

**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, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

PRESENT

Councillors: W Thomas (Chair) (until item 10), J Burdge (Vice Chair), M Woodward, A Sheffield, A Whitwell

In Attendance: L Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk.

Absent: J Ball

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from P Hayes (personal) and S Abraham (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

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Town Improvements Committee held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019, having been circulated among the members were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6. CHAIR'S VERBAL REPORT

The Chair had no matters to report.

7. UPDATE ON WORKS TO THE WALL FACING THE BROADWELL

It was noted that the building wall facing the Broadwell had been repainted to improve its appearance, as per committee minute 7 of 9/4/19; as a result the area looks much better and ready for Dursley in Bloom judging on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019; the work had involved some re-patching of the render as this was quite weak in areas and had fallen off in places and repainting the Broadwell sign; the Council would arrange to keep a supply of the paint for future patch work; the owner had agreed to a cost sharing arrangement with Council for the works to the wall (quoted at £805), and was intending to paint the rest of the building in the near future.

8. REGARDING TOURISM

a) To consider the draft agreement for Visitor Information Centre Trial at Dursley Library

The draft agreement for a Visitor Information Centre trial at Dursley Library was considered, alongside the Deputy Town Clerk's Report and recommendations.

It was RESOLVED that:

- i. Councillor Whitwell would review the agreement in more detail, submitting any comments to the Council Office/Library Service for consideration, prior to a report being submitted to full Council.
- ii. the budget arrangements, as proposed in the report, were acceptable.
- iii. full Council would be asked to decide whether independent legal advice was required.
- iv. the proposed timescale for the 6-month Trial Period –1st April 2020 to 30th September 2020 was acceptable and, if successful, an additional 1-year agreement moving forward.
- v. the Initial set up costs would need to be paid before the end of the financial year 2019/20, in order for the grant money to be used and the service be ready to run for the trial period.
- vi. the name for the service on Library signage and town noticeboards/websites should be Visitor Information Centre. (Email would be DursleyVIC@gloucestershire.gov.uk ).
- vii. Signage in the town would be updated for the Trial Period, where quick and easy to do so; signage updates of a longer-term nature would be a project dependant on the outcome of the Trial Period.
- viii. A report outlining the agreement and taking into account i) to vii) above, to be submitted to full Council for consideration.

b) 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 project to develop an eating and drinking map for the area was almost ready to go to the printers, it would allow for some funds to be raised towards the network's future tourism related activities.

c) Update on the closure of a bank account related to the disbanded Dursley & District Tourism Association

It was noted that Councillor Ball had provided the Deputy Town Clerk with some information about the disbanded Dursley and District Tourism Association, suggesting that there may be a small amount of money remaining in the associated bank account; the 2 signatories for the account had signed a letter to Barclays Bank instructing them to close the account and send a cheque for any remaining funds to Dursley Town Council, so that the money could be used for future tourism activities.

It was RESOLVED that any funds received would be held by the Council and ringfenced for future tourism activities and in particular those related to the Cotswold Edge and Severn Vale Tourism Network, which covers Dursley and the wider surrounding area, this included the cost of room hire for the Network's wider meetings/events if required.

9. IDEA TO MAKE DURSLEY & SURROUNDING AREA A HUB FOR THE ARTS

An idea submitted by the Manager of Kingshill House to make Dursley and the surrounding area a hub for the arts was considered.

It was recognised that the town and wider area had a range of creative activities and

venues that focus on the arts, in its many different forms (e.g. Kingshill House, The Chantry Centre, Sculpture Trail, Prema, DODS, choirs, bands, regular exhibitions and galleries).

It was noted that a Dursley Creative meeting had been taking place on a regular basis and an open meeting was being held on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm at the Library.

It was RESOLVED that the Deputy Town Clerk would provide feedback to confirm that the Council supports the initial idea and would suggest that the way forward would be similar to that of the Dursley Welcomes Walkers format, in terms of setting up a community led group of interested volunteers who would be willing to drive the idea forward into fruition; if formed, such a group could apply to the Council for grant funding in the future.

10. TO DISCUSS THE OVER PROLIFERATION OF SIGNAGE IN THE TOWN CENTRE

It was noted that there are too many unnecessary signs cluttering up the town centre, one example given related to the signs for Littlecombe homes for sale.

It was RESOLVED that the Council would request that Gloucestershire Highways review the signage.

Councillor Thomas withdrew from the meeting, Councillor Burdge (Vice Chair) resided over the remaining part of the meeting

11. MEMORIAL PLAQUE FOR ROUNDABOUT CAT

It was noted that a community group had come together and raised funds towards a memorial for 'Roundabout Cat'; following discussions permission had been granted for the group to purchase and install a suitable plaque on the Council bench located close to the Bull Pitch roundabout.

12. FESTIVE LIGHTING CONTRACTOR QUOTATIONS

Two quotations were considered for the 3-year festive lighting work contract.

It was noted that eight different contractors had been approached and the Council's total annual Christmas lighting budget for 2019/20 was £6,500.

It was RESOLVED to award the contract to Sky's the Limit at a cost of £3,540 (not including any repair works/call outs).

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:45pm.

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Chairman

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Date