

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 2017/04/18 – 16

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Tuesday 18 April 2017 at 7.02 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs C Harris (Chairman), B Berryman, R Christodoulides, H Ives, C Legg and D Pugh

Cllr K White
Mrs J Smailes – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Miss C Wheeler – Executive Officer (EO)

Cllr Harris informed all present that no practice fire evacuation had been scheduled for the duration of the meeting. All attendees were then informed of the locations of the nearest fire exits.

1. **APOLOGIES**
Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Street.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None.
3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
The minutes of the Amenities meeting held on 16 January 2017 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed by Cllr Ives, seconded by Cllr Berryman.** Unanimous.
4. **OPEN FORUM**
No requests to speak were received.
5. **PLAY AREAS**
Land rear of Leaze Court
Prior to the meeting Members were provided with a copy of the response which had been received from Two Rivers Housing. Members noted that Two Rivers Housing had advised that they would lease the land to the Council for £1.00 per annum and were offering a 5 or 10 year agreement, on the basis that the Council would cut the grass, maintain the equipment and insure the area.

During discussion it was noted that if the Council resolved to lease the area it would incur additional expenditure (e.g. grass cutting, litter collection, etc) and attention was also drawn to the fact that whilst it had been established that an electrical cable was buried beneath the area, it was unknown if any other utilities/communication cables also existed beneath the area. The possibility of siting a youth shelter on the site was mooted, however, it was felt that this facility would be better suited in either Bathurst Park or the Recreation Ground. It was **proposed by Cllr Harris** that the provision of a youth shelter would be an agenda item for each Trust to consider. Unanimous.

Action by – the CEO

After a short further discussion it was **proposed by Cllr Harris**, that the Council would initially enter into a 5 year lease, with the option to extend the lease for a further 5 years; that once the lease had been signed the land would be included on the Council's grass cutting contract; that Groundstaff would be asked to initially erect a number of benches



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and a litter bin on site, with consideration given towards including funding for a LAP in the Committee's 2018/2019 budget discussions. Unanimous.

Action by – the CEO

The CEO drew attention to the fact that no provision had been included in the current budget for the area's lease and associated costs. Members were advised that currently £5,192.00 was held in Earmarked Reserves for play equipment at Primrose Hill and that £6,472.38 was held in General Earmarked Reserves and it was therefore proposed that all such costs would need to be taken from this Earmarked sum. Noted.

Gloucestershire Playing Field Association

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with a copy of the 2016 report which had been conducted on Primrose Hill Mesne, Fallers Field, Court Road and Beauchamp Meadow play areas. The contents of the report was duly noted by Members.

6. **LITTER BIN**

Members were asked to consider the request received from a member of the public for a litter bin to be sited in Bream Road, close to the Bus Stop. After a short discussion it was **proposed by Cllr Harris** that the request would be declined. Unanimous.

7. **THE MESNE**

Members noted that work to reinstate the grassed area would shortly be commenced on the Meend and were appraised of the difficulties which had been experienced with obtaining a commencement date from the appointed fencing contractor and also the issues which had been experienced with the ATV regarding its plating.

Members were then asked to consider if they wished to install any additional play equipment on the Mesne. During discussion Members recalled that £5,192.00 was currently held in Earmarked Reserves in respect of the Mesne and it was agreed in principle that new equipment would be provided at some point. Furthermore, that copies of the historical quotations for play equipment for under 5s on the Mesne would be provided to Members in order that they may familiarise themselves with the likely cost of providing such, as funding for new equipment would need to form part of their budget discussions for 2018/2019 financial year. Furthermore, it was **proposed by Cllr Legg, seconded by Cllr Pugh**, that an approach should be made to the Friends of Primrose Hill to establish if they would be willing to contribute towards the cost of providing new equipment.

Action by – the CEO

8. **CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON - 2017**

Members noted that following the Delegated Powers which were bestowed at the last meeting, two additional Christmas lights (and associated electrical connections) had been purchased at a cost of £1,840.00.

Members also noted that Danter's had advised that they would be unable to provide a facility for Mulled Wine/Hot Chestnuts for the event. After a short discussion it was agreed that Cllr Harris would approach Mr Marx to ascertain if this would be something which he would be interested in providing and that efforts would be made to ascertain the catering/entertainment facilities which would be provided by Danter's.

Action by – the CEO



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9. **PUBLIC REALM**

Members were informed that no response had been received from Members regarding items for a S106 “Wish List”. Members were reminded that all Members had been requested to submit ideas for contributions from developers in order that they may be collated by the CEO and considered by the Committee.

It was noted that Cllr Berryman would contact Lord Bledisloe to ascertain if the land adjacent to Bathurst Pool was still available.

Action by – Cllr Berryman

10. **PLANTING**

Members noted that street light baskets/barrier baskets would be erected during June and would remain in place until the end of September. It was also noted that efforts had been made to ensure that the planting colours would match those throughout the Town.

11. **COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Cllr Berryman expressed disappointment that the raised flowerbed sited outside Bathurst Pool had been vandalised that the Managing Committee of the Pool had decided to place the flower bed under CCTV surveillance.

12. **MEETING DATES**

Members noted that the next meeting would take place on Monday 17 July 2017

The meeting closed at 8.03 pm.

Chairman

Date