

6th August 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 6th August 2024.

Action Summary:

- 11160 Town Clerk to process urgent grant award to D&D Community Association 11166.2 Respond to Parent & Carer CIC Urgent Grant application
- 11171 Confirm appointment of payroll supplier.

PRESENT

Cllr A Stennett (Mayor)

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

Also present: J Kay (Town Clerk); GCC Cllr Wendy Thomas; SDC Cllr Bob Hughes, Jane Ball and John Hudson representing Dursley & District Community Association.

11154 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors D Horn and L Patrick (both personal).

11155 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Nicholson declared a pecuniary interest in relation to staff payments (Agenda Item 8.1, Minute 11162.1).

11156 TO NOTE THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR CHRIS ROWSTON

Cllr Rowston's resignation was noted by the Council. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Casual Vacancy had been advertised and that co-option could take place at the September Council meeting.

11157 REPRESENTATIONS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

GCC Cllr Thomas provided a highways update including reported that the A4135 Woodmancote resurfacing had been completed, this had included some unforeseen drainage works and a 'Pedestrians in Road' sign at the bottom of Fort Lane near the junction with Woodmancote had been installed. It was noted that further patching repairs were required on the A4135 as the scheme did not cover the full extent of poor surface areas.

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Cllr Thomas confirmation that the planned expanded services for the 65 bus will likely commence in September.

At the request of the Council, Cllr Thomas agreed to request that maintenance of the escape lane on Woodmancote is carried out by GCC Highways.

Stroud District Councillor Bob Hughes attended his first Council meeting, rotating with other Dursley SDC councillors and noted that the District Council were awaiting the new government's strategy of planning matters. Stroud District Council are taking over the management of Stratford Park in Stroud with an investment strategy planned, this could include The Pulse in Dursley. Gloucestershire are bidding to host a Euro Pride event, with the Dursley Pride event considered a positive example of a successful event.

Cllr Thomas left the meeting.

11158 UPDATE FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor has highlighted the Rednock Swing Band fund of nearly £4k to Rednock School, this fund can be used for musical projects in Dursley. The Mayoral Robe project will commence in the new school year.

11159 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The representatives of the Dursley & District Community Association provided some background information on recent investment of the centre from S106 funding but the remaining funds can't be used on "repairs". The flat roof over the Walker Room and corridor is estimated to cost £17-20k to repair. The Community Centre host 20+ community groups who regularly hire the venue plus one-off hires for family occasions/events.

IT WAS RESOLVED to bring forward the agenda item 12.2a, to consider the Urgent Grant Application from the Dursley & District Community Association.

11160 URGENT GRANT APPLICATION

The Town Clerk provided an update on grant budgets.

IT WAS RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow the representatives of the Dursley & District Community Association to respond to questions raised by the Town Councillors. This included figures on the accounts of sums held, building usage, lease agreement with Rednock School, the governance of the Community Association and building ownership.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

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IT WAS RESOLVED to award an Urgent Grant of £10k to Dursley and District Community Association towards the roof repairs. There were 9 votes for, 1 against and four abstentions (Cllrs Stride, Hayes, M Patrick and J Rubin). The Town Clerk stated the decision was against his professional advice as Responsible Finance Officer based on information provided.

11161 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 2nd July 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

11162 BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

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

11162.1 Cllr Nicholson left the meeting. **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.

11162.2 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the bank reconciliation be authorised and signed by the Mayor.

11162.3 The income received since the last Council meeting was noted.

11162.4 The income and expenditure summary reports for 2024/25 were noted.

11163 TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

11163.1 To receive the Minutes of the Town Improvements Committee meeting held on 9th July 2024

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting.

11163.2 Report of the Chair of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

11163.3 To receive an update on Tourism matters

The Town Clerk advised that an application to the Market Town Fund had been submitted and had stressed to Stroud District Council that a quick decision was required to ensure that the works can be completed in time for the festive event on the 29th November 2024.

11163.4 To consider the option of a Dursley "Street Market" in the town centre.

In Councillor L Patrick's absence it was agreed that this would be discussed at the next Town Improvements committee meeting.

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11164 GREEN SPACES

11164.1 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 16th July 2024.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting.

11164.2 Report of the Chair of the Green Spaces Committee

The Chair noted that the committee had had the opportunity to review the first environment management plans for the War Memorial Recreation Ground and Highfields Play Area.

The Town Clerk showed the revised plans that had been adapted following the comments made by Councillors at the Green Spaces committee meeting on the 16th July including a reduction in the number of benches to four. The Council expressed their supported the revised plan which can now be installed in time for remembrance day in November 2024.

11165 PLANNING

11165.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 16th July 2024.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting.

11165.2 Report of the Chair of the Planning Committee

The Chair reported that in relation to the Habitat Regulation Assessment; the zone of influence for the Severn Estuary SAC has recently been extended from 7.7km to 12.6km. Dursley is now considered within this zone and some planning application for new builds will be impacted.

Cllr Stride noted that the Heritage Asset List was not yet on Stroud District Council's website and a report had been sent to Stroud District Council's enforcement team for works done on a listed building in Silver Street without permission.

11166 POLICY AND FINANCE

11166.1 Report of the Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

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11166.2 Regarding Urgent Grant Application from Parent & Carer CIC Alliance

IT WAS RESOLVED to reflect the grant application. The application did not confirm the number of Dursley beneficiaries, why the matter was considered urgent and there was a discrepancy between the information supplied in the “what is the grant for” and “full breakdown” information supplied. The Town Clerk was requested to advise the applicant that they could revise their Small Grant application bearing in mind the comments raised.

11166.3 To approve the Committee recommendation and approve the updated Risk Register

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the Committee recommendation to approve the revised Risk Register.

11167 BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

11167.1 Report by the Chair of the Staff Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

11167.2 Staff Contracts

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the revised staff contracts and to arrange staff to sign the final version.

11167.3 To resolve that all new employees appointed to the Council are given the opportunity to join the Gloucestershire Local Government Pension Scheme

IT WAS RESOLVED that all new employees appointed to the Council are given the opportunity to join the Gloucestershire Local Government Pension Scheme.

11168 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Rubin confirmed he had submitted comments on Local Development Guide (LDG) Consultation.

Cllr Eales provided an update on Littlecombe with house building now completed and St Modwen starting to remove their site office. Cllr Eales invited Councillors to attend the AGM of the Littlecombe CIC to be held at 7pm on 11th September in The Oak at Kingshill.

Cllr Stride confirmed he had submitted comments to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Priority Habitat) consultation by GCC.

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11169 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk reported that he had attended a briefing with Cllrs Eales and Creswick from Stroud District Officers on the 11/1A May Lane. Positively there had been a new architect appointed and it is expected revised plans will be made available to the Town Council for comment by the end of September. However the situation hadn't changed with regard to discussions with landowners and purchase of the land at the rear of Prospect Place.

The Town Clerk reported that 17 of the 18 Newsletter areas had been allocated with a considerable staff effort completing 11 of the areas last week. Cllr Schoombie confirmed she would deliver the remaining area and the Mayor thanked the staff for their efforts.

Since 16th July, a total of 23 "polite notices" have been attached to vehicles parked in Parsonage Street, approximately one third to vehicles displaying a blue badge. Comments received from blue badge holders are that more bays are required closer to the shops and businesses in Parsonage Street with existing bays being used by vehicles not displaying a blue badge. Trader parking has improved although one business has now received three notices. Seven businesses are displaying the poster.

11169 INSPECTIONS

The scheduled Councillor inspections and checks for August and September 2024 were noted.

SDC Cllr Hughes left the meeting.

The following business will be dealt with in a closed session:

11170 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 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 press or public present.

11171 To consider the report on payroll supplier

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the recommendation of the Town Clerk and to continue with Kingscott Dix as our payroll supplier.

The meeting closed at 20:20.

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Town Mayor

03 SEP 2024

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Date