

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 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 18th October 2016 for presentation to the Council on the 1st November 2016.

PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor A Stennett.

Councillors: N Grecian (Mayor), M Laybourne, F Firth (from item 4), J Ball, M Nicholson, B Cairns (Vice Chairman)

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

Absent: Councillor C Nelmes

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor B Marsh, (personal).

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

Mr B Thomas from Dursley Football Club asked the committee to clarify the reasons why Council would not allow direct access from the Dursley Cricket Social Club to/from the War Memorial Recreation Ground (WMRG) other than for emergencies. This was in response to Council's letter to the Club dated 22nd September 2016.

Mr Thomas explained that in times when Dursley had a cricket club, the access door in question had been used by players without complaint; having the door open onto the ground made it easier for football players to access the club after matches and its closure would impact significantly on trade.

Members reiterated the concerns outlined in the letter and in particular those relating to drinking alcohol on the WMRG and littering from smoking (cigarette butts).

Councillor F Firth joined the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the access door from the Social Club to/from the WMRG could be used for non-emergencies with the following conditions:

- a) Direct access to the WMRG is only to be permitted on match days (and not when non-related paid events are taking place).
- b) The Social Club must provide ash trays for smokers to use.

- c) The Social Club must use signs to remind people that drinking alcohol on the WMRG is illegal and no alcohol, glasses/bottles should be taken out onto the WMRG.
- d) The Social Club must adequately police the situation so that the conditions are not broken.
- e) Continuation of the arrangement to use the door for non-emergencies (as above) is to be reviewed at the end of the current football season.

Mr Thomas informed members that dog mess continues to be a problem on the WMRG; play at the recent football match at home had to be stopped to remove dog mess on the main pitch.

The Chairman explained that a request to allow dogs on the WMRG was considered at the last meeting on 20th September 2016 and had been declined by the Committee; it was accepted that dog mess continues to be a constant problem.

While it was suggested by members that continued PR campaigns, a review of signage and dog bins on the Knapp/Kingshill Road could help tackle the problem, these were not seen as being able to tackle the main offenders who continue to ignore such things.

It was noted that Council is currently investigating the installation of CCTV in the town centre and on the WMRG and if a proposal is agreed the system could help to tackle the problem with dog fouling.

Those present were encouraged to report incidents and people who do not pick up after their dogs to the Stroud District Council Dog Warden; if they have evidence they will prosecute and issue heavy fines.

Mr Thomas asked about progress with the football shed repairs; the back doors are dangerous and the door framework is coming away.

The Town Clerk reported that he is liaising with the building contractor regarding the recent repair work.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 20th September 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 informed members that some minor repair work is currently being organised for play equipment in Kingshill Play Park.

7. PURCHASE OF NEW GOAL POSTS FOR HIGHFIELDS PLAY AREA

Three quotations for the purchase of new replacement goal posts for Highfields Play Area were presented to the Committee by the Town Clerk. The replacement goal posts are football/rugby junior posts.

IT WAS RESOLVED that posts would be installed at both ends of the pitch and the pitch itself would be moved up the field towards the farmland so that the goal posts are further away from housing.

IT WAS RESOLVED that football/rugby posts would be purchased by the Town Clerk up to a cost of £900; the Town Clerk would make a decision on the supplier based on a quality comparison.

8. UPDATE ON CCTV PROJECT

The Town Clerk provided an update on the CCTV project. It was noted that 3 quotations are being sought for a system which includes 3 cameras on the WMRG (to cover the tennis courts, play area and area close to the Tabernacle Garden of Rest), 2 on Parsonage Street and 1 on the Heritage Centre (covering the Market Place) with the option of adding more in the future; the Town Clerk is still awaiting 2 quotations and is preparing a Police and Crime Commissioner Funding application to help with costs; the local police team is supportive of the project which would be in addition to the current CCTV system operated by Stroud District Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED to invite the preferred supplier to a future Green Spaces Committee meeting, following consideration of the quotations.

9. FEES & CHARGES FOR 2017-2018

Members considered fees and charges for the year 2017-2018, a sheet of current fees and proposed increases of 3% and 5% had been circulated with the agenda.

It was noted that the Council office would be undertaking a review of the arrangements and costs for the supply of memorial plaques.

The **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS** a 3% increase on existing fees and charges for 2017-2018, a £500 bond amount that would not be subject to annual increases for the foreseeable future and the inclusion of a separate price matrix for memorial plaques; the cost of which would be driven by supplier charges but with a separate Council admin fee and installation fee to be agreed following the review process (Appendix 1 details).

10. COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN PROGRAMME 2017 TO 2020

The Committee Action Plan Programme circulated with the agenda was reviewed.

The following revisions were made:

- a) Seating project to be carried over to 2017/18.
- b) St Marks' Review of Regulations to be carried over to 2017/18.
- c) MUGA project to include option of extending tennis courts and programmed for 2018/19.
- d) Floodlighting to be included in MUGA project above.

It was noted that the Council's existing loan would be paid off in 2 years' time; given this members discussed possible larger capital project ideas for the WMRG including a MUGA with floodlights, a toilet block and combined football/storage shed.

Members discussed the possibility of having a monthly mobile food outlet on the WMRG and community days during school holidays. It was suggested that it would be better to wait until a toilet block is installed. The Chairman agreed to investigate the idea and possible food suppliers further (e.g. The Scouts).

IT WAS RESOLVED to take the revised Committee Action Plan Programme (Appendix 2) to the full council budget meeting on the 22nd November 2016 for consideration and to circulate the information on PWLB loan borrowing rates issued for the forthcoming Policy and Finance Committee meeting to all members.

11. DRAFT GREEN SPACES BUDGET 2017 TO 2020

The draft Green Spaces budget for the year 2017-2020, including 3-year forward planning was considered.

The following revision was made:

- a) Include £1,000 each year for the Machinery/Vehicle Fund, to build funds for future vehicle needs.

Members discussed issues with the WMRG hedge; the possibility of increasing cuts, untidiness and impact on highways visibility.

IT WAS RESOLVED for the draft budget (Appendix 3) to be presented to the full council budget meeting on the 22nd November 2016 for consideration and for the Town Clerk to contact the Council’s Arboriculturalist for advice on an annual maintenance solution to manage the hedge.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:07p.m.

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Chairman

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Date