

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, 9th April 2019 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 7th May 2019.

PRESENT

Councillors: J Burdge (Chair), W Thomas (Vice-Chair) (from item 9), M Woodward, J Ball, A Sheffield

In Attendance: J Kay, Town Clerk & L Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from P Hayes (personal), M Nicholson (personal), S Abraham (personal) and A Whitwell (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 8th January 2019, had been circulated among the members.

6. CHAIR'S VERBAL REPORT

The Chair had no matters to report.

7. TO CONSIDER PAINTING THE WALL FACING THE BROADWELL

Members considered painting the building wall facing the Broadwell to improve its appearance, it had been targeted with graffiti in the past and was looking discoloured and in need of repainting.

The Deputy Town Clerk had spoken to the owner of the building who was open to discussing possible improvements; given its location, it is recognised as a prominent feature as you drive into the town.

The Town Clerk reported that the cost could be taken from the Town Centre Upgrade Fund should the committee decide to proceed. Members were made aware that so far, one quotation had been received to get an initial idea of costs; ideally the wall needs to be repainted before Dursley in Bloom judging on 10th July 2019.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Town Clerk could proceed and commission the work within budget, subject to further quotations being sought and liaising with the owner of the building regarding the necessary permissions and the potential for cost sharing arrangements.

8. TO CONSIDER IDEAS FOR IMPROVING THE BENCHES AT THE BUS STATION

Members noted that the wooden topped benches at the bus station were in need of refurbishment work.

Replacement seating was considered based on the briefing paper circulated with the agenda. Members liked the Beckford seating from Broxap.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Breakheart Community Project would be approached to supply possible options and ideas for new wooden seating, for further consideration by the Committee.

9. TO CONSIDER HOW TO MANAGE REQUESTS TO PLACE ADVERTISEMENT BANNERS ON THE COUNCIL RAILINGS, CASTLE STREET

A request to place a commercial banner on the railings had been received by the Council office.

It was recognised that Council installed the decorative railings to improve the appearance of the Castle Street area.

IT WAS RESOLVED that no banners whatsoever, commercial advertisements or otherwise, would be permitted on the Council owned railings at Castle Street.

10. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO PLACE A LARGE REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPY DISPLAY ON THE COUNCIL RAILINGS, CASTLE STREET

Councillor Ball and Councillor Woodward declared a non-pecuniary interest given their involvement with the Royal British Legion and Remembrance Day activities.

The request to place a large poppy display on the railings as part of Remembrance Day activities 2019 was explained by Councillor Woodward; the poppy display would be made of ribbons which would be bought individually by people from local outlets, for a donation, and tied to the metal frame, ultimately creating the poppy.

There was a concern that the framework itself was unattractive and may remain so until enough ribbons were attached to create the poppy. It was also suggested that given the decision taken under item 9 above, another location be considered.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Woodward report the feedback to the organisers to see if the aesthetic of the framework could be improved and whether the railings at the Pet Shop could be used as a suitable alternative location, given their prominent location.

11. TO CONFIRM THE RENTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE STORAGE SPACE AT KINGSHILL HOUSE

The agreement for the rental of storage space at Kingshill House was considered. It was noted that the space is being used for Christmas Lighting features and Festive Dursley items.

IT WAS RESOLVED to confirm the agreement.

12. REGARDING 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 is involved in a project to develop an eating and drinking map for the area, it would allow for some funds to be raised towards future tourism related activities; at the moment the Network does not have a budget and relies solely on goodwill and donations.

Councillor Ball provided some information about the Dursley and District Tourism group which existed in the past, suggesting that there may be a small amount of money remaining in the associated bank account.

It was agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk would explore this to see if any funds that remain could be used by the Network.

b) Update on the Visitor Information Centre Trial at Dursley Library

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 had been drafted and was currently with the Library Service and the Legal Department at Gloucestershire County Council for 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 a one-off grant payment of £2,000, for which the Council completed an application form (circulated with the agenda).

The Town Clerk confirmed that Council's application had been successful and the grant was expected to be paid in April, with plans to put it towards the cost of setting up Visitor Information Centre at Dursley Library.

13. 2019 PANCAKE RACE

It was noted that the 2019 Pancake Race raised a total of £200 towards the Henlow Court Activity Fund.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:38pm.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date