

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE of the Council held online at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 8th December 2020 for presentation to the Council on the 19th January 2021.

PRESENT

Councillors: A Stennett (Chair), N Grecian, J Ball, M Stennett, M Woodward, T White and P Hayes.

In Attendance: L Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk

Absent: Councillor A Whitwell

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Councillor Ball joined the meeting.

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- i) An email was considered regarding the annual cutting of the War Memorial Recreation Ground hedge and the possibility of taking a different approach to its management so that the condition of the hedge could be improved as a wildlife habitat.

IT WAS RESOLVED to write a letter in response to explain that the Council regularly reviews policy and working practices and currently the hedge is cut annually; the range of reasons why the annual cut was important would be included e.g., the impact on facilities in close proximity (e.g. pitches, Petanque Court), complaints, visibility and anti-social behaviour.

IT WAS AGREED that the Committee would look at a project in 2021, to review hedge management and repair work generally. It was noted that the 2020 cut left considerable debris in places.

- ii) A request to open the vehicular access gates at Kingshill Cemetery the weekend before Christmas (19th & 20th December) was considered.

IT WAS RESOLVED to open and close the main gates on the Saturday and Sunday, to allow vehicular access during the day.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 13th October 2020, having been circulated among the members, were taken as read, confirmed, and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

5. CHAIR'S VERBAL REPORT

The Chair had no matters to report.

[Handwritten signature]
16/3/21

6. KINGSHILL CEMETERY

- i) In relation to the new Garden of Rest project and improvements to the existing Garden of Remembrance, it was noted that the contractor, Greenfields, had started on 8th December 2020; work to the new garden was expected to finish on 11th December, with work to the existing garden due to start on 14th December until 18th December 2020. The work would be closely monitored to ensure disruption was minimal, given the sensitivities of the area and proximity to the Christmas period.
- ii) **IT WAS RESOLVED** to recommend that Council accepts the proposed updates to the Cemetery Regulations and associated guidelines/paperwork, in preparation for the opening of the new Garden of Rest.

7. UPDATE REGARDING WORK RELATED TO LEGIONELLA CONTROL

It was noted that work related to the Council's Legionella Risk Assessments and the development of a new Policy was ongoing; the Deputy Town Clerk was liaising with Councillor M Stennett on this work and would be undertaking a Legionella Awareness Course on 11th December 2020, followed by Ground staff in the future; the recommended thermometer probe had been purchased and checks were now being undertaken; further work had been identified in relation to the policy and risk assessments, Aquasafe Environmental would be consulted.

8. TO REVIEW THE DECISION TO CLOSE THE PLAYGROUNDS

The decision to close the Council's play areas due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions was reviewed.

It was noted that the Government would be reviewing the tier system on 16th December 2020; Dursley currently comes under tier 2 – High.

IT WAS RESOLVED to keep the playgrounds closed and review if the tier status for Dursley changes; the Council would continue to monitor the situation, taking into account the local picture, and review the risk assessment to see if controls could be put in place for the safe reopening of equipment/areas.

IT WAS AGREED that the Town Clerk, Committee Chair and Mayor would together make decisions regarding the closure and reopening of the playgrounds, dependent on restrictions and reviews.

9. UPDATE ON GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT 2021-2024

It was noted that the current grass cutting contract would expire in March 2021; Dursley Town Football Club had expressed an interest in undertaking grass cutting work on the War Memorial Recreation Ground.

IT WAS AGREED that the grass cutting tender specification would allow for the itemisation of the work, to enable quotations to be put forward for the different tasks and sites as follows:

- 1) The War Memorial Recreation Ground
- 2) Kingshill Play Park & Highfields Play Area

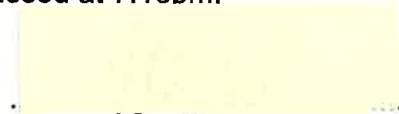
Grass cutting at Kingshill Cemetery and St Mark's Burial Ground would be kept in-house; the Council would be interested in a quotation from Dursley Town Football Club and details of their proposal, should they wish to submit information as part of the tendering process.

10. QUOTATIONS FOR PLAYGROUND SURFACE REPAIR WORK

Members considered three quotations for playground surface repair work on the War Memorial Recreation Ground.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Greenfields at a cost of £998 +VAT and £241 +VAT to carry out pre-emptive work to surface in another area if required.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:13pm.


.....
Chairman
16/3/21
.....
Date

