

**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, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

PRESENT

Councillors: W Thomas, P Hayes, A Whitwell, M Woodward, T White, A Sheffield and J Ball.

In Attendance: J Kay (Town Clerk).

Absent: Councillors J Smee.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J Rubin (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 14<sup>th</sup> July 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 registered her thanks to the Project Officer for the completion of the upgrade to Uley Road bus shelter.

6. TO CONSIDER THE UPDATE ON THE WW2 WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The Town Clerk provided an update on a polyurethane composite material as an alternative to the bronze option previously considered by the committee. Any plaque will require to be painted to match the existing plaques due to the decision to paint them black/gold a few years ago.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £2,942.50 + carriage and VAT for a polyurethane plaque containing the names of those who died during World War 2.

7. TO CONSIDER AN UPDATE REGARDING THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

The report included with the agenda was noted. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Mayor would visit the Information Centre and perform a "opening" at a suitable point in the future when Covid-19 restrictions permit.

8. TO CONSIDER UPGRADING THE CAPACITY & COVERAGE OF THE CCTV SYSTEM

The Committee considered the CCTV proposal from Redhand to increase the CCTV coverage in the town centre. **IT WAS RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £6,211.44 + VAT.

9. TO CONSIDER DURSLEY BECOMING A MAKATON FRIENDLY TOWN

The Committee discussed the concept of Makaton, a sign language that has been adapted for people of special needs. Some traders and the local police have expressed their support for an initiative of this type in Dursley.

**IT WAS AGREED** to establish the number of shops, businesses in the town willing to take part and to establish the criteria to become “Makaton Friendly”.

10. TO CONSIDER A MEMORIAL BENCH IN DURSLEY TOWN CENTRE

The Committee considered a request for an existing bench to have a memorial plaque to commemorate four local people who have recently died. A few traders have already committed to raise funds for the plaque and any additions funds to be donated to a cancer charity.

**IT WAS AGREED** for Cllr Woodward and the Town Clerk to confirm the details of the plaque and to obtain a quotation. This information to be provided to the fund raisers. It was suggested that a bench located at the front of the dentist in Parsonage Street or in “The Link” area would be most suitable.

11. TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST FOR NEW BINS FROM DURSLEY IN BLOOM.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to fund a replacement litter bin at The Broadwell and for a new litter bin to be installed at the Town Green, Long Street. Permission from Stroud District Council would be required for the bin at the Town Green.

12. TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2021-2024.

Councillors considered the draft proposals from the Town Clerk. It was noted that expenditure for Festive Dursley would be reduced this year due to the impact Covid-19 was having on the traditional switch-on event.

**IT WAS AGREED** that two new bus shelters should be considered under the future maintenance of bus shelters in the Woodmancote/Shakespeare Road areas of the town. The budget code (480) for New Street Furniture/Bus Shelters to be increased to £4k per year.

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

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Chairman

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Date