

21st January 2025

The traffic regulation order for additional parking restrictions in the Lister Road area has been approved following consultation. Discussions with Stagecoach continue in relation to the overcrowding of the No. 65 Bus.

Cllr Thomas confirmed she would keep the Council up to date with any decisions on the devolution and the possible introduction of a single unitary authority in Gloucestershire.

There were no Stroud District Councillors present at the meeting.

11247 UPDATE FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor reported that he and the Deputy Mayor had recently attended a meeting at the Chantry Centre. This year's Annual Assembly meeting would be held at the Community Centre on 29th April 2025 and Councillors were asked to provide ideas for speakers to the Town Clerk.

11248 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

11249 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 3rd December 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

11250 BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE

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

11250.1 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments since the last Council meeting be authorised and signed by the Mayor.

11250.2 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the bank reconciliation be authorised and signed by the Mayor

11250.3 The income received since the last Council meeting was noted. The Town Clerk agreed to check the VAT on Item 154.

11250.4 The income and expenditure summary reports for 2024/25 were noted.

21st January 2025

Regarding Council Accounts 2025 to 2028:

11250.5 To confirm the draft budget and works programme for 2025-2028, including precept request for 2025/26.

IT WAS RESOLVED to confirm the budget and works programme for 2025 to 2028 and to set the precept at £550,000 for 2025/26, a 3% increase on 2024/25. The level of precept set would result in a modest increase to the Council's share of the Council Tax, with an average band D payment raising to £223.19 per annum, a rise of £6.53 per annum.

11251 TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

11251.1 To receive the Minutes of the Town Improvements Committee Meeting held on the 19th January 2025.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting.

11251.2 Report of the Chair of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

The Chair had no matters to report.

11251.3 To receive an update on Tourism matters

Cllr Rowe provided an update on the recent Discover Dursley networking meeting held at The Engine on 15th January to discuss development of the new website and other activities. The new town map had been displayed in "the link" area. Other locations suggested to display the map were May Lane, Bus Station, Town Hall and Long Street Car Park. It was agreed these locations would be considered by the Deputy Clerk.

11252 GREEN SPACES

11252.1 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 17th December 2024.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting.

11252.2 Report of the Chair of the Green Spaces Committee

The Chair reported that works continue on the draft Management Plans from the Environmental Sub Committee and the grounds staff had received their delivery of battery-operated equipment.

11252.3 Kingshill Cemetery – Tree Removal

IT WAS RESOLVED to confirm the committee recommendation that the quotation/estimate from Tree Management for £4,657 (ex. VAT), be accepted and

21st January 2025

funded from general reserves, to proceed with the removal of the first block of 14 trees at Kingshill Cemetery.

11253 PLANNING

11253.1 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on the 17th December 2024 and 14th January 2025.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meetings.

11253.2 Report of the Chair of the Planning Committee

It was reported that Stroud District Council consultations on Housing Strategy and Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy 2025-30 had been responded too by the committee following reviews by Cllrs Rubin and Stride.

11254 POLICY AND FINANCE

11254.1 To receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on the 10th December 2024.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting.

11254.2 Report of the Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee

The Chair reported that a review of the Standing Orders would be carried out prior to the next committee meeting.

11254.3 To consider the request from Dursley AFC (Girls) in relation to the Small Grant Award.

The Council considered the request for the award to be changed for the purchase of a Pair of New Training Goals.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Council does not agree to the request. The club to be suggested to apply to sporting organisations for this type of funding.

11254.4 Grants Policy

IT WAS RESOLVED to confirm the committee recommendation and approve the revised Grants Policy.

11255 BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

Report by the Chair of the Staff Committee

In the absence of the Chair there was no report.

21st January 2025

11256 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor M Patrick reported that the Cam & Dursley branch of the Royal British Legion would be considering local events to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day at the upcoming branch meeting.

Cllr Eales provide an update on the May Lane site belonging to Stroud District Council and his efforts to engage with the local MP. We still await any confirmed plans or timescales for the demolition of the building and redevelopment of the site. The Town Clerk agreed to share the latest update from SDC with Councillors.

Cllr Eales reported a more positive approach to issues on Littlecombe by St Modwens/First Port. It was not yet known the impact of St Modwen being acquired by Miller Homes.

Cllr Eales reported that Gloucestershire County Council have confirmed ownership of the strip of land on Kingshill Lane but that they have not yet committed to carrying out maintenance works on the trees.

The Mayor reported that improvement/maintenance works were ongoing at the rear of the Chantry Centre to improve access.

11257 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk reminded Councillors of the annual Pancake Race on the 4th March 2025 commencing at 12pm in Parsonage Street. Any Councillors available on the day were requested to help marshall the event.

The Town Clerk reported that there had been a positive response to the social media posts on the town twinning proposal for Bergerac, France. The matter would be considered at the Policy & Finance committee in February and a councillor would be required to become involved in the discussions with volunteers.

11258 INSPECTIONS

The scheduled Councillor inspections and checks for January and February 2025 were noted.

Councillor Schoombie had volunteered to undertake the Highfields Play Area inspection in February.

The meeting closed at 20:10

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Town Mayor

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Date