

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 2019/11/25 – 06

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers, Claremont House, High Street, Lydney on Monday 25 November 2019 at 6.00 pm.

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

Mr D Kent
Mr A Maliphant – Town Clerk
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 Cllr Z Arnold.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **OPEN FORUM**

None.

4. **TREE SURGERY**

Cllr Tremlett reminded Members that they had been provided with an overview document by the Clerk relating to tree works at Primrose Hill, The Oaks, St Mary's churchyard and the Cemetery.

During discussion Members were reminded that TrunkArb Tree Surgery undertook the annual tree inspection at a reduced rate, which may change in the future in order that the charge levied covered the cost of the work. The Clerk reported that all three contractors had now quoted on the same basis (i.e. removing the felled timber from site). Members noted that later in the evening Lydney Recreation Trust and the Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust would also consider tree surgery quotes and they questioned if they would be required to appoint the same contractor. The Clerk advised that the quotations were to be considered on an individual basis.

After a further short discussion it was **proposed by Cllr Carr, seconded by Cllr Leach**, that the quotation from Chapel Tree Services Limited for £4,836.00 including VAT would be accepted. Unanimous.

Action by – the Clerk

5. **2020/21 DRAFT BUDGET**

Members were provided with a copy of the draft Committee Budget for 2020-2021 for their consideration.

The Clerk highlighted that a slight reduction had been achieved in the draft budget, which had been calculated on known and anticipated costs. Noting that that budget had

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not included any provision for additional cuts to the Gateways, Cllr Tremlett sought an assurance that this facility would not be required. The Clerk advised that it had not been necessary to commission any additional Gateway cuts for previous years.

Cllr Leach spoke in favour of raising funds from the community and also local traders if the Council wished to offer a different Christmas Lights Switch On for 2020 and spoke against any reduction in budget. The Clerk advised that it had been possible to achieve small savings in the cost of the 2020 summer floral display; later in the year Members would be asked if they wished to change the summer planting provision to allow a greater number of displays to be provided by Groundstaff rather than hiring street column planters.

After taking the opportunity to peruse the draft budget further it was **proposed by Cllr Tremlett**, that the Committee would approve a Committee budget for 2020-2021 of £100,385.00. Unanimous.

Cllr Tremlett seized the opportunity to thank her fellow Councillors for attending the Christmas Lights Switch On event. Members were informed that Danter had subsidized the cost of the hot drinks which had been given to the performers and had expressed a desire to support the event again in 2020.

Responding to a question which had been raised by Cllr Holmes regarding the illumination of the Christmas Light features 24 hours a day, the Assistant Clerk advised that historically the Committee had previously resolved to illuminate the features this way. Members were informed that problems had always been experienced with the timing clocks which operated the features due to condensate which formed inside the street lighting column entering said clocks resulting in their failure. Members were informed that it was cheaper to illuminate the lights by this means, rather than to annually replace timing clocks. Cllr L Arnold called for the matter to be an agenda item for the January meeting.

Action by – the Clerk

The meeting closed at 6.33 pm.

Chairman

Shirley Hanley

Date

20/01/2020