

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, 14th March 2017 for presentation to the Council on the 4th April 2017.

PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor A Stennett.

Councillors: N Grecian (Mayor), M Laybourne, J Ball, M Nicholson.

In Attendance: Town Clerk, J Kay & Deputy Town Clerk, L Wellings and three allotment tenants (Mrs Lane, Mrs Davies & Mr Carvalho).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies received from Cllr B Cairns (business) and Cllr F Firth (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

Mrs Lane requested the Committee to regularly maintain the driveway leading to the allotments and maintain the passage which regularly becomes obscured by overgrown nettles, brambles etc. Many of the allotments holders are elderly and require to use their vehicles to carry plants and equipment for working on the allotments.

The Town Clerk read out a request from an allotment holder not present at the meeting, enquiring if the Town Council would supply a skip for allotment holders to use. Mrs Lane highlighted this filled very quickly last year and requested that a larger skip be obtained and clearly marked what the usage should be.

Mrs Davies and Mrs Lane agreed that the allotment site was looking much tidier in the last year and Mrs Davies asked what was the current status of the waiting list? The Deputy Clerk acknowledged the positive comments on the condition and highlighted that the Community Payback team had been used to dig over vacant plots and carry out routine maintenance duties to support the Grounds Staff. There were currently a number of vacant plots being transferred to new owners and this would leave approximately six residents on the waiting list, a significant reduction.

It was reported that the tap had been switched off over the winter months to prevent further occurrences of burst pipes and the water supply had now been switched back on.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 17th January 2017, 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 of the Committee that they would shortly receive an update from the Deputy Clerk relating to a grave space where memorials not adhering the Cemetery regulations has been recorded.

The Council had requested the cableway (Zip Wire) to be inspected by the installation contractor as a two-year check was now due at the WMRG. The seat has been removed due to a missing bolt on the apparatus as a precaution to prevent further use until the bolt is replaced or the installer confirms it is safe to use.

Sovereign have supplied a quote for the required works at the base of the Borneo Climber and a new zip-wire at Highfields. A representative from Playdale will be visiting Highfields soon to provide an alternative quote.

Sovereign have declined to provide a price for improvement works on the WMRG.

The goal posts have been removed from Highfields, with soiling and turfing works to commence soon. After a few months, the new combined rugby/football posts will be installed in time for the traditional August start of the football/rugby season.

The Community Payback team have been busy in the Allotment area clearing and digging soil from the boundary with the neighbouring field. The landowner has agreed to plant new hedge, a more traditional Hawthorn to replace the Elder removed earlier this year. The allotment holders will be welcome to use any skips brought in for further ground works by the Community Payback team over the next few months. It was requested that care be taken to avoid any damage or settlement issues relating to sheds which are situated on this boundary line.

7. A WELCOME TO ALLOTMENT HOLDERS & WMRG USERS

The Chairman officially welcomed the three allotment holders to the meeting and thanked them for their contribution to the meeting thus far. There was no representation from users of the WMRG present at the meeting.

The Chairman asked if there were any further comments from the allotment holders not mentioned during the earlier public part of the meeting (Item 4).

It was reported that a common occurrence was dog walking and fouling within the allotment area, despite clear signage that dogs are not permitted in this area. The Committee agreed this was not acceptable and encouraged allotment tenants to obtain enough information to pass to SDC Dog Warden and hopefully result in a prosecution.

A query regarding access to a toilet for allotment tenants was raised, the Committee had no plans to provide a toilet but would consider the request.

8. REGARDING ALLOTMENTS

With regard to the Comments received from the allotment tenants:

IT WAS RESOLVED to:

- a) Provide a 6cu.m Skip for the Easter weekend and place signage to highlight the purpose of the skip.
- b) Continue the groundworks along the boundary of the allotment.
- c) Regularly cut back and maintain a clear access to the allotments.
- d) Confirm bonfire guidelines with allotment tenants.
- e) Consider the request to supply a toilet.

9. REGARDING WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND

There were no requests from WMRG users.

10. KINGSHEAD CEMETERY NOTICEBOARD

IT WAS RESOLVED to purchase the noticeboard from Greenbarnes for £1489 +vat.

11. SIGNAGE AT KINGSHILL CEMETERY, WMRG & HIGHFIELDS

The Committee altered the wording of the sign for Highfields Play Area by removing "This play equipment has been designed for children aged" and replacing "should" with "must".

IT WAS RESOLVED to purchase the signs listed on the agenda papers from Morelock Signs and order an additional "Welcome" sign for Highfields Play Area. The Committee authorised the Town Clerk to order the required poles, signage and to enquire if an additional "Welcome" sign could be purchased for the WMRG, up to a total value of £1,000.

12. TREES AT ST MARKS & KINGSHILL PLAY AREA

IT WAS RESOLVED to hold back any works on the large Ash tree at St Mark's burial ground as they would not benefit the health of the tree and to plant a new smaller maple species in Kingshill Play Area to replace the mature tree that had to be removed last year on safety grounds.

13 KINGSHILL CEMETERY TREES

The advice on new trees obtained from the Council's arboriculturist within the cemetery was considered by the committee.

IT WAS AGREED to accept this advice and for the Town Clerk to obtain a quote for the tree planting.

14. HIGHFIELDS COMMUNITY DAY

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that the Community Day was now one of three local projects being voted for at 20 Tesco stores across the District throughout March and April.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Community Day will be held on the Spring Bank Holiday Monday, 29th May 2017.

15. LOCAL GREEN SPACE NOMINATION

The Town Clerk updated the Committee on the Local Green Space Nomination and that should an area be fully designated as a Green Space then it would impact any improvement plans the Town Council may have.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the nomination for Kingshill Play Area but to object to the nomination of the War Memorial Recreation Ground due to the potential future improvements projects listed within the Town Council's Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:45pm.

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Chairman

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Date