

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE of the Council held in the **Methodist Church Rooms, Castle Street, Dursley** at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 20th September 2016 for presentation to the Council on the 4th October 2016.

PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor A Stennett.

Councillors: Mayor Grecian, M Laybourne, F Firth, J Ball, M Nicholson, P Hayes.

In Attendance: Town Clerk, J Kay & Deputy Town Clerk, L Wellings.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors B Marsh, (personal), C Nelmes (business) and B Cairns (business).

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensations were received.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Cllr Stennett presented one email and one letter that were received from the public prior to the meeting.

The email was to request that dogs be allowed on the WMRG with the extra presence on the WMRG helping to reduce the threat of vandalism.

IT WAS AGREED that council would not be changing the current rules on dogs being allowed on the WMRG due to existing issues with dog fouling which would be increased if permission was granted and it was not accepted by the committee that this change would have an impact on recent anti-social behaviour and vandalism. The Town Clerk will respond to the member of the public.

The letter was in response to a request by the Town Council to the Dursley Cricket Social Club not to use the emergency access to the WMRG unless there is an actual emergency.

IT WAS AGREED that the reply from the Secretary of the Social Club had missed the point entirely that they did not have permission. Town Clerk was asked to respond reminding the club that there is a drinking ban in the town centre that includes the WMRG and this activity is not only not permitted by the Town Council but is illegal.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 19th July 2016, having been circulated among the members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6. CHAIRMAN'S VERBAL REPORT

The Chairman mentioned the recent vandalism to the play area and Cllr Nicholson reported that he would highlight this at the upcoming Police Panel meeting on the 27th September 2016.

7. BMX TRACK AT HIGHFIELDS PLAY AREA

Three quotations for maintenance to the BMX track at Highfields Play Area were presented to the Committee by the Town Clerk.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the quote from Clark and Kent Contractors to be accepted and for the Town Clerk to arrange for the works to be carried out. The works will include the tarmacing of the corners, stone/dust of the straight lengths of track and other general maintenance.

8. GOALPOSTS AT HIGHFIELDS PLAY AREA

The Deputy Clerk presented options for replacement goal posts at Highfields Play Area.

IT WAS AGREED to confirm the size of the existing goal posts and obtain quotes for two new goal posts without nets and for one of the goals to include rugby posts as these were popular in other local play areas.

9. INSURANCE

Members noted the increase in the insurance premium due to the addition of playground facilities from Highfields.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the increased premium but to request a quote to increase the sums insured for Play Equipment and Surfaces up to £350,000. This additional sum would cover the playground surfaces, youth shelter not currently included within the insurance cover.

10. CCTV PROPOSAL

Members noted the response and comments from PCSO Griffiths regarding additional CCTV in the town centre and the WMRG.

The Town Clerk updated the committee that he was planning to meet a contractor on the week commencing 3rd October and would seek to find a third option for committee to consider in the future. The Town Clerk will also investigate grant funding options.

11. REVIEW OF ANNUAL PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

It was commented that the playground inspections reports made it difficult to prioritise repairs as many play items were low risk even if they had multiple defects and there was surprise that some of the items including the BMX track and goal posts at Highfields were deemed low risk when the Committee had concerns over their safety and were considering replacement or urgent maintenance.

IT WAS AGREED that this feedback would be reported back to our playground assessors and that a common sense approach would be taken to prioritising the necessary repairs highlighted within the reports.

12. VOLUNTEER DAY AT HIGHFIELDS PLAY AREA

IT WAS AGREED that the Town Clerk should seek to discover if there was a significant level of interest to hold a volunteer day to carry out general repairs to the fencing, play equipment etc at the Highfields Play Area.

13. IN RELATION TO KINGSHILL CEMETERY

a) Guidelines for Memorials & Planting

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the guidance documentation with the alteration that grass seeding of graves will be carried out at four weeks after the interments following the removal of the flowers etc. The Guidance document to be advertised on the Cemetery notice board and issued to the owners of graves that fall outside of the guidelines.

b) Grave Space Maintenance

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Committee do not want to consider offering this service due to the current staff structure.

c) Non-Resident Charges for Exclusive Right of Burials

The recent enquiry relating to an ERB being purchased by a resident of Dursley for an interment of a non-Dursley resident was considered.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the current guidance to remain.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:53p.m.

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Chairman

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Date