

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 2018/10/15 – 05

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Monday 15 October 2018 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs C Harris (Chairman), B Berryman, R Holmes, H Ives and K White
Mrs J Smailes – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Miss C Wheeler – Executive Officer (EO)

Cllr Harris 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. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Berryman proposed Cllr Ives for the position. **Seconded by Cllr White.** There being no other nominations the proposal was put to the vote. Unanimous.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllrs Christodoulides, Legg and Vaughan.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Amenities meeting held on 16 July 2018 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed by Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Holmes.** Vote carried.

5. **OPEN FORUM**

None.

6. **PLAY AREAS**

Leaze Court

The CEO advised Members that installation of the new play equipment was due to commence on 17 October 2018. Furthermore, Members noted that the equipment manufacturer had been informed that the Council did not wish for the installation of its equipment to suffer due to adverse weather, with the equipment being left in a partially installed condition for a number of months.

The Mesne

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with copies of photographs of the reinstatement/re-gravelling of the footpath on the Mesne. Members expressed their thanks to Groundstaff for their excellent work and it was hoped that in 2019 it may be possible to reinstate the footpath which had existed around the perimeter of the Mesne.

During discussion a lack of parking facilities for families/disabled persons at the site were noted, however, Members did not feel that it would be possible to increase/designate the current parking provision as it may lead to the Council's grass cutting Contractor being prevented from accessing the site due to vehicles blocking the site entrance.



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7. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON 2018

Members were advised that due to logistical issues/risk of vandalism of features in Bathurst Park it would be necessary to revert to using the Lydney Car Wash site for this year's Switch On event. Noted.

Cllr Berryman was liaising with the tenant of the site to confirm that they were agreeable for the event to take place on their land. Members were also informed that a response was awaited from Gloucester Rugby Club regarding the availability of one of their players to switch on the Town's lights.

During discussion Members were advised that Danter's Fair would be in attendance and that efforts were being made to secure the services of a hot food provider at the event. It was agreed that Cllr Ives, White, Harris, Berryman and Holmes would be in attendance to marshal the event and that Ground staff would transport Grotto presents, chairs, portable lights, etc to the site and remain on site until the event close (no Town Council Officers would be in attendance this year given there was to be no parade that required marshalling).

Attention then turned to the ability for the Council to provide performers with refreshments. It was **proposed by Cllr Ives, seconded by Cllr White**, that a voucher system would be operated which performers could exchange for a hot drink at the hot food provider's unit and an expenditure limit of £50.00 was agreed. Unanimous.

8. DRAFT COMMITTEE BUDGET 2019/2020

Members were provided with a copy of the draft Committee Budget for 2019-2020 for their consideration.

Noting that the draft budgetary heading for dog waste disposal had tripled, Cllr White felt that the Council should place greater emphasis on promoting the amount it expended on such to support responsible dog owners.

After taking the opportunity to peruse the draft budget it was **proposed by Cllr Harris**, that the Committee would approve a Committee budget for 2019-2020 of £101,502.00. Unanimous.

9. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Berryman highlighted the number of vacant retail premises in the Town and advised that members of the public had welcomed the provision of enhanced floral displays which had brightened Lydney's High Street.

Cllr White spoke on a green space in Sheperdine Close which was unmanaged/overgrown. The CEO believed that the area was in the ownership of Two Rivers Housing.

Noting that such a facility had been utilised in other areas where there were a number of vacant retail premises, Cllr White enquired if it would be possible for the Council to place vinyl wraps on the windows of vacant premises depicting people shopping in order to improve the visual appearance of Newerne Street. Responding to a question posed by Cllr Harris, Cllr White gave a commitment to ascertain if NatWest Bank owned or leased their former building. Cllr White would also investigate further production costs for



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shop window wraps.

Action by – Cllr White

The CEO was asked to enquire of the Local Planning Authority whether they would oppose such an initiative.

Action by – the CEO

Cllr White advised that he had received numerous pleasing comments concerning the floral displays/wildflowers at the Gateways to the Town and bug hotels.

Cllr Ives reported that he had received positive comments concerning the installation of the Silent Soldiers and Remembrance Bench.

10. **MEETING DATES**

Members noted that the next meeting would take place on Monday 21 January 2019.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

Chairman 

Date 