

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE of the Council held online on Tuesday 16th March 2021 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 6th April 2021.

PRESENT

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

Officers: John Kay, Town Clerk; Antony Nash, Dursley Town AFC and four allotment holders.

Absent: Cllr A Whitwell

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- i) A request for a baby/toddler swing at Highfields Play Area was considered by the committee. **IT WAS AGREED** that quotes would be obtained for an adaption to the existing swing and a stand alone new piece of equipment. Any new swing should be placed close to the existing swings to allow families to use both simultaneously. The Clerk confirmed that S106 funding remained available for improvements to play equipment at Highfields Play Area.

The Chair provided an overview on the committee and the term "Green Spaces" at the request of one of the allotment holders.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Green Spaces Committee held on Tuesday 8th December 2020 and Tuesday 9th February 2021 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. ALLOTMENT TENANTS & REGULAR USERS OF THE WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND

The Chair welcomed the representatives from the allotment and regular users of the War Memorial Recreation Ground and requested them to bring any matters forward that they wanted the committee to consider.

An allotment tenant thanked the Council for cutting back some of the overhanging trees and cutting the ivy roots. This would benefit their plot due to improved light. The Town Clerk confirmed this was part of ongoing maintenance work at the allotment site.

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Antony Nash, representing Dursley Town AFC thanked the Council for their efforts in helping improve the condition of the pitches. Due to some joint efforts with the club and council , the pitch was much better and visiting teams had commented on the improvement. **IT WAS AGREED** for the Town Clerk to arrange a meeting with Dursley Town AFC and our grass cutting contractor to discuss any maintenance works required over the spring/summer.

There are plans for more teams to be playing in the new season and Antony noted the email sent by the Deputy Clerk and would respond soon. Unfortunately there had been some graffiti sprayed on the rear of the Spring Villa social club, this area is not included within the CCTV located on the War Memorial Recreation Ground.

Antony confirmed that all levels of football hope to restart at the beginning of April to conclude the current season.

An email had been received by an allotment tenant, the Town Clerk provided a response to matters including; an allotment committee, frost proof taps, nature plot, process for dealing with abandoned plots and dog fouling.

Cllr Grecian joined the meeting.

An allotment tenant brought up the issue of deer and badgers entering the allotment site. The Committee had previously considered this request but decided it was impossible to make the site badger proof and deer fencing the perimeter was cost prohibitive. The tenant suggested bolstering weak point in the existing fencing and hedge. The adjacent landowner has plans to plant new hedging and there had been some boundary maintenance carried out by Dursley TC, however this was not with a view to preventing access to deer.

Antony Nash and the allotment tenants were thanked for their contributions by the Chair.

6. TO DISCUSS MATTERS RAISED REGARDING ALLOTMENTS IN AGENDA ITEM 5.

The Committee had no further comment to make on the matters raised. The Chair noted the comments about an allotment committee and encouraged allotment tenants to contact either the committee or the office staff with any issues or suggestions at any time.

7. COMMUNAL COMPOST AREAS

The committee considered the future use of the area including ideas suggested by the allotment tenant for a nature area to encourage suitable wildlife to visit the site. The bins have been emptied by the allotment staff. **IT WAS AGREED** to place signs on the bins informing what materials can and can not be placed in the bins. The tenants are to be encouraged to report or educate any people spotted putting the wrong type of non-compostable items in the bins.

8. TIPS FOR GARDENING SAFELY ON YOUR ALLOTMENT PLOT

The Committee noted the changes proposed by the Deputy Clerk and thanked her for the update document to be provided to all new tenants.

9. TO DISCUSS MATTERS RAISED REGARDING THE WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND IN AGENDA ITEM 5.

It was noted that the Town Clerk would arrange a meeting with Dursley Town AFC and the grass cutting contractor, highlighting that the existing contractor had won the recent 3-year tender for grass cutting. There were no planned CCTV improvements on the War Memorial Recreation Ground at the current time as the town centre had been prioritised for increased CCTV coverage.

The Town Clerk reported that the boiler had stopped working in the pavilion and the engineer was visiting on Thursday 18th March. Cllr Hayes commented on the successful repairs to the playground surfaces.

10. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE GARDEN OF REST PROJECT

The Town Clerk and Cllr Woodward provided an update on the recent planting of roses, with two more bushes to follow when they are available. The grounds staff had discovered a layer of stone under the decorative slate preventing the staked vases being secure. This stone to be replaced with sand. The wording and style of plaque for the new Garden of rest had been agreed and was being ordered.

The meeting closed at 8:10pm.

.....Chair

25/5/21.....Date

