

## DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE of the Council held online at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020 for presentation to the Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020.

### PRESENT

Councillors: A Stennett, N Grecian, J Ball, P Hayes (Vice Chair), M Stennett & A Whitwell.

In Attendance: J Kay, Town Clerk, L Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk and Antony Nash representing Dursley Town AFC.

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Councillors J Burdge & M Woodward (personal).

#### 2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chairman invited Antony Nash representing Dursley Town AFC to make any comments.

Antony thanked the committee for the opportunity to update them and consider the matters on the agenda. The club have had a good year and consider having a good relationship with Dursley Town Council but have some concerns about the long-term maintenance/condition of the pitches on the War Memorial Recreation Ground. Unfortunately, not being the owner of the pitch restricts funding and grant applications from the FA and Sports England by the club.

Antony would like to progress the storage at the rear of the pavilion. **IT WAS AGREED** for the Town Clerk to liaise with Antony on this matter.

#### 4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020, having been circulated among the members, were taken as read, confirmed, and will be signed by the Chair after the meeting as a correct record.

#### 5. CHAIR'S VERBAL REPORT

The Chairman reported that a request had been received from The Pulse Leisure Centre to host "circuit style exercises" on the War Memorial Recreation Ground. The Committee had been asked to waive the hire fee for the initial 3-month period due the impact on revenue because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Councillors considered the request. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the normal hire terms should be adhered to for this request and that the fee could not be waived. The Committee agreed to review this decision at the committee meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 should the exercises class commence.

6. TO CONSIDER A FUNDING REQUEST FROM DURSLEY TOWN AFC

The Town Clerk provided background on the charging of VAT to sports clubs using the football pitches on the War Memorial Recreation Ground and the criteria that needs to be met to meet HMRC regulations. Unfortunately, the Council had to reintroduce VAT to the football club in August 2019.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that the VAT charged to date for the 2029/20 season to Dursley Town AFC be reimbursed by Dursley Town Council. A total of £478.80.

7. TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST FOR MAINTENANCE TO THE WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND PITCHES

The Town Clerk referred to the request/quotation for works supplied by Dursley Town AFC and the comments by the Council's Grounds maintenance contractor.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Council's contractor would carry out repair/reseeding works when the weather allows, prior to the start of the 2020/21 season. Dursley Town AFC would be included in planned works on the pitches in relation to the longer-term maintenance of the pitches and the more imminent works over the summer/autumn.

**IT WAS AGREED** to bring forward agenda item 14.

14. TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR A FUTURE UPGRADE OF THE PAVILLION ON THE WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND

The Town Clerk requested the Committee to consider what types of improvements they would like to see for the pavilion. Ideas suggested were public toilets, kitchen facilities and energy saving projects.

**IT WAS AGREED** to consult with local users of the pavilion/War Memorial Recreation Ground to establish views on potential future projects/improvements.

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BEE KEEPING

The Deputy Clerk presented the draft tenancy agreement for bee keeping at the Kingshill Allotments. The bees would be located at a disused plot not suitable for growing produce. The Deputy Clerk provided comments received from Cllr Ackroyd regarding number of hives etc.

The Committee expressed their wish for the project to proceed as per the tenancy agreement. Existing allotment plot tenants to be offered the opportunity first.

9. TO CONSIDER THE CLIMATE CHANGE MISSION STATEMENT

**IT WAS AGREED** to postpone this matter to the next meeting of the Green Spaces as not all members had access to the draft statement.

10. PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

The Town Clerk confirmed that both new facilities at Kingshill and Highfields play area had been completed. There had only been very minor “snags” noted and the contractors had been made aware and/or attended.

11. TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST FOR A RUNNING TRACK

At the previous Green Spaces committee, a member of the public requested that the committee considered the inclusion of a perimeter running track at the War Memorial Recreation Ground or Highfields Play Area.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that although the committee would like to have such a facility, neither location with the current facilities was suitable for a running track. It was noted that this type of facility was available for the public to use at the Jubilee Fields, Cam.

12. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE FACULTY TO REMOVE BROKEN/UNSAFE GRAVE SURROUNDS AT ST MARKS

This matter has been delayed due to the Covid-19 lockdown but was being progressed by office staff. An update would be provided at the next meeting of the Green Spaces Committee.

13. TO CONSIDER REOPENING THE BMX TRACK AT HIGHFIELDS

**IT WAS AGREED** to reopen the facility, with signage highlighting social distancing and the Council’s right to close the facility if this is not adhered too by users.

15. TO PROGRESS THE NEW GARDEN OF REST PROJECT

**IT WAS AGREED** to form a working group to establish options for the new garden of rest at Kingshill Cemetery. Cllrs A Stennett and P Hayes volunteered to join the working group and liaise with the Project Officer.

16. TO PROGRESS IMPROVING THE EXISITNG GARDEN OF REST PROJECT

**IT WAS AGREED** to obtain ideas from local contractors/landscape gardeners to improve the existing garden of rest areas. Cllr Hayes expressed an interest in being involved in discussions with contractors.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:35pm.

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Chairman

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Date