

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 2017/03/27 – 121A

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Monday 27 March 2017 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs B Berryman (Chairman), D Biddle, R Christodoulides, J Greenwood, C Harris, H Ives, W Leach, C Legg, B Pearman, A Preest, D Pugh and D Street

Ten members of the public
Mrs J Smailes – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Miss C Wheeler – Executive Officer (EO)

Cllr Berryman 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**
No apologies for absence were received.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None.

Cllr Berryman addressed all present to remind them that the total enclosure of the Mesne was not a topic for discussion as Council had previously resolved that it did not wish to totally enclose this “open” space and stressed that any boundary fencing would purely act as a deterrent against Boar, and may not prevent them from continuing to access the site. Cllr Pearman advised that Members had visited Yorkley Community Centre to view the fencing and noted that the site had been totally enclosed by such fencing. Furthermore, that the Forestry Commission would not permit vehicular/pedestrian access gates to be erected at the Springfield Road and Grove Lane entrances to their land.

3. **OPEN FORUM**
Mr Knight, 21 Lancaster Court, Lydney: Agenda item 4 – Feral Boar – The Mesne – summarised the objectives for the “Friends of Primrose Hill Mesne” (FOPHM); stressed that the FOPHM wished the Mesne to be a facility which was safe and open to the public to use; advised that the FOPHM were willing to raise funds to restore the Mesne and suggested a number of organisations to which funding requests could be submitted; called on the Council to install an effective boundary fence to wooded side which would prevent Boar from accessing the site and stressed that the FOPHM was willing to work with the Council to protect and restore the Mesne for use by all members of the public.

Mr Shaw, 29 Primrose Hill, – Agenda item 4 – Feral Boar – The Mesne - advised that the issue concerning Boar had last been discussed 2 years prior; that the extent of damage caused by the Boar, together with their increase in population, had not been fully realised; highlighted that Yorkley Community Centre had taken steps to protect their community space and had accessed funding from various sources; emphasised that the Boar were deemed to be feral by DEFRA and their view that it was the responsibility for local communities to solve issues which were being experienced; encouraged the Council to protect the Mesne and work with the FOPHM.

Mr Owen – 3 Augustus Way, Lydney – Agenda item 4 – Feral Boar – The Mesne – stated that feral pigs, not boar, were evident in the Forest of Dean; that if the animals were referred

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 2017/03/27 – 121B

to as feral pigs they could be classed as vermin and so culled; that none of the animals which which had been culled could be skeletally identified as boar.

Mr Grant, Station House, Parkend - Agenda item 4 – Feral Boar – The Mesne – highlighted that when the land was first conveyed to the Council it included a condition to erect and maintain a stock proof fence; that whilst the adjacent wood was now owned by the Forestry Commission, not Lydney Park Estate, the condition was still valid. The CEO confirmed that the aforementioned point was correct and advised that it was for this reason Members were today considering their obligation in relation to this matter.

4. **FERAL BOAR – THE MESNE**

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with clarification regarding meeting protocol, namely, that the first Motion tabled at the March Full Council meeting “*to fence the boundary line*” failed; a subsequent, substantive Motion “*to gain all relevant information; conduct a site visit/visit to Yorkley etc and then to convene an Extra Ordinary Meeting in order that an informed decision may then be taken on this matter*” was carried. All present were advised that if there had not been a substantive Motion then the 6 month rule would have applied which would prohibit further discussion on this agenda item – ref. Standing Orders.

Members were provided with a copy of the response which had been received from DEFRA in relation to Wild Boar. Noted.

Members were provided with a copy of the information which had been located regarding the Primrose Hill Pleasure Ground (Ref: Lydney Parish Enclosure Award – 21 June 1864). Noted.

Members were also reminded of the conveyance of a wooded area adjacent to the Primrose Hill Pleasure Ground from Lydney Park Estate to Lydney Parish Council, which placed a condition on the Council to erect/maintain a stock-proof fence, dividing the land from Lydney Park Estate property (now owned by the Forestry Commission).

The CEO advised that a representative from the Forestry Commission had advised that the Council would not be permitted to erect vehicular/pedestrian gates at the Springfield Road and Grove Road entrances; it would be permitted to erect a vehicular/pedestrian gate at the Lynwood Road entrance provided such was not placed on Forestry Commission land and was kept unlocked. Members were provided with photographs of the fencing utilised by Yorkley Community Centre and Yorkley Cricket Ground and were advised that a site meeting had also taken place with a fencing contractor who also possessed the ability to reinstate the land.

During discussion the possibility of the Council installing a cattle grid at the Springfield Road and Grove Lane entrances was raised; the erection a post and rail fence was mooted, which would enable the FOPHM to undertake fundraising work to cover the cost of adding wire fencing at a later date. Cllr Street felt it imperative that the Lynwood Road entrance be protected as he believed that Boar were digging in the area.

Attention was drawn to the fencing options and the quotations which had been obtained for consideration at the meeting. It was noted that Contractor 1 had provided two options – one utilising stock fencing and barbed wire; the other utilising Tornado HT15/158/8 badger netting – both options would require the clearance of the fencing line. A separate

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 2017/03/27 – 121C

quotation had been provided for the erection of vehicular/pedestrian gates at Lynwood Road, Springfield Road and Grove Lane. The second contractor had quoted for the utilisation of R20/190/8 Wild Boar Fencing together with the clearance of the fencing line. Again, a separate quotation had been provided for the erection of vehicular/pedestrian gates at Lynwood Road, Springfield Road and Grove Lane. It was noted that Contractor 1 had quoted for the provision of a wooden self-closing pedestrian gate on FLY11 and that Contractor 2 had quoted for the provision of a stile with a dog access point. The potential risk that a self-closing gate may be deliberately propped open was stressed to Members, together with the need to establish who was responsible for Lynwood Road. It was noted that the Council may need to conduct a Land Registry search in order to establish if Lynwood Road was registered.

At this point Cllr Preest questioned if Members would be permitted to view an additional quote which had come into his possession prior to the meeting. Cllr Preest was advised that this was not possible as his fellow Members had not been provided with the required notice in order to view the quotation. A Point of Order was called at this point; Members were reminded that the Council did not have to accept the cheapest quote, rather they were required to make a decision on a system which they felt would lessen the issue which was being experienced.

Cllr Street called for consideration to be given towards the use of a self-closing gate on FLY11, rather than a stile. Cllr Pearman felt that it would be difficult for retrospective funding to be obtained for schemes and he felt that if the Council initially installed a post and rail fence it would enable a base upon which Boar fencing could later be nailed and allowed for funding applications to be completed. Furthermore, Cllr Pearman felt that if the Council were to cover the whole cost of the fence it may result in an increase in the Precept for 2018/19. Accordingly, **Cllr Pearman proposed** that the Council would fence along the original boundary line utilising a post and rail fence, with a gate on FLY11 and possibly Lynwood Road, up to the value of £8,500.00 and that Delegated Powers would be bestowed on the CEO and two Members to progress the matter as considered appropriate. **Seconded by Cllr Harris.** Vote carried.

Action by – the CEO and two Members

Cllr Greenwood proposed that the Council would agree, in principle, to the erection of a post and wire fence; that Delegated Powers would be bestowed to the CEO and two Members to investigate; that the contractor/quotation put forward by Cllr Preest would be contacted by the CEO and requested to quote on a “like for like” basis; that Full Council would decide the level of contribution required (if any) from FOPHM towards the cost of erecting netting on the post and rail fence. **Seconded by Cllr Preest.** Vote carried.

Action by – the CEO and two Members

Meeting closed at 7.06 pm

Chairman 

Date 10/4/2017