

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, 21st July 2020 for presentation to the Council on the 2nd June 2020.

PRESENT

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

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Councillor A Whitwell (personal).

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present, but correspondence had been received prior to the meeting.

a) Skating Facilities on the War Memorial Recreation Ground

The Committee had insufficient information to discuss this but would be happy to discuss the request further with the member of the public.

b) Crop Protection at Kingshill Allotments

The Council had received correspondence from tenants who had lost crops to deer. While sympathetic with the problem, the cost to fence the allotments was not financially viable. The tenants could be encouraged to consider deer netting or other methods to make it less desirable for deer. The Committee were happy to consider any financially viable options with tenants.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 26th May 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 an ambulance had been called to Highfields Play Area on Monday evening. A youth had an accident on the BMX track and suffered a cut to the head. The lockable bollard had to be cut by the fire brigade for the ambulance to gain access. This will need to be replaced and for a combination lock to be considered in the future. There had been no official notice of this from the emergency services.

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BEE KEEPING

The opportunity has been offered to the allotment tenants.

7. TO CONSIDER THE CLIMATE CHANGE MISSION STATEMENT

The Committee consider the draft statement. Some dates required to be changed as they had now expired and there were some minor revisions to the text. The use of LED lights in Council buildings to be added.

The revisions would now be submitted to the Policy & Finance Committee.

8. PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORTS

The Project Officer met with the contractor regarding the post inspection comments and the matters have now been resolved.

The annual inspection has only highlighted low risk comments/defects. These are been prioritised/programmed along with routine works.

9. TREE INSPECTION REPORT

The Committee commented it was a very comprehensive report. The matters raised will be prioritised for the tree surgeon to provide quotes with minor works being carried out by grounds staff.

10. ST MARKS - FACULTY UPDATE

The faculty application had been submitted to the Diocese of Gloucester, we are currently awaiting the response to allow repairs to the memorials at St Marks.

11. RE-OPENING OF THE PAVILLION (WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND

The pavilion has remained closed to the local sports teams following the lockdown period. The water system will require a legionella test prior to re-opening. Additional sanitising and hand cleaning equipment will need to be provided. The cleaning regime will need to be reviewed prior to the opening of the pavilion.

At the current time there is no date when the pavilion will reopen but we will continue to liaise with Dursley Town AFC.

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.

10. 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.

11. TO PROGRESS IMPROVING THE EXISTING 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.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date