

5th November 2024

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held in the Community Meeting Room, Fire Station, Kingshill Road, Dursley at 7pm on Tuesday 5th November 2024.

Action Summary:

- 11211.5 Town Clerk to prepare draft budget for January meeting of Council 11221 Town Clerk to progress and sign License to Occupy agreement
- 11222 Award Cleaning Maintenance Contract

PRESENT

Cllr A Stennett (Mayor)

Councillors: M Nicholson (Deputy Mayor), L Patrick, D Horn, A White, M Stennett, T Stride, K Eales, M Patrick, S Creswick, B Schoombie, P Hayes, C Sweet, T White and A Rowe.

Also present: J Kay (Town Clerk); Leah Wellings (Deputy Clerk), Stroud District Cllr Helen Caton-Hughes and one member of the public.

Absent: Cllr John Rubin

11204 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

11205 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Nicholson declared a pecuniary interest in relation to staff payments (Agenda Item 8.1, Minute 11211.1).

11206 COUNCILLOR VACANCY – HIGHFIELDS WARD

There were no expressions of interest in the Councillor Vacancy.

11207 REPRESENTATIONS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

GCC Cllr Thomas had provided a written report in her absence.

Cllr Caton-Hughes confirmed that The Pulse in Dursley was to be rebranded Active Lifestyles Dursley and the leisure centre in Stroud is now being managed by Stroud District Council. SDC have been shortlisted for two awards including an Independent Living award.

SDC have commenced a consultation on the Stroud District Council Plan and Cllr Caton-Hughes encouraged the town council to participate. The first round of the

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Stroud Funding initiative was now closed, detailed feedback would be provided to any applicants who are not successful with the match funding/crowd funding initiative.

Cllr Caton-Hughes provided an update on the May Lane development proposal with a meeting scheduled on the 18th November with architects on programme and timescales. A briefing is to be held with the Town Council in after this date but is not currently scheduled.

Cllr Caton-Hughes was asked that a date for the May Lane briefing be confirmed as soon as possible and that at what point would the District Council consider a CPO given the ongoing issues with land owners. Cllrs expressed their frustrations over continued delays with the lack any significant progress since our last briefing in July and lack of updates being provide to the Council. It was expressed by Cllr Eales that the matter will be escalated should there be no imminent progress.

Cllr Caton-Hughes agreed to provide an update on subsidence issue at Welling Close and the agreed new bench at Cambridge Avenue play area.

Cllr Hughes had provided a written update on the planning issue on the main access at Vibe Youth Centre, part of an application submitted by the Dursley Tabernacle URC.

11208 UPDATE FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor had no matters to update.

11209 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A resident director of the Littlecombe CIC was introduced to Councillors. The Council received an update on the many issues in Littlecombe including legal issues with transfer of responsibility to the LCIC by St Modwen's and SDC; subsidence of banks, encroachment, ash dieback, Japanese knotweed and the condition of some new footpaths. It was noted that the current LCIC directors felt a lack of support from both SDC and St Modwen over the adoption process which could ultimately result in the resignation of the directors and all responsibilities returning to SDC.

11210 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 1st October 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

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11211 BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

Council's accounts for the financial year 2024/25:

11211.1 Cllr Nicholson left the meeting. The Town Clerk confirmed the loan payment was taken out in 2018 to fund the purchase of the Long Street Car Park site. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments since the last Council meeting be authorised and signed by the Mayor. Cllr Nicholson returned to the meeting.

11211.2 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the bank reconciliation be authorised and signed by the Mayor.

11211.3 The income received since the last Council meeting was noted. The Clerk agreed to provide the breakdown of CIL payments to Councillors.

11211.4 The income and expenditure summary reports for 2024/25 were noted.

Council's Draft Budget for the financial year 2025/28:

11211.5 The Town Clerk presented the draft budget for the financial year 2025/26, highlighting that the Staffing budget would need to be revised due to the National Insurance employers increase announced in the recent budget and a sum for the maintenance of the proposed toilet block would need to be added. The updated taxbase figure was expected in early December.

The Council considered the budget, Town Clerk's comments and previous precept increases, it was acknowledged that a precept rise would be required and the Town Clerk was requested to update the draft budget for the January Council meeting with a proposed increase of no more than 5%.

11211.6 The draft budgets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 were noted.

11212 TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

11212.1 To receive the Minutes of the Town Improvements Committee Meeting held on the 8th October 2024.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting.

11212.2 Report of the Chair of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

In the absence of the Chair there were matters to report.

11212.3 To receive an update on Tourism matters

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on the next Discover Dursley (formerly Visit Dursley) meeting to discuss the new website and networking meeting to be hosted



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at The Engine. The recent Halloween events in the town were successful and the focus was now on the annual Light Switch-On evening and other festive events in town.

The final version of the new Town Map had been approved with a very late amendment for the new name for the leisure centre.

11213 GREEN SPACES

Report of the Chair of the Green Spaces Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

11214 PLANNING

11214.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 15th October 2024.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting.

11214.2 Report of the Chair of the Planning Committee

The Chair reported that disappointingly our comments on the proposed EV charging points in Dursley had seemingly not been considered and the installation had commenced with no further correspondence or notification from Gloucestershire County Council.

11215 POLICY AND FINANCE

11215.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 8th October 2024

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting.

11215.2 Report of the Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

11216 BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

11216.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 15th October 2024

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting.

11216.2 Report by the Chair of the Staff Committee

The Chair reported that annual appraisals were completed and the signed paperwork was about to be returned to the members of staff.

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11217 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr M Patrick reported that WMRG memorial garden hedge had been planted and the planning application for the memorial had been submitted to Stroud District Council. The Green Spaces committee is to be asked to consider installing an information sign at the memorial garden about the history of the WMRG.

Cllr Sweet had attended a meeting of the Stinchcombe Hill Trust where common land status and permitting grazing of animals was discussed, a presentation is planned for the 28th November to golf club members.

11218 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk reminded Councillors that they are expected to attend the annual Remembrance Parade and wreath laying service on Sunday 10th November. A two-minute silence and wreath laying will be carried out at 11am on Monday 11th November at the War Memorial Recreation Ground.

Cllr Stride had agreed to review and present his comments on the Stroud District Council Plan consultation at the December meeting of Council.

Councillors were reminded to contact the office about their availability on the annual Festive Dursley event on 29th November and that a meeting of the Twinberrow Foundation has been scheduled for 19:30 on 19th November.

The annual fireworks display on the WMRG had been successful and the organisers were pleased with the event. Disappointingly a youth team turned up to play football on the Saturday morning despite repeated requests to Dursley Town AFC not to arrange any fixtures to allow the setup of the event. This has been highlighted to the youth team contacts.

11219 INSPECTIONS

The scheduled Councillor inspections and checks for November and December 2024 were noted.

11220 BUSINESS DEALT WITH IN CLOSED SESSION

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 a closed session due to the confidential nature of the business. There were no members of the public or press present.

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11221 TO CONSIDER A LICENSE TO OCCUPY AGREEMENT

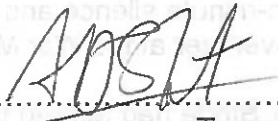
The Town Clerk provided a summary of the enforcement process of Long Street Car Park since its opening in 2018 and the need for a "License to Occupy" agreement with our enforcement partner – District Enforcement.

IT WAS RESOLVED to authorise the Town Clerk to process and sign a "License to Occupy" agreement with District Enforcement.

11222 TO CONSIDER THE QUOTES RECEIVED FOR THE CLEANING MAINTNENANCE CONTRACT 2025 TO 2028.

IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint Cobwebs as our Cleaning Maintenance contractor for the period 2025 to 2028.

The meeting closed at 20:20



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Town Mayor

03 DEC 2024.....

Date