

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, 16th January 2018 for presentation to the Council on the 23rd January 2018.

PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor A Stennett.

Councillors: N Grecian (Mayor), B Cairns (Vice Chairman), M Stennett and M Nicholson.

In Attendance: Deputy Town Clerk, L Wellings.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies received from Councillors J Ball (personal), P Hayes (personal) and J Burdge (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

There were no representations from the public.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 10th October 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.

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING BADGER ACTIVITY AT STANTHILL DRIVE/ST MARKS GRAVEYARD.

The Deputy Town Clerk summarised the advice issued by Natural England following the visit to assess badger activity in St Mark's Graveyard on 18th October 2017.

It was noted that a letter had been sent to Stanthill residents located on the affected boundary outlining the outcomes of the visit and the Natural England advice received; no action relating to the badger sett is required by Council other than some above ground vegetation clearance work which could be undertaken in the affected area of St Mark's as part of routine maintenance without the need for a licence as long as badger holes are not blocked with debris/cuttings etc; any future complaints

by property owners should be addressed to Natural England, in line with the advice given in the letter.

It was noted that no further complaints or contact had been made by residents in the area since the advice letter had been issued on 30th October 2017.

8. TO APPROVE THE DOCUMENTATION FOR THE GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT FOR THE PERIOD 2018-2021.

Members considered the documentation for the grass cutting contract for the period 2018-2021 including contract specification, conditions of contract, form of tender and plans, all circulated with the agenda. No amendments were made.

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve and issue the grass cutting contract documentation 2018-2021 for tender.

9. TO APPROVE ONE ADDITIONAL MOBILE TELEPHONE BEING ADDED TO COUNCIL'S EXISTING CONTRACT FOR THE NEW GREEN SPACES STAFF MEMBER.

It was noted that Council currently has two Samsung Galaxy Ace 4 phones which cost approx. £28 per month in total from EE; an additional phone is required for the new Green Spaces member of staff.

Consideration was given to the EE options for additional phones, which were to include a LGK8 for an additional £13 per month, without an additional one-off cost, or a Samsung G3 which had a one-off cost of £41.67.

IT WAS RESOLVED to support the Town Clerk's recommendation and proceed with the addition of a new LGK8 phone to the Council's contract.

10. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE ONGOING TREE SURVEY OF COUNCIL GREEN SPACE AREAS

a) Mapping and preparation of specification for Tree Survey quotation.

It was noted that a mapping exercise is currently being undertaken by the Deputy Town Clerk to identify Council trees to be included in a new tree survey; the work is proving to be time consuming as it involves cross referencing information against existing maps and some landownership issues; the information is being uploaded to Parish Online maps and quotations would be sought when complete.

b) Enquiry from Allotment Tenant.

Members considered a request from an allotment tenant to undertake some boundary pruning work themselves at the top of the site.

Concerns were expressed regarding tree works and safety considerations. Given this, it was felt that permitted works should not include large trees and should be limited.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Deputy Town Clerk would agree the works and limits of the permission to be granted with the Town Clerk. The tenant would be contacted with this information once agreed.

11. ANNUAL STAFF INSPECTION OF THE GREEN SPACES

It was noted that the annual staff inspection of green spaces started on 16th January 2018 and would to be completed by 23rd January 2018. The inspection identifies works to be carried out over the winter period and coming months.

It was noted that the War Memorial Recreation Ground, Allotment, Kingshill Cemetery and Kingshill Play Park had all been inspected; on 23rd January 2018 visits to the Broadwell, St Mark's and Highfields Play Area would take place. Once completed Job Sheets for identified works would be issued to Ground Staff.

It was commented that the Zip Wire at Highfields does not appear to be working very well. The Deputy Town Clerk agreed to investigate this issue as part of the inspection.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:51pm.

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Chairman

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Date