

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE of the Council held online via the 'Zoom' meeting platform at 6:30pm on Tuesday, 13th April 2021 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 13th May 2021.

PRESENT

Councillors: W Thomas (Chair), P Hayes, A Whitwell, M Woodward and N Grecian and D Savvidou

In Attendance: L Wellings (Deputy Town Clerk); 2 members of the public

The Chair of the Committee led a minute's silence at the start of the meeting to mark the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh on 9th April 2021.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Councillors A Sheffield, J Smee and J Ball.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- a) To consider the correspondence regarding litter in the town (circulated with the agenda).

A member of the public, who had submitted correspondence regarding litter in the town, was present and gave an overview of the main points of concern which included work on a national campaign to tackle litter zones around supermarket sites, litter picking in Dursley and local litter 'hot spots' including – the area around Sainsburys, Castle Street car park, school routes/areas around Rednock, The Knapp area and green spaces.

The importance of early years education about litter, engaging supermarkets, traders, schools and the community in tackling the problem was highlighted and discussed.

It was noted that Council supports the 'Tidy Dursley' group (e.g. providing litter pickers and bags), an excellent example of volunteers and the community working together to tackle the litter problem. Dursley Town AFC had also recently carried out a voluntary litter pick on the War Memorial Recreation Ground.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Council would write to Sainsburys and Rednock School to raise the issue of litter in the town and hotspots related to their site 'zones' and request engagement in litter picking activities (with staff and students), highlighting the work that Dursley in Bloom and Tidy Dursley are doing on behalf of the town. A general letter would also be sent to all traders (incl. takeaways) highlighting this work and encouraging them to get involved in the fight against litter. Council would continue to support 'Tidy Dursley'.

The member of the public withdrew from the meeting, it was agreed that Council would provide an update following the letters.



- b) To consider a request for a fence at Long Street Car Park (circulated with the agenda)

Members discussed the request from the Townsend Residents' Association which related to installing a fence to prevent bikes using an open part of the boundary between the Car Park and Town Green, due to concerns about damage to the Green and safety.

It was noted that Council had not had any complaints from users of the car park about bike activity since opening or from the local police team.

IT WAS AGREED that the Council would monitor the area of concern. The Townsend Residents' Association would be asked for any times/dates relating to bike activity, that would help check the CCTV in the car park. Any fence/works related to the open part of the boundary, to prevent it being used as a route, would need to be positioned within the Green itself due to the car park boundary limits and space restrictions, therefore residents would need to take the issue up with Stroud District Council/St Modwens. It would be suggested that instead of fencing a suitable planting option could be considered to produce a natural defensive barrier.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held on Tuesday 5th January 2021, 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.

6. TO CONSIDER FEEDBACK FROM TRADERS REGARDING PROMOTION OF THE TOWN AND TOURISM

A report based on recent feedback from traders in relation to tourism/town promotion was considered. It was noted that the Deputy Town Clerk had held an informal tourism meeting with two traders on 31st March 2021.

Members recognised the value in all the suggestions raised in the report, other ideas put forward during the discussion included late night shopping events and outside theatre trails/festivals.

It was highlighted that more information about possible funding opportunities from Stroud District Council, related to Covid and the recovery of Town Centres, would be useful in considering suggestions.

A member of the public joined the meeting for only a few minutes before leaving.

IT WAS AGREED to initially focus on investigating how the existing Farmers' Market could be supported and expanded and also the development of digital /website promotion of the town. Stroud District Council would be approached for information about possible town centre funds and a small meeting of relevant representatives would be set up and led by Councillor Thomas to start the process.

IT WAS AGREED that the Deputy Town Clerk would check the installation of the bin at Uley Road.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:38pm.

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Chairman
13/07/2021
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7. TO CONSIDER HOSTING A KINGFISHER FROM THE COTSWOLD LIFE KINGFISHER TRAIL

Members considered the information related to the public art Kingfisher Trail above and the opportunity to sponsor/host a Kingfisher sculpture at a cost of £800 or £1200.

It was noted that Council did not have an allocated budget to take part and the use of reserves would be required should the Committee agree to sponsor; various Dursley businesses and Council took part in the similar 2018 Hare Trail.

IT WAS AGREED that Council would not sponsor a Kingfisher sculpture this year due to the budget and time constraints but would consider taking part in a 2022 trail should it be run.

8. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A NEW GRIT BIN AT MANOR VIEW, DURSLEY

IT WAS RESOLVED that Council would purchase a new grit bin for Manor View, Dursley subject to obtaining the necessary agreements from Gloucestershire Highways regarding position and filling.

9. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE (VIC) TRIAL PERIOD AT DURSLEY LIBRARY

It was noted that the start of the planned VIC trial at the Library had been disrupted due to Covid restrictions impacting tourism and public access.

The Deputy Town Clerk would be meeting with the Library Manager on 19th April 2021 to discuss the trial, in view of the restrictions lifting. Councillors Thomas and Woodward agreed to attend.

10. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE WW2 PLAQUE PROJECT

The Deputy Town Clerk gave an update on the above project highlighting costs, budget constraints and points relating to the Diocese Faculty process required.

IT WAS RESOLVED to postpone the project indefinitely due to budget constraints.

11. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON IMPROVEMENTS TO CCTV

The Deputy Town Clerk gave an update on recent improvements to the Council's CCTV system undertaken by Redhand.

It was noted that the system had been upgraded and coverage of the town centre increased to include Castle Street and the junction at May Lane; agreed works are ongoing to increase coverage further in the areas of Long Street and Silver Street.

12. TO NOTE THE INSTALLATION OF NEW LITTER BINS

Members noted that the Council had installed new litter bins at Long Street Green, The Broadwell and Uley Road.

Members reported that they had not seen the new bin on the Uley Road by the refurbished bus shelter, as expected.

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