

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE of the Council held in the Methodist Church meeting room at 6:30pm on Tuesday, 12th October 2021 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 2nd November 2021.

PRESENT

Councillors: D Savvidou (Chair), P Hayes, N Grecian, W Thomas, A Rowston, D Cornell, S Ackroyd, T White, J Ball and J Rubin.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Councillor M Woodward (personal).

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Cllr J Rubin joined the meeting.

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- a) To consider a request to review the seating in the paved area adjacent to the Town Hall (circulated with the agenda).

IT WAS RESOLVED to investigate the request and to rearrange the existing seats, allowing space for a third bench to be installed in the future and to move the bin further from the new seat positions. The public utility information would be required from Gloucestershire Highways.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held on Tuesday 13th July 2021, 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 reported that she had chaired a meeting regarding digital marketing and the possibility of creating a website to encourage tourism in Dursley. There had been a recent breakfast meeting arranged by the Digital Dursley group at the Chantry Centre and plans for a Tourism Officer for Market Towns were being taken forward by local Councils including Dursley.

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE (VIC) TRIAL PERIOD AT DURSLEY LIBRARY

A review meeting had been held with costs and statistics discussed. Due to the continuing impact of the pandemic it was proposed at the review to extend the trial for a further year.

IT WAS RESOLVED to agree to the recommendation and extend the trial of the Visitor Information Centre for a year.

The Deputy Clerk was requested to investigate if the recent walking festival had increased visitor enquiries.

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL'S TOURISM AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY MEETING AND TOURISM OFFICER ROLE

The Market Towns have continued to support the need for a tourism officer, with many offering funding. Stroud District Council have announced a two-year period for the project role, financed by the Build Back Better funding opportunity. A meeting to be held to discuss the governance and job description and a steering group which will include market town council representation. Market Town Council's may be asked to consider funding projects or initiatives once the role is operational.

8. TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

a) Dursley Markets Meeting (26/8/21):

The Farmers and Craft markets represented at the meeting, with more linked up and sharing of information between organisers. New generic signs and banners now available for market use.

b) Digital Promotion Meeting (15/09/21):

Joined by two local traders, the group discussed how to best support local businesses and promote Dursley. A possible website and improved links to existing websites e.g. Town Council, use of the domain Visit Dursley.

It was noted that the lack of an active traders' group in Dursley is unfortunate.

c) Dursley Craft Market:

It is hoped that the craft market will continue in 2022, with the next two markets moving indoors due to the weather with the organisers linking with other groups to support the longer-term future of the market.

9. TO CONSIDER CREATION OF A STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR DURSLEY

IT WAS AGREED that Cllrs Ackroyd, Cornell, Savvidou and the Deputy Clerk would produce a draft plan for the Committee to consider.

10. TO CONSIDER STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL'S DRAFT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

IT WAS AGREED that Cllr Cornell would join Cllr Creswick and review the strategy with comments being made to Council on 2nd November 2021.

11. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE WASTE RECYCLING PROPOSAL

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council had signed up with Terracycle, but many of the recycling schemes were at full capacity. The recycling receptors were not suitable for outdoor use. At the current time we have had no response from Sainsburys' on our request to host recycling at the entrance to the supermarket.

12. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON INSTALLING A NOTICEBOARD ON ROSEBERY ROAD

The Co-Operative had agreed to the idea of a notice board being installed on the building, but we require permission from the building owner. At the current time we are awaiting a response to our request for permission.

13. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON A NEW BUS SHELTER ON SOMERSET AVENUE

The informal survey on user numbers had been impacted by the recent disruption to the bus service due to the lack of available drivers. Cllr Ackroyd offered to supply statistics obtained from Stagecoach prior to the recent timetable rescheduling.

14. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BUILD BACK BETTER FUNDING APPLICATION

The Town Council have submitted an application towards a PA system, fireworks, and new festive lights but a decision has been delayed by Gloucestershire County Council due to the funding opportunity being oversubscribed.

15. TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR 2022-25.

The committee consider possible future tourism notice boards to be funded from the tourism reserve fund. It was noted that CCTV at the pavilion may be considered at the Green Spaces Committee meeting.

IT WAS AGREED to present the draft budget to Council on 2nd November 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:16pm.

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Chairman

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Date