

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE of the Council held in the **Dursley Library, May Lane, Dursley** at 7pm on Tuesday, 17th October 2017 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 7th November 2017.

PRESENT

Councillors: J Burdge (Chair), S Abraham, W Thomas, M Woodward, M Nicholson, N Grecian and P Hayes.

In Attendance: John Kay, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J Ball & F Firth (personal) and W Paice (business).

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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 18th July 2017, 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. CASTLE STREET: IMPROVEMENTS

The Clerk provided an update on the following projects:

- a) Cotswold Stone Wall – The Town Clerk has had some difficulty establishing the owner of the plot of land proposed for the wall feature. The Clerk has obtained the title register for the property and has written to the registered owner and is awaiting a response.
- b) Decorative Railings – The Town Clerk met Local Highway Manager, Andrew Middlecote on site with Cllr Patrick. Andrew agreed verbally to the request to install a decorative railing at the rear of the footpath and would provide utility information on underground services. The committee considered different styles of railings

IT WAS AGREED that the railing should be “Lister Green” to match other street furniture and that “Dursley” should be included within the designs. The Clerk agreed to obtain quotes for this project.

8. RA LISTER & CO – BLUE PLAQUE REQUEST

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation of £335 + vat from Croft Cast to provide the plaque

9. TOURISM

- a) Visitor Information Centre – The Committee considered the report prepared by the Deputy Clerk and distributed to members prior to the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED to formally write to Gloucestershire County Council inviting them to enter discussion for a Visitor Information Centre to be located within the Dursley library

- b) The Town Clerk handed out a paper on the Deputy Clerk's recent attendance at Stroud District Council's tourism meeting with representatives of the Market Towns and highlighted the key points.

IT WAS RESOLVED that a "Visit Dursley" section on the Town Council website should be investigated and this visitor information section would be the most suitable location for the Stroud Film recently released by Stroud District Council.

- c) The Town Clerk provided an update on the Cotswold Edge & Severn Vale Tourism group. It was noted that the rearranged Steering Group meeting will now be held on Monday 23rd October at 6:30pm in Jacob's House.

10. Christmas Event 2017

An update was provided on sponsorship and arrangements for this year's event including the new Facebook page for the rebranded "Festive Dursley" event on the 24th November 2017.

Volunteers marshals are required on the day from 11am, Councillors should notify the office when they will be available to help on the day.

It was noted the next meeting of the Christmas Working Group was at 6pm on Thursday 18th July at Jacob's House. All Committee members were encouraged to attend to finalise details of the event.

11. Dog Fouling Posters

The Town Clerk provided an example of the glow in the dark signage supplied by Keep Britain Tidy, who report a 46% reduction in fouling in areas who have used this campaign.

IT WAS RESOLVED that 10 No. posters (Sign No.4) should be purchased with an initial campaign targeting key areas in Highfields ward including the Dursley Primary Academy, Second and Third Avenues. The signage can be used in other areas if successful including the War Memorial recreation Ground where fouling on the football pitches remains an issue.

It was noted that the Town Council had no further response from Stroud District Council regarding our expression of interest to be trained/authorised to issue fixed penalty notices to dog owners who flout the law.

IT WAS RESOLVED for the Town Clerk to write to Stroud District Council requesting an update on this matter.

12. “In Bloom” Shop/Business Frontage Competition 2018

It had been noted recently that several of the local businesses had added to the Dursley In Bloom displays by decorating their frontages.

IT WAS AGREED that the Town Council would invite local businesses to enter a competition for the best dressed frontage and to invite the Chair of the Dursley in Bloom Committee to judge the entries with a representative from the Town Council. The Mayor would present a certificate to the best entries.

13. Dursley in Bloom 2017

The Committee reviewed the feedback and noted that the street furniture had been highlighted by the judges as an area of improvement. The Committee agreed that this should be a priority prior to the 2018 judging and it was suggested a Community Day may be a good way of carrying out some of the necessary maintenance jobs.

14. Committee Projects Action Plan & 3-Year Budget

The Clerk presented the draft 3-year budget for the committee and the planned project time frame. It was noted that some projects would need to be delayed or not carried out due to the impact on budget and resources by the proposed town centre car-park project in 2018/19.

IT WAS RESOLVED to agree to the Town Clerks project and budget recommendations which will be considered at the meeting of Council on the 21st November 2017.

The meeting was closed at 8:15pm.

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Chairman

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Date