

**DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE of the Council held in the **Dursley Methodist Church Meeting Room, Castle Street, Dursley** at 7:00pm on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019.

PRESENT

Councillors: J Burdge (Chair), W Thomas (Vice-Chair), M Woodward, S Abraham and A Whitwell.

In Attendance: Leah Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk.

Absent: Cllr A Sheffield.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J Ball (personal), P Hayes (personal) and M Nicholson (personal).

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 representations from the public.

5. MINUTES

It was noted that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Town Improvements Committee held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018, had been circulated among the members.

Members highlighted a minor spelling error in item 8 a) and the wrong year stated in item 9.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to amend the errors. The amended minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6. CHAIR'S VERBAL REPORT

The Chair had no matters to report.

7. UPDATE FROM THE FESTIVE DURSLEY MEETING - 7/1/19

The committee received an update on Festive Dursley from Councillor Woodward, in her role as Chair of Festive Dursley.

It was noted that the festive lighting and switch on event 2018 had been a success; the new globes on the Town Hall had received positive feedback from the community, as had the Winter Wonderland Garden; there had been some issues with the timer for the globes which was currently being resolved ready for the 2019 festive season; discussions take place to see how Festive Dursley might use the green area in front of St James' Church,

Revd. Cozens had offered use of the area; Kingshill House offered the group use of one of their storage spaces (for lights and decorations), through a rental agreement with the Town Council, arrangements for this would be put in place.

## 8. TOURISM

### a) Update on the Cotswold Edge & Severn Vale Tourism Network

The Deputy Town Clerk provided an update on the Cotswold Edge & Severn Vale Tourism Network.

It was noted that the group had held a successful Network event at the Barn at Cattle Country on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018, with over 30 people attending from local organisations/businesses to discuss working together to create packages for tourists/visitors in our area; a speaker from Cotswold Tourism attended the event on 13<sup>th</sup> to give a presentation and answer questions about their role and new tourism projects; in December the Network Steering Group issued their first newsletter to members which was well received and plans are in place to publish another early in the year; the group continues to generate interest and as a result of the event on 13<sup>th</sup> new links and potential working relationships appear to be forming across the local area (e.g. The Swan Hotel & Woodchester Vineyard are looking at creating a package for hotel guests), there could even be members setting up an informal subgroup for Dursley.

It was noted that Dursley Town Council continue to provide some admin support to the Network.

### b) Visitor Information Centre

The Deputy Town Clerk provided an update on the visitor information centre trial at Dursley Library.

It was noted that an agreement for the trial period was currently being drafted, consideration was being given to financial aspects to ascertain the best way of releasing funds to cover set up costs and ongoing enquiry costs (e.g. grant form/invoice process); a funding opportunity from Stroud District Council (see item c) below) may also prove to be useful for the trial period, although at the moment more information on this and any conditions which might be attached was awaited.

Members discussed some concerns about demand and being able to accurately monitor tourism related enquiries/footfall; it was agreed that a trial period would be the only way to test this out and that review meetings would need to be built into the agreement, in addition to collecting stats/data.

Members suggested that the Council's current tourism budget could be used to cover the set-up costs for the trial, if any additional funds are obtained they could cover other tourism projects e.g. signage, however more information was required about the conditions attached to the funding opportunity offered by the District Council (see item c) below) to ensure a best fit.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that a draft agreement for the trial period would be circulated to Committee members for comment, prior to being sent to the Library/County Council for their comment.

c) Stroud District Council's Tourism Promotion in Market Towns Funding Opportunity

It was noted that at a Stroud District Council Committee meeting held in December 2018 members had agreed to close the funded Stroud TIC and encourage the District Town Councils to develop a district wide tourist information service with the help of an SDC one off grant payment of £2,000.

The Town Council had not yet received any further information on this grant payment, the timescale or any conditions. The Deputy Town Clerk would chase Stroud District Council.

9. DURSLEY PANCAKE RACE 2019

- a) It was noted that the Pancake Race would take place on Shrove Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- b) Members considered a charitable beneficiary for sponsorship funds.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the 2019 Pancake Race should raise funds for Henlow Court's activity fund. Steps would be taken to try and encourage more sponsorship by improving the entry process and form used.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:35pm.

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date