

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 7:30pm on Tuesday, 11th October 2016 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 1st November 2016.

PRESENT

Councillors: A Abraham, J Ball, F Firth, A Stennett, M Nicholson, A Sheffield & P Hayes.

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

Absent: Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Sheffield.

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Abraham (Vice-Chair) chaired the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received Councillors J Burdge and B Marsh (Personal).

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Nicholson declared a non-pecuniary interest for Item 8 due to the fact he knows the supplier of the quotation.

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 12th July 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 Vice-Chairman had nothing to report.

7. TOURISM

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on the Tourism Steering Group: The group has strong representation from Dursley, Berkeley and Wotton, with interests being showed from Frampton and Arlingham areas. Brand names for the area are being considered with some of the larger organisation members carrying out online surveys, names being considered are Severnside Cotswold, Cotswold Edge & Vale, Cotswold Edge & Severnside Vale and Cotswold Severnside. The next meeting of the Steering Group will be on the 26th October at Wotton Civic Centre to decide on a brand name and the future strategy of the group.

8. WAR MEMORIAL GATES

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quote from P&S Timbrell Decorators Ltd and to paint the names on the War Memorial plaques in gilt. Cllr Nicholson abstained from the vote.

9. FESTIVAL LIGHTING & SWITCH ON EVENT: 25th NOVEMBER 2016

a) The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the application to close the carpark had been submitted to Stroud District Council and that the Air Cadets had agreed to assist with marshalling. The next meeting will be held on the 18th October and will discuss the arrangements for this year's stalls. Funding for the fireworks have been confirmed by the town's traders and a celebrity has been confirmed to switch the lights on.

b) The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the lights on the shop front trees were reaching the end of their life and had quotes to replace these. Following a discussion with our lighting contractor there is now the possibility of the power being supplied direct from street lighting. This will be discussed for next year's display.

IT WAS RESOLVED to ensure the replacements lights are compatible with any changes to power supply and if compatible to accept the quotation from Lite to replace the light strings on the 51 existing trees, this expenditure (£2,805 + delivery) to be funded from the earmarked reserve for Christmas Lights. There were four votes in favour of this motion and three abstentions.

10. REGARDING PLANTING

a) It was noted that the gold award had been received in this year's Heart of England competition but the update on winter planting had not yet been received from the Dursley in Bloom group. Concern was raised about the condition of the WMRG hedge impacting the scoring of future "in Bloom" competition judging.

b) The Town Clerk reported that the Dursley in Bloom group had requested the Committee to consider funding an additional 6 plastic (wood effect) planters in Castle Street and 12 new wooden half barrels for Parsonage Street. Parsonage Street has been highlighted by the Heart of England judges as an area where planting could be improved.

The Committee's preference for Castle Street is the addition of hanging baskets from the existing streetlights, it was acknowledged this option is not possible without carrying out strength testing of the columns as requested by Gloucestershire County Council.

IT WAS AGREED that the committee could not meet this request without some further information on the exact location of the planters in Parsonage Street. The Town Clerk offered to assist the Dursley in Bloom committee and provide this information at the next Town Improvements committee.

IT WAS AGREED that the Town Clerk should obtain quotes for the testing of street lighting columns in Castle Street.

11. COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN 2017 to 2020

IT WAS AGREED to:

- a) Delay the Broadwell Mural project to 2018/19
- b) Bring forward the Castle Street Upgrade project to 2017/18
- c) Introduce a new project: Bus Shelter – Planter to 2017/18

- d) Retain Town Improvement budget figures as recommended by Town Clerk

12. TOWN IMPROVEMENT BUDGET 2017 TO 2020

IT WAS AGREED to:

- a) Move the £8k budget for the Broadwell Mural to 2018/19
- b) Bring forward the £8k budget for Castle Street to 2017/18
- c) Fund the Bus Shelter – Planter project from existing reserves.

The meeting was closed at 8:25pm.

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Chairman

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Date