

7<sup>th</sup> February 2023

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 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

### PRESENT

Councillors: A Stennett (Chair), P Hayes, M Stennett, S Ackroyd, D Horn, N Grecian, M Woodward and T Stride.

In Attendance: L Wellings (Deputy Town Clerk)

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors T Kinnison and T White (both personal). (*Apologies for Councillor M Nicholson (personal) given but not reported until after the meeting*).

#### 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 13<sup>th</sup> December 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 minor damage to the new slide at Kingshill Play Park, which was disappointing to hear. It was noted that the area had recently been an anti-social hot spot which the Council was working with the local police team on.

It was also noted that the Council poly tunnel, agreed at the committee meeting on 11th October 2022, had been installed at the allotment site.

#### 6. ST MARK'S CHURCH

- a) Members received an update on the closure of St Mark's; information had been published in the Winter edition of Dursley Matters – the last Sunday Service would be held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and a Service of Thanksgiving would be held with the Bishop of Gloucester on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- b) The Deputy Town Clerk gave an update on the Wildlife and Biodiversity Plan for St Mark's, a quick botanical survey was undertaken on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 by local volunteer and ecologist, Kathy Meakin, which indicated up to 26 species of plant. It was also noted that the plant community seemed to be doing well and, as expected, was effectively a woodland glade; there was no need to sow any wildflowers and the area should be allowed to develop naturally as per the plan.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Deputy Town Clerk would pass on the Committee's thanks to Kathy Meakin for the time and expert advice provided to assist the project to

develop. The opportunity to create natural 'bug hotels, with small areas of logs for example, would be a welcome addition to the plan, in suitable areas.

7. TO AGREE A REPLACEMENT NOTICEBOARD FOR KINGSHILL CEMETERY, FOLLOWING THE REMOVAL OF THE WOODEN ONE ON THE ENTRANCE ROUNDABOUT

Members considered five noticeboard options and quotations. Questions about the manufacturers glazing and the difference between 'plexichoc' and 'plexishock' options, and which was the best, were raised.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to purchase and install the Green Barnes black coated model outlined within the quotation document, at a cost of £671 plus carriage, VAT and the cost of posts, subject to the office and Committee Chair investigating the difference between the glazing types to ensure suitability of the Green Barnes 'plexichoc'. The Committee Chair would make the final decision.

8. REGARDING THE COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES MISSION STATEMENT

- a) Members discussed the paper produced by Councillor Stride alongside the current Climate Change and Environmental Issues Mission Statement.

It was recognised that the statement document needed to be updated and refreshed. Other ideas/suggestions picked up in the general discussion included the following:

- that Council look to use the Wildlife and Biodiversity Plan for St Mark's as an example and see if a similar approach could be taken/replicated within other Council managed Green Spaces, to the benefit of improving the effectiveness of green corridors in the town over time.
- that Council revisit the electronic agenda system target and consider upgrading the Council's projector. The Committee Chair offered a trial of a newer/higher spec projector that could be more suitable for Council meetings.
- that Council consider increasing the number of trees planted to replace those lost, so increasing the one for one replacement target.
- that Council look at introducing a simple timetabled action plan that could help bring the statements to life and link in with the Council's current strategic plan and project/work plans.
- that Council look at energy usage (i.e. gas, electricity, litres of fuel) to produce a benchmark to work from to track progress and to see, over time, if energy consumption had been reduced.
- Stroud District Council's climate change strategy and master plan may have some suitable targets/measures that could be replicated.
- identify the relevant groups that are currently working within the community to find out more about how potential links could be made with them and how people could work better together, moving forward (e.g. Cam and Dursley Climate Action Network, Response/Respond project).
- Appendix A could include reference to those relevant groups that Council works with (e.g. Dursley In Bloom and Twinberrow Foundation).

**IT WAS AGREED** that, as a first step, Councillor Stride and the Deputy Town Clerk would work to review and refresh the Climate Change and Environmental Issues Mission Statement and compile a simple draft action plan, as mentioned in the suggestions above, for the Policy and Finance Committee to consider. Councillor Stride would also make initial contact with the groups that exist across Dursley. The Committee Chair would forward the contact for a county tree group.

b) **IT WAS AGREED** that Councillor Stride would help the Deputy Town Clerk to identify suitable planting areas for replacement trees during the 2023/24 season, following the recent loss of a number of Council trees.

9. TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO INFORMATION FROM STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL IN RELATION TO A POSSIBLE FUTURE PROJECT REGARDING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HEATING SYSTEM AT THE PULSE

Members considered information supplied by Stroud District Council regarding a possible project to replace gas boilers with air or ground source heat pumps at the Pulse.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that, at this time, not enough information had been supplied for Council to form a conclusion as to whether agreement to lay ground loops within the grounds of the War Memorial Recreation Ground (Rec) might be possible. The Rec is a well-used space and more information on a proposal would be required. The Council would be open to being involved in the discussion surrounding the project and happy to be consulted.

10. 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.

11. TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR THE DIGITISATION AND SCANNING OF KINGSHILL CEMETERY & ST MARK'S BURIAL GROUND RECORDS

Members considered four quotations for the digitisation and scanning of Kingshill Cemetery and St Mark's Burial Ground records.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from Max Communications Ltd of £1,250.29+vat.

The meeting closed at 7:46pm.

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Chair

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Date