

12th October 2021

Green Spaces Committee
DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE of the Council held at the Methodist Church, Castle Street, Dursley at 7:30pm on Tuesday 12th October 2021 for presentation to the Council on the 2nd November 2021.

PRESENT

Councillors: A Stennett (Chair), N Grecian, S Ackroyd, J Ball, P Hayes, M Stennett, T White and J Rubin (observing).

In Attendance: J Kay (Town Clerk) and L Wellings (Deputy Town Clerk)

Absent: Councillors D Horn

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor M Woodward (personal)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no representations from the public.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Green Spaces Committee held on 21st September 2021 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. ARBORICULTURAL REPORT ON TREE CONDITION REASSESSMENT

The Arboricultural Report on tree condition reassessment was considered along with a works recommendation regarding the decline of an Irish Yew (ref: T34) at St Mark's Church; the recommendation was to test for Phytophthora to inform a programme of treatment to improve the tree's rooting area and natural defence system if present.

IT WAS AGREED to obtain the cost of a Phytophthora test in the first instance and for the Town Clerk to liaise with the Committee Chair on this to decide whether it was reasonable to proceed.

6. TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST FOR A PETANQUE COURT DIRECTIONAL SIGN ON REDNOCK DRIVE.

Councillor Hayes had raised the request for a Petanque Court directional sign on Rednock Drive, following feedback from visiting players.

IT WAS RESOLVED to purchase a suitable directional sign to be placed under the existing main 'War Memorial Recreational Ground' sign located on the corner of Rednock Drive for a cost of under £100. If the cost was any higher the Committee would review again prior to a purchase.

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7. TO CONSIDER THE LOSS OF HIGHFIELDS YOUTH SHELTER AND FUTURE USE OF THE SPACE/POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT

It was noted that following the removal of the wooden Youth Shelter on 21/09/21 due to the structure becoming unsafe as a result of extensive rot within the main support posts, the Committee had agreed to give consideration to future use of the space/possible replacement equipment.

It was noted that the Council had recently received resident requests to remove the structure due to it attracting anti-social behaviour to the area.

IT WAS RESOLVED to undertake some public consultation to establish views on the future use of the space and possible replacement equipment/youth shelter.

8. TO CONSIDER FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2022-2023

The draft Schedule of Fees and Charges paper circulated with the agenda, was considered.

IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend to Council that there be a 3% increase to the fees and charges for 2022/23.

9. DRAFT GREEN SPACES BUDGET FOR 2022-2025

The draft Green Spaces budget for the period 2022-2025, circulated with the agenda, including reserves and project planner was considered.

The following amendments were made:

- to allow for the increasing gas and electricity costs by adding an extra 30-50%. The Town Clerk would review the existing contract and discussed further at the Policy and Finance Committee.
- to include budgets for the following projects – skatepark improvement, basketball area and the possible outcome of the Highfields youth shelter consultation. The basketball area was seen as a priority area.

IT WAS RESOLVED for the draft budget with the amendments, to be presented to the full Council budget meeting on the 16th November 2021 for consideration.

10. BUSINESS DEALT WITH IN COMMITTEE:

IT WAS RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

11. TO CONSIDER THE QUOTATIONS RECEIVED FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AT THE WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND PAVILION

Three quotations had been obtained following site meetings and circulated with the agenda, these included new gas boilers. Technical questions were raised about the recommended boilers, the water storage tanks and mains fed systems.

It was noted that solar panel and ground source/air source heat pump systems had been considered unsuitable for the site and its requirements.

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IT WAS AGREED that more information was required prior to making a decision about the water system improvement works. The Town Clerk would seek the relevant technical advice required prior to the quotations and work being considered at the December Committee meeting.

12. TO CONSIDER THE QUOTATIONS RECEIVED FOR ROOF REPAIRS AT THE WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND PAVILION.

It was noted that attempts had been made to obtain at least three quotations for roof repairs at the pavilion, two had been received and circulated with the agenda.

It was noted that a review of the Council's 2011 Asbestos Management Survey had been undertaken following the September Committee meeting.

IT WAS AGREED that the quotations for roof repairs would be considered at a future meeting, the council office would put work on hold and first seek quotations for new Asbestos Management Survey Reports for the Cemetery shed and Jacob's House and An Asbestos Refurbishment Survey report for the Pavilion.

It was noted that the reports were required prior to any planned improvement works (e.g. roof and water system (minute item 11)) being undertaken.

The meeting closed at 8:21pm.

14 DEC, 2021

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Chair

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Date

