

25th September 2018

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the CAR PARK COMMITTEE of the Council held in the Dursley Library, May Lane, Dursley at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 25th September 2018 for presentation to the Council on the Tuesday 2nd October 2018.

PRESENT

Councillors: S Ackroyd (Chair), Mayor Grecian, P Hayes, S Abraham & M Nicholson.

In Attendance: Town Clerk, J Kay.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Woodward, S Creswick & J Burdge (all personal).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations on interest.

3. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no representations from the public at the meeting, but a submission had been received from the Townsend Residents Association prior to the meeting.

a) Townsend Residents Association (TRA) – Request for Resident Permits.

The Councillors considered the request from the TRA and quickly noted that the request for on-street parking was not a Town Council matter and they could not see how any potential permit scheme could be extended outside of the car park limits onto the public highway. The Councillors considered the benefits and disadvantages of the proposal.

IT WAS AGREED that the committee could not commit to the proposal presented by the TRA at this time. The committee concluded that the number of permits requested was likely to be greatly exceeded, including other requests by residents not associated or members of the TRA. The committee did not feel it appropriate that residents get any additional benefit from other potential users of the car park, which is to benefit all potential users, not specifically a resident group or any other specific organisation.

The matter of electric charging had previously been considered by the committee and it had been agreed that this was not currently a priority as Dursley had two charge points located in the nearby Sainsbury's car park and would further reduce the number of parking places available within the site.

IT WAS AGREED that a full response would be sent to the TRA following the Council meeting on 2nd October 2018.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Car Park Committee held on the 31st July 2018 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

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6. PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

The Town Clerk presented the update from the project meeting held on 23rd August 2018 and developments since, this included:

- The serving of “The Party Wall Etc Act 1996” notice on No. 41 Long Street.
- The submission of the planning amendment.
- The cost for the new wall.

The next project progress meeting is scheduled for 10am on Thursday 18th October 2018.

7. BUSINESS RATES

The Town Clerk provided an update the business rates owed to Stroud District Council for the period December 2017 to July 2018. To date the Town Council have been unsuccessful in obtaining a discretionary rate relief as the building was unusable and had been bought solely for the benefit of the community. Stroud District Council were willing to re-consider the request once the Town Council were able to confirm their policy on the operation of the car park.

The Town Clerk confirmed that business rates have now been changed to a zero rating, since the demolition was completed. There will be business rates applicable once the car park is operational, but the exact amount is unknown until the Valuations Office revalue the site following the construction period.

8. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CAR PARK OPERATION POLICIES

a) Parking Charges/Enforcement:

IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend to Council on the 2nd October 2018 the following policies:

- i) Car Park to be designated Long Stay – maximum stay 23 hours in any 24-hour period for all motorised vehicles
- ii) No charges for parking to be introduced.
- iii) Penalties to be issued for over staying 23-hour limit, with penalty charges at recognised standard rates, similar to existing (SDC maintained) car parks in Dursley.
- iv) ANPR/CCTV methods of enforcement to be further investigated.
- v) Membership of the British Parking Association to be investigated.

b) Issuing of Permits

IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend to Council on the 2nd October 2018 that no permits will be issued for the car park at this time, for the reasons stated in minute 4.a

The meeting closed at 7:15pm.

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Chairman

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Date