

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 2019/10/21 – 03

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Conference Room, The Dean Academy, Church Road, Lydney on Monday 21 October 2019 at 6.01 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs T Tremlett (Chairman), L Arnold, Z Arnold, J Carr, A Harley and W Leach

Cllr P Macklin

Cllr S Turner

Miss C Wheeler – Assistant Clerk

Cllr Tremlett 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 Cllrs Holmes, Kemsley and Vaughan.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Amenities meeting held on 30 September 2019 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed by Cllr L Arnold, seconded by Cllr Carr.** Unanimous.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

None.

5. **BUDGET PERFORMANCE**

Members were provided with a copy of the Committee's budget breakdown which detailed budgetary headings, budget allocation, committed spend together with the unallocated sum which remained against each budget heading.

The details of the budget breakdown were noted and the Assistant Clerk reminded Members that this information was included on the monthly Finance Sheet which was considered and approved by Full Council.

6. **TREE SURGERY**

Cllr Tremlett advised Members that the Town Clerk had obtained two quotations for the tree work which had been identified in the Annual Tree Surgery. However, as best practice was to obtain three quotations the Clerk had recommended that the Committee defer consideration of the quotations until the November Full Council meeting, by which time it was anticipated that a third quotation would have been obtained.

Members' attention was drawn to the budget which remained for tree works and it was suggested that the unallocated sum which remained against the "tree" budget would be committed in respect of the work. It was also brought to the Committee's attention that a virement would need to take place between budgetary headings in order to cover the cost of the work, as the unallocated "tree" budget heading was insufficient.

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It was **proposed by Cllr Tremlett** that consideration of the two quotations would be deferred until the November Full Council meeting, to allow a third quotation to be received. Furthermore, that Delegated Powers would be bestowed on the Clerk to vire a sum from budgetary headings to the “tree” budgetary heading to allow sufficient funds to cover the cost of the work. Unanimous.

Action by – the Clerk

7. PLAY AREAS

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with a copy of the Annual Play Inspection reports and noted that remedial works had already been conducted under a health and safety remit, in order to address any identified works.

Members were advised that in recent weeks play equipment at the Leaze Court Play Area had been subjected to vandalism. The Assistant Clerk informed Members of the need to replace a Maze Ball Fall Wall Game and also a Green Boat Steering Wheel at a cost of £339.10 plus VAT (supply only basis). **Cllr Tremlett proposed** the replacement of the equipment. Unanimous.

Action by – the Clerk

8. DOG WASTE BINS

Members were informed that requests had been received from members of the public to install a dog waste bin at Leaze Court Play Area and also two dog waste bins on the Oakdale estate.

Members were informed that it would cost £565.10 including VAT to purchase and empty a dog waste bin for the first year, reducing to £293.90 including VAT thereafter for weekly emptying.

Cllr Tremlett informed all present that bagged dog waste could be deposited in litter bins and she gave a commitment to contact Forest of Dean District Council to request that they publicise this. It was **proposed by Cllr Tremlett** that the Council would purchase a dog waste bin for the Leaze Court Play Area. Furthermore, that Delegated Powers would be bestowed on the Clerk to vire additional funding to the relevant budgetary heading to cover the purchase/emptying charge. Unanimous.

Action by – the Clerk

Cllr Z Arnold agreed to raise the issue of additional litter bins on the Oakdale development with District Cllr Claire Vaughan.

Action by – Cllr Z Arnold

9. PRIMROSE HILL/THE MESNE

Members were informed that the previous Clerk had received a verbal request from a member of the public that they be permitted to create wildflower beds alongside the borders adjacent to the road.

It was agreed that the Executive Officer would write to the member of public to ascertain if they would submit their proposals to the Council for consideration.

Action by – the Executive Officer

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10. **ALLOTMENTS**

Members were informed that a request had been received from an Allotment Tenant for allotment charges to be based on measured plot sizes.

Members were provided with a copy of the overview document detailing the dimensions of the South Road Allotment plots. It was noted that the plots differed greatly in size and whilst a “plot range” for fees was suggested, Members were encouraged to visit the site before the January meeting in order that they may view the plots for themselves before taking a decision on the matter.

Action by – all Councillors

11. **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON**

Members were provided with a verbal overview of the arrangements which had been made in respect of the 2019 event by the Grants and Events Administrator, in line with the Committee’s recent resolution that it would organise the same event as that held in 2018.

It was agreed that Cllr Tremlett would undertake “Lead Councillor” duties for the event. It was also noted that an event briefing meeting would take place during the daytime prior to the event to which all Members would be invited to attend.

Action by – Cllr Tremlett/all Councillors

12. **LYDNEY IN BLOOM**

During discussion it was felt that this facility should sit within the Environmental Working Party in order that any recommendations may be fed back to the Committee.

Members noted that an “Expression of Interest” form had been submitted in respect of the Urban Tree Challenge.

Cllr Macklin excused himself from the meeting at this point.

13. **PIGEONS IN LYDNEY**

Members were provided with a verbal overview of the response which had been received from Forest of Dean District Council’s ERS Officer regarding pigeons in the Town.

Cllr Tremlett advised Members that it was not the Town Council’s responsibility to address pigeons in the Town and felt that retailers needed to contact their landlords to request that they take action.

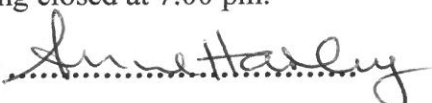
14. **COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Cllr L Arnold advised that he had received a complaint concerning flooding outside the Council’s office due to the Lydney Cycleway scheme work.

15. **MEETING DATES**

Members noted that the next meeting would take place on Monday 20 January 2020.

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm.

Chairman 

Date 20/01/2020