

11th October 2022

Green Spaces Committee

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE of the Council held at the Methodist Church, Castle Street, Dursley at 7:30pm on Tuesday 11th October 2022 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 1st November 2022.

PRESENT

Councillors: A Stennett (Chair), P Hayes, M Stennett, M Nicholson, D Horn, N Grecian and M Woodward.

In Attendance: J Kay (Town Clerk), L Wellings (Deputy Town Clerk) and two members of the public (including Dursley Town AFC representative).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor T White (personal).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no representations from the public.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Green Spaces Committee held on Tuesday 19th July 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair had no matters to report in addition to the agenda items.

6. TO CONSIDER REMOVING THE COMMUNAL COMPOST BINS AT KINGSHILL ALLOTMENTS AND FUNDING A SMALL POLY TUNNEL FOR COUNCIL USE.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the communal compost bins continue to be overfilled with unwanted green waste, which was overall not suitable for composting. It was noted that the Groundstaff had to empty them in 2021 due to misuse.

A request made by the Deputy Town Clerk and Deputy Town Mayor to remove the bins and replace with a small Poly Tunnel for Council use, to store and grow plants used for town planters, was considered.

IT WAS RESOLVED to remove the compost bins from use and purchase the small Poly Tunnel as selected by the Deputy Town Mayor, at an approx. cost of £60. The Poly Tunnel would be for Council use as suggested above; one of the bins may be retained for use by the Council within the area, the other two bins would be offered to the Chantry Centre Garden/Vale Community Hospital Allotment Scheme.

7. TO RECEIVE THE MEMORIAL INSPECTION REPORTS

The 2022 memorial inspection reports for Kingshill Cemetery and St Mark's Burial ground were considered and noted.

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PAVILION WATER SYSTEM AT THE WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND

It was noted that emergency work had recently been undertaken to repair a water leak within the pavilion roof area and associated ceiling damage; unfortunately following a safety check undertaken 11/10/22, the gas boiler had now been shut down, with a repair or replacement required.

It was noted that it was now difficult to get replacement parts for the existing gas boiler due to its age, making it obsolete and un-serviceable, the part required for the safety fix had been tracked down for a cost of £600.

IT WAS RESOLVED to arrange for the purchase and installation of a replacement gas boiler, rather than repair, as a matter of urgency. The Town Clerk was given authority by the Committee to proceed, working in close liaison with the Committee Chair, up to a cost of £5,000.

9. TO RECEIVE THE LEGIONELLA RISK ASSESSMENT REPORTS

Members received the Legionella risk assessments reports relating to the War Memorial Recreation Ground Pavilion, Jacob's House and Cemetery, circulated electronically with the agenda.

It was noted that the report for Jacob's House included a 7 in the Summary Recommendations Status table which appears to be an error. It was suggested that this was corrected and removed.

In relation to the report for the War Memorial Recreation Ground and recommendation 1, it was suggested that reference to the training log being held in the central log at Jacob's House should be made within the copy held at the Pavilion.

IT WAS AGREED to accept the reports, taking the above suggested actions into account.

10. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE USE OF AN AREA OF THE WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND BY SPRING VILLA, FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

The Town Clerk provided an update from a recent meeting held with the proprietor of Spring Villa, to review the temporary trial period that had previously been agreed following the last Committee meeting, to initially use the Hatch onto the War Memorial Recreation Ground for the serving of tea, coffee, ice cream etc.

The following points were noted:

- One of the two benches positioned close to the serving Hatch, had sustained some damage from vandalism.
- CCTV had been installed to cover the Hatch serving area.
- Spring Villa staff had been litter picking the area close to the Hatch. Ground staff had not noticed an increase in litter within the area.
- The Hatch was running at a loss and staffing was a challenge in the current climate. Spring Villa was therefore not in a position to pay rent for use of the bench area at this time.

- The Hatch had been a welcomed addition by people using the ground/play areas over the summer months and it continues to open during football matches.
- Spring Villa would like to continue to open the Hatch and still expressed a longer-term aim to be able to serve alcoholic beverages within a delineated, fenced area under license.

Members expressed positive feedback about the Hatch and its potential to be used at events on the ground, but there was some concern raised regarding the potential sale and consumption of alcohol in the future, in relation to enforcement issues and conflict with Dursley's existing Street Drinking ban.

It was noted that any boundary issues would need to be discussed and agreed prior to any licensing application being submitted by Spring Villa in the future.

IT WAS AGREED that the trial period would continue, without rent, until the end of the current football season, in May 2023. A review meeting would be held with the proprietor of Spring Villa at this time, or before if details of a future license application were to be discussed.

11. TO RECEIVE THE INDEPENDENT PLAY INSPECTION REPORTS

Members received the independent play inspection reports relating to the War Memorial Recreation Ground, Highfields Play Area and Kingshill House Play Park, circulated electronically with the agenda.

It was noted that Greenfields had been appointed to undertake some repair work to the Cable Way units, identified as moderate risk within the reports. The remaining low or very low risk items identified would be worked through with Ground staff.

IT WAS AGREED to accept the reports and to note the actions being undertaken as a result.

12. TO NOTE THAT WORK TO INSTALL A NEW FOOTBALL GOAL END AND BASKETBALL HOOP ON THE WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND IS SCHEDULED FOR WEEK COMMENCING 17TH OCTOBER 2022.

It was noted that work to install a new football goal end, basketball hoop and gate on the War Memorial Recreation Ground was scheduled to take place week commencing 17th October 2022. The work area could be fenced off for up to 2 weeks.

13. TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR PERIOD 2023-2026

The draft Green Spaces budget for the period 2023-2026, circulated with the agenda, including reserves and project planner was considered.

It was noted that budget code increases had been applied to allow for a potential rise in energy costs and a replacement vehicle; the existing energy contract was due to end May 2023.

It was suggested that the budget should include the funds to allow for the appointment of a suitable building consultant to provide specialist advice and knowledge on a potential toilet block and refurbishment project for the pavilion.

Initial ideas put forward on the scope, included toilet block type extension, lights, insulation and access path improvements. Funding for the project would need further discussion at Policy and Finance, in respect of the potential use of reserves. It was also suggested pavilion/Rec users should be consulted at an early stage.

IT WAS RESOLVED for the draft budget with the suggested project amendments, following further discussion at Policy and Finance, to be presented to the full Council budget meeting on the 15th November 2022 for consideration.

14. TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS & PUBLIC FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS

IT WAS RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

15. TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AT KINGSHILL PLAY PARK

Members considered five quotations from four play companies with designs for replacement units at Kingshill Play Park. The quotations included the removal of the wooden climbing wall and multi play toddler units which had reached the end of their life.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quote of £15,768.79 from HAGS for the removal of the old units, installation of new 'Angel Cascade' and 'Unimini Ganymede' play units, surfacing and associated preliminaries.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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Chair
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Date