

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 2013/12/09 – 14

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Monday 9 December 2013 at 7.02 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs B Thomas (Chairman), B Berryman, J Bevan, D Biddle, R Bonser, C Harris and V Hobman

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

Cllr Thomas 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 Matthews and Osborne.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Amenities meeting held on 21 October 2014 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Hobman.** Unanimous.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

None.

5. **ALLOTMENTS**

South Road

Prior to the meeting Councillors were provided with a copy of the response which had been obtained from Forest of Dean District Council regarding the requirement to obtain formal planning consent for the erection of boundary fencing at the site. It was noted that there was no necessity to gain planning consent given that the fence borders a private car park owned by Two Rivers Housing.

The possibility of providing potting sheds towards the bottom area of the site was mooted. Members were provided with a copy of the advice which had been obtained from a Forest of Dean District Council Planning Officer that formal planning consent would not be required providing that the Council erected, managed and maintained the sheds and that the sheds did not exceed 4 metres in height and 200 cubic metres in capacity. After a short discussion it was **proposed by Cllr Thomas** that prices would be obtained for the supply of suitable sheds and that the matter would be an agenda item for the next meeting. Unanimous.

Action by – the CEO

IBC

Members were advised that the siting of the IBCs would be completed by the end of the week. Responding to questions which had been raised by Cllrs Bonser and Thomas,

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Members were advised that it had been necessary to site the IBCs and shelter in such a position to maximise the shade provided (in order to reduce algae growth) and that following requests by prospective tenants, it had been necessary to divide one of the larger plots into three smaller allotments. Cllr Berryman advised that three vacant allotment plots currently existing at Aylburton. Cllr Thomas also requested that should the Committee decide to pursue the provision of sheds that consideration also be given as to their security.

6. **PROPOSED CYCLE PATH (Lydney to Parkend)**

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with a copy of the response which had been received from Darren Edwards, Forestry Commission Recreation Manager, advising that at present no official route had been agreed, however, once a route had been mapped a meeting with Lydney Town Council and others would be welcomed.

During discussion Cllr Harris suggested that consideration be given towards applying to The Peoples Millions to obtain funding for the provision of a cycle path and she advised that it would be necessary to set up a team to promote such a scheme and its potential benefits. The potential difficulties with private ownership of land towards Whitecroft were raised and it was agreed that West Dean Parish Council would be approached to ascertain their interest in attending a meeting, with the matter being an agenda item for the next meeting.

Action by – the CEO

7. **CHRISTMAS LIGHT SPONSORSHIP**

Members were provided with a copy of an e-mail exchange between the CEO and the EO regarding issues which had arisen with a number of the Christmas lighting units, which it was believed to be the result of faulty timing clocks. Cllr Thomas requested that the Working Party arranging the 2014 Christmas event bear this in mind in order that it may be addressed in advance of the 2014 display.

Action by – Christmas Working Party

8. **MACHINERY**


Prior to the meeting Councillors were provided with a copy of a quotation which had been obtained from Dean Mowers for the supply of two Stihl FS460 C-EM Strimmers at a cost of £1,200.00 including VAT. Members were advised that Mincost had also been requested to quote for the machinery, however, Dean Mowers had supplied the lowest quote. It was **proposed by Cllr Biddle, seconded by Cllr Harris** that the purchase would be approved. Unanimous.

Action by – the CEO

9. **VIREMENT FROM AMENITIES BUDGET TO MAYOR/CIVIC re. FLAGPOLE**

As per discussion at the July Full Council meeting, Members were asked to consider if they wished to reimburse the Civic Budget for the cost of the flagpole (£49.00) which was purchased and sited outside the Council Office. Reimbursement **proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Bonser**. Unanimous.

Action by – the CEO


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10. **GATEWAY ENTRANCE PLANTING/WILD FLOWER BORDERS**

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with copies of information which had been supplied by a trained horticulturist regarding sowing Wild Flower mixes/planting of bulbs, etc.

Cllr Thomas advised that County Cllr Preest had agreed to seek advice from County Cllr Smith regarding the use of Meadow Mixture EM3 and he stressed the need to estimate the acreage of the area to be sown. Cllr Thomas also suggested that the Council may wish to concentrate on sowing the East and West gateways initially.

Cllr Thomas recalled that the possibility of planting poppies on the roundabout had also been raised and he advised that 100 grms of seed could be purchased for £9.00, or 1 kilo for £90.00. However, Cllr Biddle felt that poppies were difficult to establish, required re-sowing and felt that the management of wild flowers may require the assistance of someone with prior experience. Furthermore, he reminded his fellow Councillors that the Gateways to the Town had previously been planted with wild flowers which were then not managed correctly and subsequently overtaken by grass which looked unsightly.

Members were reminded that they had already received advice from Mr Richard Cole regarding the management of wild flowers and the CEO was requested to contact Mr Richard Cole again to obtain his advice/arrange for a presentation.

Action by – the CEO

11. **LYDNEY IN BLOOM**

Prior to the meeting Councillors were provided with a copy of the advice, kindly provided by Newent In Bloom, regarding how to form an In Bloom organisation. Members noted that it had not been possible for a representative from Newent in Bloom to attend the meeting to provide a presentation to Councillors.


Cllrs Harris and Thomas advised that the Working Party of Cllrs Osborne, Matthews, Harris and Thomas had yet to meet and that attempts would be made to organise a meeting. Consideration was given to the types of organisations which may wish to get involved in the venture and Cllr Bonser was requested to obtain contact details for the Lydney and Lydney and District Severnside Flower Club; Cllr Harris felt that an invitation could also be extended to the Council's allotment tenants to ascertain their interest in such a project.

Action by – Cllr Bonser

12. **PRIMROSE HILL – Under 5s Play Equipment (LAP)**

Due to the fact that the proposal at the October meeting (to seek approval from Full Council to re-allocate the Earmarked Reserves of £8,000 for under 5s play equipment) was not voted on, Members were advised of the need to undertake a formal vote on the proposal. Accordingly, **Cllr Bonser proposed** that Full Council be asked to re-allocate £8,000 currently held in Earmarked Reserves to general play equipment. **Seconded by Cllr Harris.** Unanimous.

Action by – the CEO


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13. **COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Cllr Bonser was pleased to report that a problem hedge in Forest Road had now been cut.

Cllr Harris expressed concern that she had been approached by members of the public who believed that events at the Christmas Lights Switch On (attendance of Santa Claus) had been organised by the Council.

Cllr Hobman advised that she had been informed by the Head of Planning and Housing, Forest of Dean District Council that the developer of Oakdale would commence work on providing a bus link and access, etc, on 6 January 2014.

It was noted that Mr D Street was currently working to provide a wooden bridge to enable Oakdale residents to link with public footpaths to local facilities.

Cllr Berryman advised that the Editor of Oakdale Links was organising a candlelit parade through Lydney to highlight the problems faced by residents of the development. District Councillors were requested to ensure that the Head of Planning and Housing forwarded such information to the Town Council, in order that it may be disseminated to Members.

14. **MEETING DATES**

Cllr Thomas proposed the rescheduling of the next meeting to 17 February 2014 at 7.00 pm. Unanimous.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Chairman 

Date 