

14th December 2021

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 12th October 2021 for presentation to the Council on the 2nd November 2021.

PRESENT

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

In Attendance: L Wellings (Deputy Town Clerk), District Councillor D Cornell and one member of the public, K Meakin (Cam & Dursley Climate Action Group).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor D Horn (work).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- a) Request to improve maintenance of the Tennis Courts surface.

Members considered an email from a member of the public regarding the deteriorating tennis court surface in respect of moss and fading line markings.

IT WAS AGREED to investigate the works required with the original court installer and the availability of Government grants related to park based tennis court improvements.

- b) Request to consider a change to the mowing regime at St Mark's Church to benefit wildlife and biodiversity.

Members considered an email from a member of the St James' Eco Church Group regarding the possibility of leaving some areas of the burial ground at St Mark's Church unmown over the summer months May to September.

IT WAS AGREED to investigate how wildlife and biodiversity could be supported, in particular slow worms and hedgehogs. The Committee would work with resident, K Meakin, a local ecologist who had experience of the site and who stepped forward at the meeting, to volunteer time to help advise on a suitable plan of action.

- c) Request to plant more trees on Council green spaces in response to COP 26, including The War Memorial Recreation Ground and Highfields Play Area.

Members considered an email from a member of the public regarding the above.

In addition, it was noted that the Council had been gifted two English Oak trees from the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire which would be planted in the town to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, exact locations and permissions to be agreed but possibly Long

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IT WAS AGREED to investigate the existence of any suitable space at Union Street Green, the Cambridge Avenue green space at Woodmancote, local schools and Council land on which native trees could be planted. The Council would work in partnership with the landowners, including Stroud District Council, should space be identified. Local charitable groups e.g. Lions, may also be interested in supporting.

d) Holywell Orchard – community project work

Members considered an email request made by District Councillor Cornell regarding Holywell Orchard, a site which is shared by Cam and Dursley. The Committee was asked to consider whether the Council would be interested in working in partnership to support a project to renew community work on the site.

It was noted that following some resident concerns raised about the state of the path and bridge, a site meeting had been held with District Councillors, a representative of the Stroud Valley Project (SVP) and a Stroud District Council Officer.

As a result, Stroud District Council had agreed to undertake the most essential repairs detailed in a document produced by SVP. This document also suggested improvements and general enhancement work that could be undertaken on the site, including a 1 year volunteer project.

During the discussion several ideas were put forward. Resident, K Meakin, suggested that the Cam and Dursley Climate Action Group would be very interested in the site and a community project; there may be pots of money available via the Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery Networks; with a background in biodiversity and ecology, K Meakin would be keen to help with this project; the site would link to the green space/corridor projects outlined within the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

IT WAS AGREED that the Council would be interested in further discussions about kickstarting a project in partnership with Stroud District Council and Cam Parish Council. An initial meeting of representatives was suggested as the first step forward.

The member of the public withdrew from the meeting.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Green Spaces Committee held on 12th October 2021 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE FUTURE USE OF THE SPACE/POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT FOLLOWING THE LOSS OF HIGHFIELDS YOUTH SHELTER

It was noted that an article had been published in the October Dursley Matters newsletter seeking public views on the future use of the space and possible replacement equipment/youth shelter.

To date Council had received two resident requests not to replace the shelter.

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The article would be republished on the Council website and the views of young people via the Cam and Dursley Youth Forum and The Door Youth Club, would be sought.

IT WAS AGREED to set a deadline for comments by the end of January 2022 in time for the next Committee meeting in February 2022.

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE WATER SYSTEM AT THE WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND, INCLUDING BOILER REPLACEMENT & ROUTINE LEGIONELLA TESTING

It was noted that routine legionella testing at the War Memorial Recreation Ground was scheduled to take place in January 2022; the three contractors initially approached for new boiler quotes had been invited back to provide a second option quote for a suitable pressurised cylinder system, following further discussions relating to possible options.

Work to secure quotations for consideration would continue.

Councillor Horn would be thanked for providing technical advice in relation to options.

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE INSTALLATION OF FREEZE PROOF TAPS AT KINGSHILL ALLOTMENTS

It was noted that advice had been sought as to the bury depth of the freeze proof taps to be purchased; the Ground Staff had to dig investigation holes. Advice was now awaited along with estimated installation costs.

Members were advised that the original £300 budget might need to be adjusted up slightly to allow for the installation costs. A 2ft bury depth requirement would push the cost of the two taps required to approx. £206. This was accepted as a possibility. The Town Clerk had advised that the maintenance budget could be used if required and would liaise with the Committee Chairman once installation costs were established.

8. TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO THE DEFRA CONSULTATION ON AMENDMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2016

Members considered a paper, circulated with the agenda, on the above consultation which outlined proposals that apply to ground activities and related surface water discharge activities.

It was noted that the proposed amendments to the regulations would adversely impact on all Burial Authorities and existing cemeteries/burial grounds. Proposed conditions relating to grave plot sizes and clearances, in practice, would significantly reduce the existing capacity of sites, as well as introduce additional costs.

IT WAS AGREED to oppose the changes. A response to the consultation would be drafted by the Deputy Town Clerk, in liaison with the office and Chair of the Green Spaces Committee, before being submitted by the deadline.

9. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST WHICH FALLS OUTSIDE THE CURRENT CEMETERY REGULATIONS TO REFURBISH A MEMORIAL HEADSTONE IN KINGSHILL CEMETERY

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Members considered a request from a resident who would like to commission a memorial mason to refurbish the headstone of their late mother. The records show a purchased Exclusive Right of Burial (ERB) for the grave, however the owner is deceased and the Council office had been unable to make an ERB transfer following investigations.

Members considered items 29 and 34 of the Council's Cemetery Regulations alongside a paper circulated with the agenda.

IT WAS RESOLVED to grant permission for the request on condition that the refurbishment works do not result in material changes to the memorial e.g. wording. No charge would be made for the refurbishment application.

10. TO CONSIDER GREEN SPACES PROJECTS & PRIORITIES FOR 2022

Members considered the projects outlined at budget setting and placed them in order of priority i. to iv.

IT WAS AGREED to proceed with projects in the following order:

- i. Basketball area on the War Memorial Recreation Ground. Given their close proximity, this project could incorporate the concrete skatepark area if a suitable phased scheme was put forward as a design option.
- ii. Youth Shelter replacement at Highfields Play area. The detail of the project is dependent on the outcome of the public consultation.
- iii. Floodlighting on the War Memorial Recreation Ground.
- iv. Skatepark area on the War Memorial Recreation Ground (see i. above).

The following was highlighted for maintenance works:

- Tennis courts (see minute 3 a) above).
- War Memorial Recreation Ground Pavilion (asbestos survey, water system and roof)
- Kingshill House Park - memorial plaque/plinth

District Councillor Cornell withdrew from the meeting.

11. BUSINESS DEALT WITH IN COMMITTEE:

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

12. TO CONSIDER THE QUOTATIONS RECEIVED FOR ASBESTOS SURVEY WORKS AT THE WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND PAVILION, KINGSHILL CEMETERY SHED & JACOB'S HOUSE

Three quotations had been obtained for asbestos survey works at the above properties and circulated with the agenda.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Hawkins Ltd at a cost of £560 plus £10 per sample plus VAT on condition that it is for 3 separate reports as opposed to combined.

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The meeting closed at 7:50pm.

Green Spaces Committee



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Chair

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Date

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