

## DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE of the Council held in the **Dursley Library, May Lane, Dursley** at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017 for presentation to the Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

### PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor A Stennett.

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

In Attendance: Town Clerk, J Kay & Deputy Town Clerk, L Wellings and one member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies received from Cllr B Cairns and Cllr P Hayes (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

A member of public wanted to highlight concerns in relation to the youth shelter at Highfields Play Area and antisocial behaviour. He reported that there was noise, litter and reports of drug taking/dealing all linked to the young people who use the shelter. Some of the other users of the play area reported being intimidated and the shelter being described as "a place to avoid". The member of the public had recently reported youths damaging the fence and shelter to the police, which resulted in the culprits being caught and carrying out restorative justice. The Chairman thanked the member of the public for reporting and acting so quickly.

The member of the public requested the removal of the youth shelter. The Chair said this would be discussed later on in the meeting. The member of the public left the meeting.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> March and 9<sup>th</sup> May 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 had no matters to report.

The Chair proposed and it was agreed by the committee to bring forward items 9 and 10 at the request of Cllr Nicholson.

## 9. HIGHFIELDS COMMUNITY DAY

The Council received a grant of £1k from the Tesco Bags for Help Fund. The Community Day was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017 with resident volunteers, Councillors and staff. Due to the wet weather, no painting could be done, but fence repairs, strimming, vegetation clearance were all carried out. This including clearing two benches which were completely hidden in the undergrowth.

The volunteers were provided tea/coffee from the Hummingbird Café and a BBQ from Cam Family Butcher.

The Town Clerk suggested that the number of volunteers who helped were likely to have been reduced due to the wet weather, but the Committee may like to consider holding a similar event at one of the other green spaces in 2018.

## 10. HIGHFIELDS PLAY AREA: REPAIRS & IMPROVEMNTS

The Committee considered two quotations for a new zip wire and two quotations for a new base under the existing wooden climber.

**IT WAS AGREED** that further information was required before a final decision could be taken by the Committee. The Town Clerk was requested to obtain from both suppliers:

- a) A detailed routine maintenance schedule including recommended frequency and method of testing the equipment.
- b) Warrantee Information.

The Town Clerk was further requested to seek the reason why contractor B “cannot guarantee proposed works to existing third party equipment will make equipment complaint to relevant BS EN Standards” and to request a picture of the proposed zip wire.

The Councillors discussed the benefits and the disadvantages of the Youth Shelter as highlighted during the public section of the meeting. The police had previously stated to Cllr Nicholson that they received very few calls via 999 or 101, but the Committee accepted many incidents would go unreported. Recent reports on social media had included alleged drug use, bike theft, litter, throwing stones at children, intimidation of young people using the BMX track and it was a magnet for obscene graffiti.

Concerns were raised that potential removal would merely displace the problem, a request was made to investigate other more suitable shelters which would be visible from all sides.

It was proposed and seconded that the Youth Shelter should be removed, the votes were cast 2 in favour, 3 against and Cllr Laybourne abstained. The proposal was not carried and the discussion continued.

A further proposal was forwarded and seconded that until the next Green Spaces meeting; a minimum 8-week monitoring period to be carried out, with local residents and visitors to the play area encouraged to report incidents on 101/999 (depending on the severity) of any antisocial behaviour witnessed. The Town Council would request

the support of the Dursley Neighbourhood Police team and reconsider the matter at the Green Spaces Committee meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> September. The vote was held and the proposal was accepted unanimously.

The Clerk was requested to investigate other types of shelters for the next meeting.

Cllr Nicholson left the meeting.

7. BADGER ACTIVITY AT STANTHILL DRIVE/ST MARKS CHURCH YARD.

The Deputy Clerk provided a verbal update on the recent badger activity and the concerns of residents of Stanthill Drive with the impact on their gardens. This was a repeat of previous activity recorded a few years ago but not to the same degree of activity. The Deputy Clerk requested the Committee consider whether they are willing to submit a license application to Natural England and to what extent of works the license would include.

The Committee were reminded that previous instance of badger activity had resulted in very little works being permitted by Natural England other than vegetation clearance.

**IT WAS AGREED** for the situation to be monitored until the next Green Spaces meeting in September and for the residents to be notified that at this time the Committee were unwilling to submit an application to Natural England due to the relatively minor damage witnessed and previous history.

8. NEW SIGNAGE FOR GREEN SPACES

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on the signage being required at the Play Areas and the War Memorial Recreation Ground.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to accept the revised sign for the WMRG and to approve the order for signage.

11. GPFA PLAYGROUND ASSESSMENT REPORTS

The reports were noted and it was confirmed to share the relevant reports with Dursley Town AFC.

12. ANNUAL RPII PLAYGROUND CHECKS & INSPECTIONS

The Deputy Clerk presented the report on inspections and playground checks.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations of the report and recommend that Council discuss the ongoing monthly inspections carried out by Councillors.

13. DCLG "RUNNING FREE" CONSULTATION

**IT WAS RESOLVED** not to submit any comments to the consultation.

14. HIGHFIELDS PLAY AREA – VEHICLE ACCESS

It had been reported to Cllr Nicholson that an unauthorised vehicle had been reported to be driving on the play area, the driver has not been identified.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that bollards should be erected to prevent unauthorised access onto the playing field, and the Town Clerk should arrange this as soon as possible; to a value of £500.

15. REVISIONS TO CEMETERY REGULATIONS & WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND TERM & CONDITIONS

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to accept the recommended changes to:

- a) Cemetery Regulations Section 34 Unsafe & Neglected Memorials
- b) WMRG Terms & Conditions – Section 8: Insurance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm.

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date