

DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES and REPORT of the MEETING of the TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE of the Council held in the Methodist Church meeting room at 7:30pm on Tuesday, 14th January 2025 for presentation to the Council on Tuesday 21st January 2025.

PRESENT

Councillors: K Eales (Vice Chair), S Creswick, A Rowe, T White & A White.

In Attendance: J Kay, Town Clerk; L Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk; Cllr L Patrick, GCC Councillor Nick Howsden and Adrian Judge, The Engine.

In the absence of the Committee Chair, Cllr Eales assumed the role of Chair.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from the Chair of the Committee, Councillor P Hayes (personal).

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no representations from the members of the public present.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held on Tuesday 8th October 2024, having been circulated among the members were taken as read, confirmed, and signed by the Vice Chair as a correct record.

5. VICE CHAIR'S VERBAL REPORT

The Vice Chair had no matters to report.

6. DURSLEY STREET MARKET

GCC Cllr Nick Howsden introduced himself and provided background information on the recent setting up of weekly market in Stonehouse, including the lessons learned and the elements which were successful. A Community Interest Company (CIC) volunteer group ran the market for approximately two years where 20 to 30 stalls would be operational. The market being very successful in year one but struggled in the second year due to increased costs (staff, setup, insurance, rent), reliability of traders and impact of bad weather. The market proved to be unsustainable and as a legacy to the project a smaller weekly market exists with approximately 6 regular stalls.

Adrian Judge, representing The Engine provided some information on the existing Artisan Market which trades in Dursley.

It was acknowledged that the organiser of the monthly Farmers Market had recently stepped down and the Town Clerk was in the process of establishing contact with the stall holders. The Town Trust committee have expressed a strong desire for the market to continue.

IT WAS AGREED that the Town Clerk should meet with the representatives from The Engine and establish links with the stall holders who participate in the Farmer's Market.

Cllr Howsden was thanked for his contribution and left the meeting. Cllr L Parick also left the meeting.

7. REGARDING TOURISM INITIATIVES, TO RECEIVE UPDATES.

- a) It was noted that the Discover Dursley group were holding a networking event on 15th January 2025 between 5:30pm-7pm, with the focus on ideas for the new website. The group will be holding a zoom meeting at the end of February to consider ideas obtained from networking event.
- b) The Deputy Clerk presented the business car trial report. **IT WAS RESOLVED** to provide the funds required for the trial from the tourism budget.

8. FESTIVE DURSLEY UPDATE

The Festive Dursley group met on 13th January 2025 to discuss the 2024 event, which was deemed successful. The Methodist Church proved to be a good popular venue for the grotto and the request would be made host again at this year’s event.

The group considered the request for silent fireworks, but no final decision taken. Any changes to current firework display would have an impact on the event costs.

9. ARRANGEMENTS FOR PANCAKE RACE – 4th MARCH 2025, 12PM

The arrangements for the 2025 Pancake Race were noted. Members were encouraged to promote the race and help with marshalling duties on the day.

10. VETERAN CYCLE CLUB/PEDESEN GATHERING – 12/13th APRIL 2025

Cllr Eales provided an update on the annual gathering of Pedersen bicycles and the Veteran Cycle Club AGM. There will be a number of events in the town centre on Saturday 12th April, with the AGM of the club being held at Kingshill House. On Sunday 13th April the bicycles are riding out towards Berkely. The Veteran Cycle Club are keen to build on last year’s event with a higher number of participants expected.

Cllr Eales provided an update on a proposal to have a sculpture dedicated to the Pedersen bicycle on Long Street Green.

Cllr T White suggested the above plans could be shared with local schools to encourage participation linked to cycling proficiency.

11. LONG STREET CAR PARK

The Town Clerk provided an update on the overhead barrier that was damaged by a third party in December 2024. An insurance claim has been opened with the driver of the vehicle having admitted responsibility. The new barriers and supporting post have been ordered and will be installed soon.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:30pm.

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Chair

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Date