey family and the Bailey Newspaper Group)
- Graham (Captain Graham - prominent figure in the life of Dursley, famous Irish wolf-hound breeder)
- Wyatt (Doris Wyatt – Munitions Worker died at R.A. Lister during WW1, the only woman listed on the War Memorial, her brother John also died during the war and is listed)
- Ashton (R.A. Lister - Robert Ashton Lister, became known simply as Ashton).

POLICY AND FINANCE

9829

9829.1 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9829.2 To Receive an Update on the CCTV Project

The Town Clerk reported that he had met Damon Blanford (PCC Office) and PCSO Josh Griffiths. The PCC was keen to help our project but our project does not conform to the current policy of centralising CCTV systems. The Stroud/Dursley CCTV monitoring systems are merging with Gloucester & Cheltenham at the Quedgeley HQ. This means upgrade works are required in Dursley.

The Clerk has discussed our project scope with SDC to see if additional cameras can be added to the existing system. The Clerk will update Councillors at the next Policy & Finance Committee meeting.

9829.3 Councillors' Reports

- (i) **Dursley Business Inclusive** (11/5/16) – Councillor Abraham reported that the leaflet was delayed due to illness, but final draft will be presented to DBI on 8th May. Jim Daniels from GCC has been invited to attend a future meeting.

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- (ii) **Dursley United Charity** (11/5/17) – Cllr Ball reported that the new Clerk had been appointed and Ralph Darby was now a trustee. A new tenant was now housed the Silver Street flat. Grants were awarded to Friday Lunch Club, Dursley Young Carers & Old People Welfare Committee.
- (iii) **Youth Service Quarterly Report** (12/5/17) – The Town Clerk reported that the temporary staff changes had been confirmed as permanent and that youth sessions would soon be fully up and running with a 3rd youth worker present on Wednesday and Friday sessions.
- (iv) **Dursley Welcomes Walkers** (15/5/17) – Festival will include non-guided walks of the Lantern Way on Saturday.
- (v) **Dursley in Bloom** (22/5/17 & 5/6/17) – Cllr Woodward reported the vandalism over the weekend and some plants were missing from the Broadwell. (Clerk will check with SDC re CCTV). 40 hanging baskets being installed in the Town Centre this week and working group planned for 19th June. Breakheart Quarry will be working with Rednock students to make wooden planters for May Lane.
- (vi) **Vale Vision AGM** (22/5/17) – Cllr Stennett reported back from a positive meeting, the group are looking for local guides for their health walks, and have plans to update and improve the Sculpture Train. Future meetings will take place on a Friday.
- (vii) **Annual Assembly** (23/5/17) – The Mayor reported that the number of residents were down from last year but the speaker had been very well received. It was a positive evening with the local volunteer groups well represented and the announcement of the 2017 LDG awards.
- (viii) **Dursley Welcomes Walkers AGM** (24/5/17) – A representative from Ramblers Walking Holidays was present; this organisation has funding available to help Walking Groups. The Committee was confirmed for the next year with a new festival organiser appointed.
- (ix) **Town Trust AGM** – Cllr Burdge/Cllr Stennett reported that the lift project was very low on funds and the recommendation of the Town Council for the project not to receive funds was a significant blow. The Trust will continue to seek funds for this project but some of the Town Council appointed Trustees feel other maintenance projects should be considered as a greater priority. If the existing expenditure/income levels are retained the Trust will struggle to survive financially in 20 years' time. A brief history of the relationship between the Trust and the Council was discussed. It was suggested other funding methods should be investigated e.g. a lottery.
- (x) **Speedwatch (31/5/17)** – Cllr Nicholson reported that the group met for an induction meeting for new members. The group will be monitoring on Uley Road on Saturday 10th June as a training session for the new members. A deputy will be required to assist Cllr Nicholson with the organisation of the group.
- (xi) **Xmas Working Group** (1/6/17) – The Deputy Clerk reported that the group considered additional lights and decorations for the Town Hall area. This may be two phase project due to the expected purchase and installation costs. The Group are investigating applying to Tesco Bags for Help to help fund the additions.

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BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9829

9829.1 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

The Committee Chairman was not in attendance.

9829.2 To receive an update on the position of Apprentice Grounds Persons.

The Town Clerk gave an update but we had received a lower than expected number of application and had received very negative feedback from the town's social media pages.

The matter will be considered by the Staffing Committee on the 13th June 2017.

HIGHWAYS

9830

9830.1 To receive a report from Council's Highways Representative

Councillor Hayes had nothing to report, but Cllr Patrick provided an update from her recent site visit (as GCC Councillor) of many locations within Dursley with the Local Highway Manager from GCC.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

9831

9831.1 To receive a report from Council's Police Representative

The Council Police Representative that the youths involved in the damage at Highfields Play Area will be carrying out restorative justice on Thursday 8th May. Cllr Nicholson will meet the group with PCSO Griffiths and oversee the repair to the fence and painting of the youth shelter. The group will also formerly apologise to Cllr Nicholson.

9831.2 To receive a report from the Local Neighbourhood Police

There was nobody present from the Police to provide a report.

CLERK'S REPORT

9832

9832.1 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda and the content was noted. It was noted that Brian Marsh's family were very pleased with receiving Brian's posthumous LDG award.

9832.2 Monthly Area Inspections and Audit Checks

Details of Councillors scheduled to undertake area inspections and audit checks in June/July 2017 were noted.

9833.1 To resolve to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

IT WAS RESOLVED to carry out the remainder of business in committee due to the confidential nature of the business. Eddie Bisknall left the meeting.

9833.2 To receive an update on Community Projects

The Clerk informed Council that he and the Mayor briefed the SDC Councillors for Dursley on our project plans.

The site in question has two boundary queries which the Clerk has asked our appointed solicitor to confirm the extents of the plot with the seller's agent.

The Council agreed to the Clerk's recommendation regarding the contents of the building.

9833.3 To confirm the Submission of the Change of Use Planning Application.

IT WAS RESOLVED to authorise the submission of the Planning Application, subject to Cllr Thomas comment on the report being referred to our consultant.

A Press Release will be issued prior to the Planning Application being submitted.

The meeting closed at 8.40p.m.

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Town Mayor

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Date