

**Annual Town Meeting
Held at Lydney Town Hall, Lydney
Monday 18 April 2016 at 7.00 pm**

Present:

Lydney Town Council

B Berryman (Mayor), D Biddle, R Christodoulides, J Greenwood, C Harris, H Ives, C Legg, B Pearman, A Preest, D Pugh and D Street

Mrs J Smailes - Chief Executive Officer

Miss C Wheeler - Executive Officer

Mr R Lewis – Independent Internal Auditor, Wildin & Co

Gloucestershire Police

P S Sleeman, Lydney

35 Members of the Public

Councillor Berryman welcomed all present to the meeting and explained that no practice fire evacuations were scheduled during the event. Attendees were then informed of the location of the fire exits.

All attendees were provided with a copy of the newsletter containing extracts of reports contained in the full version of Lydney Town Council's Annual Report 2015/16 (copies of both documents were available to download from the Town Council's website after the meeting). Attendees were also provided with copies of the slides referred to by Cllr Pearman during his presentation.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Beddis.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting dated 20 April 2015 were confirmed and approved as a true record and duly signed. **Proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Christodoulides.**
Unanimous.

3. **MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015/16** – Cllr B Berryman

Cllr Berryman read out his report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/2016.

4. **ANNUAL POLICE REPORT**

PS Sleeman read out the Community Policing report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/2016.

5. **LEAH HOPES**

Miss Hopes provided all present with a presentation on her recent trip to California with Girl Guiding UK, which was enjoyed by all.

6. **LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Planning and Highway Committee – Cllr Preest

Cllr Preest read out the Committee's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/16.



Amenities Committee – Cllr Harris

Cllr Harris read out the Committee's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/2016.

Burial Committee – Cllr Harris

Cllr Harris read out the Committee's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/2016.

Finance and Scrutiny Committee – Cllr Pearman

Cllr Pearman read out the Committee's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/2016.

Cllr Pearman then gave a presentation which explained the difference between the Council's Precept figure for 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 (as shown in Forest of Dean District Council's Council Tax booklet) and the actual Precept Demand/amount received. Copies of the slides were provided to all members of the public present.

Neighbourhood Development Plan – Cllr Pearman

Cllr Pearman read out the Committee's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/2016.

All present were reminded by the Mayor of the criticism levied at the Town Council for having the highest Precept in the District. However, all were reminded that the Council was still paying for a Public Works Loan which had been taken out to rebuild the Pavilion in Bathurst Park following an arson attack (the cost of which should really be shown against the Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust), together with the costs of providing Bathurst Park and Lydney Recreation Ground. It was noted that should the Council cease contributing to Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust and Lydney Recreation Ground it was likely that its Precept would be on par with Coleford Town Council.

7. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

County Cllr Preest read out his report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/2016.

8. **CHARITABLE TRUST REPORTS**

Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust – Trustee H Ives

Trustee Ives read out the Trust's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/16.

Lydney Recreation Trust – Trustee Biddle

Trustee Biddle gave a précis of the Trust's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/16.

9. **COMMUNITY REPORTS**

Lydney Dial-A-Ride – Mrs Currie, Manager

Mrs Currie read out the organisation's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/16.

Lydney Festival – Mr Biddle

Mr Biddle gave a précis of the organisation's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/2016, and stressed the success of the "Totally Talented" competition which had been managed by young people. Mr Biddle felt that the future of the Festival lay in the organisation of similar events.

Lydney War Memorial Trust – Mrs Richardson

Mrs Richardson drew attention to the organisation's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/2016 and advised all present that the quinquennial survey had been undertaken; a number of issues had been identified which would require rectification.

Friends of Lydney Hospital (FOLH) – Mr Midgley

Mr Midgley drew attention to the organisation's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/2016. Referencing an article which had recently appeared in the local press, Mr Midgley advised that a Locality Reference Group had been set up by the clinical commissioning group for Gloucestershire to examine a whole gambit of healthcare services for Gloucestershire. The FOLH possessed two representatives on said Group; it was anticipated that the Group would produce a range of options for social care during the summer which would consider all the various activities currently undertaken in the Forest, of which Community Hospitals were just one element. Mr Midgley urged all present not to believe the media speculation that there was only one solution for the Forest.

Lydney Town Hall Trust Management Committee – Mr Knight

Mrs Richardson read out the Trust's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/2016.

Royal British Legion - Lydney Branch – Mr Hendy

Mr Hendy read out the Branch report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/2016.

Lydney Park Run – Mr Price

Mr Price read out the organisation's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/2016.

Friends of Bathurst Pool – Mr Berryman

Mr Berryman read out the organisation's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2015/2016.

10. **RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RECEIVED**

Cllr Berryman advised that two questions had been received from members of the Electorate and he read out the Council's response in each respect:

Q1 – Could it not be made obligatory for developers to incorporate some form of renewable energy source into the structure of their housing before planning permission can be granted? It could be ground source or photo-voltaic panels (or whatever renewable source may be researched in the future).

A – The system of regulation of new development through both the planning and building regimes has been a focus for Government as part of the steps it has been taking to streamline the planning system, protect the environment, support economic growth and assist locally-led decision making. In March 2015 the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, produced a Written Statement <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/planning-update-march-2015> setting out the Government's approach and giving interim guidance on the approach to be taken by local Councils until such time as new legislation came into force.

In its move to streamline the regulatory processes affecting developers the Government had decided that the approach to energy efficiency in house building should be administered through the Building Regulations system and not through the planning system. The Building Regulations


national standards applicable across the country. They do not prescribe or exclude any particular technologies, including renewable energy. Developers therefore have flexibility in how they achieve the requirements of the Regulations.

Q2 – At what cost (including expenses) has the Lydney Town Council Clerk completed her Masters Degree Course Study for Entrepreneurial Leadership (MEL)?

A – A public question has been submitted, however, as the question relates to financial accounting year 2014/15 and the public right to inspect these accounts has long since lapsed; the External Auditor, Grant Thornton returning a “no concern” qualified opinion in relation to the same said question and this Council’s resolution dated 18 May 2015, of which the member of the public is fully aware, having attended said meeting. I can advise the Council will be making no further comment other than to advise those present that a copy of the audit Disclosure Notice remains publically accessible via Lydney Town Council’s website.

11. **CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.


CHAIRMAN
11/7/2017