

**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, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

PRESENT

Councillors: W Thomas, P Hayes, A Sheffield, N Grecian and D Savvidou

In Attendance: L Wellings (Deputy Town Clerk).

Absent: Councillors J Smee, A Whitwell, M Woodward and J Ball.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Councillor Savvidou put forward a public representation regarding the need for a litter bin by the refurbished bus shelter on the Uley Road.

Members agreed that litter was a problem around the shelter and a bin would help.

**IT WAS AGREED** that installation of a bin would be considered alongside those recently agreed for Long Street and the Broadwell; Stroud District Council would need to agree to empty it.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 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 UPDATE ON THE WW2 WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Members considered feedback from the Diocese and Stroud District Council's Conservation Officer regarding the Town Council's recent planning application for the proposed polyurethane composite WW2 Memorial plaque.

It was noted that the Diocese would require a Faculty to be submitted and objected to current proposals for a plaque made of polyurethane. In addition, they suggested detailed drawings and information regarding fixings and names of those to be commemorated would be required prior to making a decision, as well as the views of the War Memorial Trust and Historic England.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Committee would revisit costings related to a suitable metal plaque, including costs related to a Faculty application and relevant permissions. The new costings information would be considered against the Committee budget and project timetable.

7. TO CONSIDER AN UPDATE REGARDING THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

The Deputy Town Clerk gave members an update regarding the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) trial at the Library.

It was noted that the tourism industry had been hit hard by the Covid 19 pandemic and the promotion of information by the VIC had been very limited due to restricted footfall, event cancellations and postponements. The current focus during this quiet time had been on building up a new Facebook page for the VIC and networking.

Members were made aware of the new VisitStroud.uk website and several new social media accounts, set up during the pandemic by volunteers/businesses, to promote the area e.g. Dursley and the Vale (Instagram) and Cotswold Mountain Biking.

8. TO REVIEW THE SUSPENSION OF THE 23 HOUR WAITING RESTRICTION AT THE LONG STREET CAR PARK

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to continue the suspension of the 23-hour waiting restriction at the Long Street Car Park and review the position again at the end of the current National Lockdown period.

9. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM LLOYDS BANK TO USE THE LONG STREET CAR PARK FOR A MOBILE BANK

Members considered a request from Lloyds Bank to use the Long Street Car Park for mobile banking.

It was noted that other town centre locations had been investigated and unfortunately, Stroud District Council and Sainsbury’s had not been able to grant permission for areas under their control; Gloucestershire County Council had yet to respond to requests to use either ‘the Link’ area or the area of Parsonage Street by the Town Hall.

Members recognised the importance of having mobile banking in the town, in light of planned bank closures. It was suggested that the wide pavement area on Castle Street, adjacent to Sainsbury’s, would be a suitable location and should be considered.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the mobile bank should ideally be located within the town centre and Council would assist County Councillor Patrick to lobby Gloucestershire County Council to grant permission to use the areas identified above. However, if this was not forthcoming and the pavement area on Castle Street, adjacent to Sainsbury’s was not available to use, **IT WAS AGREED** that the Long Street Car Park could be used for Lloyds Bank mobile banking visits to the town, if an assessment planned by the bank found it to be suitable. The Town Clerk would be instructed to liaise with the bank on this assessment, the outcomes and practicalities.

10. TO NOTE THE FESTIVE DURSLEY MEETING ON 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

It was noted that Festive Dursley would be holding a meeting at 10am on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 to review 2020 activities and consider 2021 event plans; Councillors Grecian and Hayes planned to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:04pm.

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Chairman

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Date

