

15th February 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 15th February 2022 for presentation to the Council on the 1st March 2022.

PRESENT

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

In Attendance: J Kay (Town Clerk), L Wellings (Deputy Town Clerk); Councillors W Thomas and D Savvidou.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- a) Request to consider implementing a 'No Dogs allowed' arrangement at Highfields Play Area in response to dog fouling on the site.

An email from a member of the public regarding the request and a growing dog fouling problem had been received.

Councillor Thomas spoke as a member of the public and a local dog walker, to urge the Council not to introduce a 'No dogs allowed' arrangement, as the site was popular with dog walkers living in the area and used to access the adjoining countryside walks. Instead, the Council should look at better communications to tackle the dog fouling problem.

It was noted that the Council leases Highfields Play Area from Stroud District Council, so is not the landowner; it is very popular with dog walkers; temporary signage relating to dog fouling had been installed in the interim and the Neighbourhood Warden would be putting some stencilling down on the entrance pathway; the gates around the fenced off play area need to be replaced.

IT WAS RESOLVED not to implement a 'No Dogs allowed' arrangement but to undertake improvements to signage and replace the gates around the fenced off the play area, quotations would be sought.

Councillor Thomas withdrew from the meeting.

- b) Request to place a memorial bench on the War Memorial Recreation Ground.

Members considered a request to place a memorial bench close to the main football pitch.

Concerns were raised about the potential to increase anti-social behaviour incidents and noise from gatherings along the boundary with the Knapp, in particular, given the amount of

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benches already in situ. It was suggested that there may be other suitable memorial options that could be considered e.g. new tree, plaque for existing bench.

IT WAS AGREED that the Town Clerk would invite the person who had made the request to a site meeting to discuss the concerns raised and the possible memorial options that might be suitable.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Green Spaces Committee held on 14th December 2021 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair sought a volunteer to attend the Holywell Orchard meeting on 21st February 2022 at 1:30pm, along with representatives from Cam Parish Council and Stroud District Council. Councillor Hayes volunteered to attend on behalf of Council.

The Chair informed the Committee that the office had received a War Memorial Recreation Ground booking for a travelling circus, the circus intends to donate the proceeds from the first night to the NHS.

IT WAS AGREED that the Council would waive the booking fee for the first night of the circus, in support of the charity donation.

6. TO CONSIDER AN UPDATE FROM THE ARBORICULTURIST MONITORING THE CONDITION OF THE YEW TREE AT ST MARK'S CHURCH

It was noted that the yew tree in St Mark's continues to decline to the extent that the Arboriculturist now recommended removal and replacement as the best option; Phytophthora is no longer suspected as the cause of the decline but rather major root severance at some time; there is no immediate need to remove the tree as it was expected to remain upright for several years and would be monitored as part of the Councils routine tree survey work.

Councillor Woodward suggested that the wood may be suitable for carving a sculpture for the Sculpture and Play Trail in Twinberrow Woods, at such a time that it is felled. This would be investigated.

7. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK REGARDING THE INVESTIGATION INTO HOW WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY COULD BE SUPPORTED AT ST MARK'S CHURCH

It was noted that the Deputy Town Clerk and Senior Groundstaff had met with K Meakin, a local ecologist, who had volunteered to advise on a suitable plan to support wildlife and biodiversity at the St Mark's burial ground. The site meeting had discussed potential wildlife survey work for slow works and hedgehogs, steps to take in relation to routine maintenance (e.g. gradient strimming around hedge lines) opportunities to encourage the wild/woodland flower population and areas where wildlife corridors could be enhanced.

It was noted that a plan would be further developed from the site meeting and the St James' Eco Church Group would be given an update for feedback.

8. TO CONSIDER CONSULTATION FEEDBACK REGARDING THE FUTURE USE OF THE SPACE/POSSIBLE EQUIPMENT FOLLOWING THE REMOVAL OF THE YOUTH SHELTER AT HIGHFIELDS PLAY AREA

It was noted that an article had originally been published in the October Dursley Matters newsletter seeking public views on the future use of the space and possible replacement equipment/youth shelter at Highfields Play Area. Following the December committee meeting, the article had been republished on the Council website and the views of young people via the Cam and Dursley Youth Forum and The Door Youth Club, sought.

Members considered the feedback received. It was noted that resident requests had been received not to replace the shelter due to it attracting anti-social behaviour; feedback from both the Cam and Dursley Youth Forum and The Door Youth Club, had been received in favour of a new shelter being installed.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Council would install a new youth shelter at Highfields Play Area and would invite interested parties to the March Committee meeting, so that design and location issues could be raised.

9. TO CONSIDER AN UPDATE ON THE TENNIS COURTS SURFACE & FEEDBACK FROM A GROUP OF PLAYERS USING THE COURTS WEEKLY.

Members considered feedback from players using the tennis courts on a weekly basis. It was noted that it was the group's opinion that the courts were in a good condition and did not need unnecessary repair or relining works, only continued moss removal and routine monitoring at this time. The players wished to thank the Council and Groundstaff for maintaining the facility.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Ground staff would be instructed to carry out routine moss removal and to continue to monitor the court surface and nets.

10. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM DURSLEY TOWN AFC TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR THE CLUB TO REINSTATE THE SPECTATOR BARRIER ON THE REMAINING 3 SIDES OF THE MAIN PITCH ON THE WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND.

Members considered granting permission for Dursley Town AFC to reinstate the spectator barriers on the 3 remaining sides of the main pitch on the War Memorial Recreation Ground; the club recently applied for a Football Foundation grant to provide 75% of the funds required.

IT WAS RESOLVED to grant permission subject to confirmation of the barrier design details (i.e. sturdy and robust), that access for the mower and grass maintenance machinery would not be compromised by barrier installation and that the club would be responsible for maintenance.

11. 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 carried out in January 2022 was clear, with no issues or actions identified; site meetings had been taking place to prepare quotations for

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the boiler replacement works but this had been slow to progress due to the covid pandemic and staffing issues. Work to secure quotations for consideration would continue.

IT WAS AGREED that the timescale for Legionella and Microbiological Water Sampling would be reviewed in line with the current Scheme of Control.

12. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ASBESTOS SURVEY WORKS AT THE PAVILION ON THE WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND, KINGSHILL CEMETERY SHED & JACOB'S HOUSE

It was noted that Hawkins Insulation Ltd had undertaken the Council's asbestos survey work for council premises on 2nd February 2022 and the reports were awaited.

13. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM VOLUNTEERS DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY GARDEN SITUATED AT THE ENTRANCE TO HIGHFIELDS PLAY AREA, FOR A DONATION OF COMPOST & WOOD

The Mayor, Councillor Ackroyd, outlined a donation request for wood and compost, which had been received from volunteers working on a small disused patch of ground at the entrance to Highfields Play Area.

It was noted that the area of land had been left over from a previous housing development and ownership was not clear to establish, local resident volunteers had removed unsightly overgrowth and had successfully started using it as a community garden area for growing vegetable and fruit.

IT WAS AGREED to allocate £200 from the maintenance budget to buy compost and suitable wood from the local supplier Mole, to be arranged by the Mayor and Council office.

14. 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.

15. TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR SUITABLE 'NO FREEZE' TAPS & THEIR INSTALLATION AT THE ALLOTMENT SITE

Members considered the investigations into the purchase and installation of suitable freeze proof taps for the allotments.

IT WAS RESOLVED to purchase the 2ft bury depth stand pipe water hydrants from Arley Moss Supplies at a cost of £206.66 plus VAT and delivery and to accept the quotation from D Hill Building for installation works at a cost of £380 plus VAT.

The meeting closed at 7:20pm.



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Chair
Date