

18th March 2025

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 18th March 2025 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 1st April 2025.

PRESENT

Councillors: T Stride (Chair), P Hayes (Vice-Chair), J Rubin, A Stennett and C Sweet.

In Attendance: J Kay (Town Clerk) and 8 members of the public, including representatives from Dursley Town AFC.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs T White, A White and M Stennett provided their apologies for absence (all personal).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sweet declared a non-pecuniary interest as a life member and former Chair of Dursley Town AFC.

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chair welcomed the members of the public to the meeting, who were all users of the Council's Green Spaces areas and that their comments would be heard under Item 6.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Green Spaces Committee held on Tuesday 4th February 2025 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.

6. ALLOTMENT TENANTS & REGULAR USERS OF THE COUNCIL'S GREEN SPACE AREAS

The Chair of Dursley Town AFC requested an update on the previous request for a multi-use all weather pitch to be installed on the War Memorial Recreation Ground. The matter was discussed including examples of recently completed projects at other locations and the growing need for this type of facility in the Dursley area.

The Chair of Dursley Town AFC requested that fees for the "main pitch" on the War Memorial Recreation Ground be waived due to the amount of maintenance and grass cutting being carried out by the club. This request would be considered at the meeting of Council on the 1st April 2025.

The Chair of Dursley Town AFC also thanked the Council for their ongoing support of the club and the positive relationship with Council's staff and grass cutting contractor.

An allotment tenant was happy with the allotment site, including some new allotment tenants become involved. It was requested that the Council consider some maintenance of the hedge on the Cam side of the allotments.

A member of the public referred to his written request for Pickleball markings to be added to the tennis court at the War Memorial Recreation Ground.

A member of the Stinchcombe Stragglers Cricket Club raised the matter of a new cricket square being reinstated on the War Memorial Recreation Ground to allow the return of cricket and soft ball being played in the town. The club members currently play cricket at Dursley Rugby Club and would like the option of playing on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

7. REGARDING ALLOTMENTS:

- i. To discuss any matters arising from item 6 and consider any action required.

IT WAS AGREED the Town Clerk would inspect the hedge at the allotments and arrange any necessary maintenance.

- ii. It was noted that that a skip has been ordered for the allotment use over the Easter break.
- iii. It was noted that there are currently two vacant plots, which will be allocated to people on the waiting list.
- iv. It was noted that members of the public can comment on the Council's Environmental Land Management Plan for the site, available online at:
<https://www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk/allotments1>

8. REGARDING KINGSHILL & HIGHFIELDS PLAY AREAS:

- i. To discuss any matters arising from item 6 and consider any action required.

There were no matters raised by the public. The representatives from Dursley Town AFC did not feel either location was useful for training due to lack of parking provision.

- ii. It was noted that members of the public can comment on the Council's Environmental Land Management Plans for the sites, available online at:
<https://www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk/recreational-areas>

9. REGARDING WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND:

- i. To discuss any matters arising from item 6 and consider any action required.

IT WAS AGREED that the Committee provisionally supported that idea of a multi-use all weather surface but would require a more detailed proposal which should include details on costs, funding, maintenance, lighting etc.

IT WAS AGREED that cricket provision would be a welcome feature at the War Memorial Recreation Ground and was supported by the proprietor of the nearby former Cricket Club building – now operating as Spring Villa. It was noted that there are many more football teams playing on the War Memorial Recreation Ground than when cricket was last played so there could be some conflict between the sports as the War Memorial Recreation Ground is used for training outside of the traditional

football season. The committee would require a more detailed proposal to consider the request at a future date.

- ii. To consider the request from Dursley Town Girls FC regarding the tournament on 22nd June 2025. (Members: Email request attached).

Members of the Dursley Town AFC and parents of the players provided their comments on the presence of Rogers Fair at the same time as their annual event scheduled for 22nd June 2025. The main points of concern being available space, safe guarding and impact on funds raised. The Town Clerk provided some background on the change to the schedule for the 2025 visit of Rogers Fair.

IT WAS AGREED that the Town Clerk would review the booking “clash” and consider the protected rights of the fair to trade on the War Memorial Recreation Ground in June. An update would be provided to Dursley Town AFC at the earliest opportunity.

- iii. To consider a request for the addition of pickleball lines on the tennis courts. (Members: information attached).

IT WAS RESOLVED to obtain a quote for the painting of pickleball lines on the tennis courts as requested and acknowledged that the best time of year to play was over the summer period.

- iv. To receive an update on the Pavilion Project.

The Town Clerk confirmed the tender period was now open with completed tenders due on or before 25th April 2025. It was anticipated that the Council would confirm the decision on the preferred tenderer at the June meeting of Council. Discussion over timescales for construction and impact on the availability of the pavilion would then commence with regular hirers being kept up to date.

- v. It was noted that members of the public can comment on the Council’s Environmental Land Management Plan for the site, available online at:
<https://www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk/recreational-areas>

10. REGARDING KINGSHILL CEMETERY:

- i. To discuss any matters arising from item 6 and consider any action required.

There were no matters raised by the public

- ii. To consider additional plants for the Garden of Remembrance areas at Kingshill Cemetery. (Members: photos attached)

IT WAS RESOLVED to purchase additional plants, including evergreens which will provide some colour during winter months.

- iii. To receive an update on tree works.

The Chair confirmed that the first phase of the tree cutting works was completed and had opened up that part of the cemetery with light and views of the surrounding area.

- iv. It was noted that members of the public can comment on the Council’s Environmental Land Management Plan for the site, available online at: <https://www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk/burial-information>

The following business to be dealt with in a closed session:

- 11. To resolve to exclude the press and 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. The members of the public left the meeting.

- 12. To consider the quotes for a replacement BMX track boundary fence at Highfields Play Area. (Members: quotes attached)

The Committee considered the options for the replacement fence and confirmed that a wooden fence would be preferred to a metal option. The Committee requested a quote be obtained for a wood effect plastic fence for comparison to the quotes received for a wooden fence.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm.

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Chair

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Date