

13th December 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 6:30pm on Tuesday 13th December 2022 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 24th January 2023.

PRESENT

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

In Attendance: L Wellings (Deputy Town Clerk)

Absent: D Horn

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors S Ackroyd, T White and M Stennett (all personal).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Members considered email correspondence relating to a request for the creation of more areas of wildflowers/pollinator gardens at St Mark's Church.

It was noted that the Council had been working with volunteers linked to the St James Eco/biodiversity group to implement a new grass cutting schedule and monitor wildlife in the burial ground area e.g. slow worms. There may be scope to implement additional ideas e.g. wildlife/insect boxes.

IT WAS AGREED to liaise with the resident and to put them in touch with the group at St James Church in the first instance.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Green Spaces Committee held on Tuesday 11th October 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair reported on the need to look at tree planting, following the loss of several trees over recent years and reflected back on a Tree Planting Network Group Meeting held earlier in the year. The Committee would consider where new trees could be planted as part of next years work programme. It was noted other Councillors may wish to get involved in identifying suitable planting areas.

The next agenda would include an item to allow discussion on wider environmental issues, taking a closer look at what the Council already does against the Climate Change and Environmental Issues Mission Statement.

6. TO NOTE THAT A NEW GAS BOILER HAS BEEN INSTALLED IN THE PAVILION ON THE WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND

It was noted that a new gas boiler had been installed in the pavilion to replace the old one that had reached the end of its life; the new boiler was working well, heating and hot water had been restored.

7. TO CONSIDER THE COMMENTS RAISED DURING THE NOVEMBER 2022 COUNCILLOR INSPECTION

Several comments were considered and discussed below:

i) Replacement of open litter bins.

IT WAS RESOLVED to replace the two remaining open litter bins on the War Memorial Recreation Ground for metal enclosed bins, similar to those already on site. The price of a bin ranged between £300-£700, the cost to the Council per bin should not exceed £700.

ii) Creation of a graffiti wall at the War Memorial Recreation Ground.

IT WAS AGREED that the pavilion itself was unsuitable and the Council would not wish to encourage graffiti on existing structures. The committee would await the outcome of the Town Improvement Committee’s Kingshill bus shelter art project.

iii) The continued need for vehicle access gates on the War Memorial Recreation Ground, at the Knapp and Rednock Drive.

IT WAS AGREED that the War Memorial Recreation Ground vehicle access gates on the Knapp and Rednock Drive were still required (e.g. events and hedge cutting maintenance access).

iv) Highfields play surface repairs.

It was noted that play surface repair work was part of the groundstaff work programme and would be carried out in the coming weeks, weather conditions permitting.

8. TO REVIEW THE COUNCILS ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT AND AGREE SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO UPDATE RENT PAYMENT DATES AND DATA PROTECTION INFORMATION

Suggested minor amendments to the Council’s allotment tenancy were considered. In section 1, an amendment would be made to delete ‘on the first day of April each year’ and to include – ‘we will send you a yearly invoice in April’.

In relation to data protection, the paragraph would be amended to read – ‘For the purposes of this agreement and communication, I agree to my signature, name, address, contact number and email being held by the Council, in both physical and electronic form’.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the amendments as discussed above and reissue the updated tenancy with allotment rent invoices. The Committee would consider the introduction of a formal allotment eviction policy document at a future meeting.

9. TO CONSIDER FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2023-2024

The draft Schedule of Fees and Charges paper circulated with the agenda, was considered.

IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend to Council that there be a 3% increase to the fees and charges for 2023/24. A review/comparison exercise would be undertaken during 2023/24, ahead of the October 2023 budget setting Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 7:05pm.

.....
Chair

.....
Date