

**DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE of the Council held in the **Methodist Church Rooms, Castle Street, Dursley** at 7:00pm on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016 for presentation to the Council on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2016.

PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor J Burdge.

Councillors: J Ball, F Firth, A Stennett & P Hayes.

In Attendance: John Kay, Town Clerk; Leah Welling, Deputy Town Clerk.

Absent: Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Sheffield.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received Councillors S Abraham, C Nelmes (business) and B Marsh (Personal).

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensations were received.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016, having been circulated among the members were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6. CHAIRMAN'S VERBAL REPORT

The Chairman had nothing to report.

7. TOURISM

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on the Tourism Steering Group meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> July. The group have agreed to meet 4 times a year and have appointed a chair. The group (mostly representatives from Berkeley and Dursley area) wish to promote the "Cotswold Edge and Vale" area (includes Stone, Berkeley, Frampton, Cam, Dursley, Woodchester, Uley) of the district by promoting tourism and facilities within the area. The group wish to consider developing a website to share key information and promote events as an alternative to the Visit Cotswold website. The next meeting of the Steering Group will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> September at 18:45.

8. WAR MEMORIAL GATES

a) The committee discussed the request by Cllr Burdge to return the lettering on the memorial plaques to gilt. The Town Clerk referred to the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee from the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013; the minutes stated:

*“The Town Clerk informed members that research has established that the War Memorial Plaques have always been bronze and not gilded.....that bronze was a base metal with no monetary value.*

**IT WAS AGREED** for the Town Clerk to consult with a specialist to enquire of the black covering could be removed without damage to the memorial plaques and for the plaque to be restored to its original bronze. The Town Clerk was asked to report back to the next Town Improvements committee.

9. FESTIVAL LIGHTING & SWITCH ON EVENT: 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the Festive Group met on the 7<sup>th</sup> July and it was agreed that more marshalling is required for further events, a tree sponsor has been confirmed, a celebrity is being sought and the theme for this and future events will be “Victorian”. The group are planning to raise funds to have fireworks given their success of the last two events.

The group are considering the usage of the Castel Street car-park with regard to the ongoing concerns over parking in the town centre. The Committee felt that this area was vital to the evening given the success of the fairground rides and a viewing area for the tree switch-on/fireworks display.

The Deputy Town Clerk provided an update on the testing of the anchor points contract and that it was unlikely that the wall mounted trees in future could be supplied by the lighting columns given the rather negative response from GCC.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Deputy Clerk would provide the relevant details to Cllr Stennett who would enquire the suitability of battery packs to power the trees.

10. TOWN CENTRE LEAFLET

In the absence of a representative from the Dursley Business Inclusive group, the Town Clerk provided an update for the Committee on the proposed town leaflet, including indicative costs which has been submitted in advance of the meeting.

The Committee preferred that original idea that town maps were a better way of informing visitors to the town of what and where the facilities were located.

**IT WAS AGREED** that no funding would be considered at this time, although the DBI group would be able to present their leaflet and plans at a future meeting.

11. GARDEN SUBURB – GRIT BIN

The Town Clerk provided the Committee and update on the grit bin which had been removed by GCC on safety grounds and their current policy of not replacing grit bins unless funded by the Town Council.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** for the Town Clerk to write to GCC informing them that the Town Council had no budget for new grit bins and request as to why the grit bin had to be removed, why it wasn't repairable and that what material circumstances had changed from when the bin was originally position that meant its removal ensured GCC met its duty to “ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along the highway is not endangered by snow or ice’ (Highways Act 1980 Section 41 (1A)).

Town Improvement Committee

12<sup>th</sup> July 2016

The meeting was closed at 7:55pm.

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date