

**DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE of the Council held **online via the 'Zoom' meeting** platform at 6:30pm on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

PRESENT

Councillors: W Thomas, P Hayes, A Whitwell, M Woodward, N Grecian and J Rubin.

In Attendance: J Kay (Town Clerk) and L Wellings (Deputy Town Clerk).

Absent: Councillors J Smee and J Burdge

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J Ball (personal) and A Sheffield (personal).

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no representations from the public.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Town Improvements Committee held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020, having been circulated among the members were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

5. CHAIR'S VERBAL REPORT

The Chair had no matters to report.

6. TO CONSIDER THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE 23HR WAITING RESTRICTION IN LONG STREET CAR PARK

It was noted that the town was noticeably busier since the shops had reopened; adequate notice would need to be given before reinstatement of the car parking waiting restriction.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to reinstate the 23 hour waiting restriction in the Long Street Car Park on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

7. TO CONSIDER A SUBMISSION TO THE RE-OPENING OF OUR HIGH STREET SAFETY FUND

The Stroud District Council guidance relating to the above safety fund was reviewed.

It was noted that the Council had already purchased the social distancing signs and 'Open for Business' banner for the town, at minimal expense. Discussion had taken place with the Farmers Market and they were making their own arrangements for a 'click and collection' service in August, safety signage could be supplied by the Council office if required.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Town Clerk would look at replacement social distancing signs, signs for the car park and tape and signs for the bus shelters/seats.

8. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST NOT TO CUT THE HIGHWAYS VERGE ON KINGSHILL ROAD

Members noted that a member of the public had made a request for the Highways verge on Kingshill Road to remain uncut, to allow it to remain as natural as possible, for the benefit of wildlife.

It was noted that the Council had received complaints from members of the public in the past when the verge was not cut; it is an issue which seems to split public opinion 50/50.

Members discussed highways safety and the need to keep sight lines clear on Kingshill Road, also the possibility that residents in the area may take it upon themselves to cut verges if the authorities do not.

Members discussed other more suitable areas in the town that could be identified for natural management and local wildlife e.g. area at the bottom of Long Street.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Town Clerk would respond with the Council's view that the verges on Kingshill road should be cut regularly, in the interest of highways safety and that other more suitable areas in the town could be identified for natural management e.g. bottom of Long Street, which the Council would be happy to discuss with the relevant parties.

9. TO CONSIDER THE OPPORTUNITY FROM ACCESSIBLE GLOUCESTERSHIRE

An email from Accessible Gloucestershire regarding the opportunity to undertake access audits was considered.

It was noted that Gloucestershire Highways had agreed to undertake a repair job in Silver Street that would result in a small improvement and that some general accessibility street audits had been undertaken as part of the work behind the Dursley Neighbourhood Development Plan.

**IT WAS AGREED** that Accessible Gloucestershire would be advised to approach Gloucestershire County Council Highways Department regarding the opportunity.

10. TO CONSIDER THE REPORT TO UPGRADE THE BUS SHELTER AT ULEY ROAD

A report by the Project Officer, detailing options and quotations for upgrading the bus shelter on Uley Road, was considered.

The Committee had identified the Uley Road bus shelter as a priority for improvement, other bus shelter improvements would need to be identified and prioritised for the future work programme.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to accept the report recommendations and the quotation from Externiture for a complete refurbishment of the bus shelter, with the installation of perch seating, at a cost of £1351.12 (+VAT) and to accept Gloucestershire County Council's offer to pay for the seating (£337.50) and repair of hard standing.

11. TO CONSIDER AN UPDATE REGARDING THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Members considered an update on the Visitor Information Centre 6 month trial period that had been due to start within Dursley Library from April 2020.

It was noted that the lockdown had had a significant impact on tourism and the project, the grant money from Stroud District Council had already been spent on the set up costs.

The Library Service Manager had provided Council with an update, it was envisaged that the Library itself would start to reopen in stages from July with a collection service and public access to follow on, possibly from August, a new Library Manager for Dursley had been appointed so there would need to be a handover period before the Visitor Information Centre could be opened. The Library Service would try to accommodate the Council's view regarding the start of the trial period.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that, subject to agreement from the Library Service, that the trial period would start in September and run for 1 year, instead of 6 months, to take account of the uncertainty with the tourism industry. A September start would coincide with Dursley Walking Festival activities in the Autumn.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:32pm.

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Chairman

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Date