

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 2015/06/22 – 01

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Monday 22 June 2015 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs J Openshaw (Chairman), D Beddis (late arrival), B Berryman, D Biddle, R Christodoulides, H Ives, C Legg (late arrival), D Pugh (late arrival) and D Street

Cllr S Rudge

One member of the public

Mrs J Smailes – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Miss C Wheeler – Executive Officer (EO)

Cllr Openshaw 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**

It was **proposed by Cllr Biddle, seconded by Cllr Ives**, that the item be deferred until the arrival of Cllr Beddis. Unanimous.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for late arrival were received and noted from Cllr Legg.

Cllr Beddis arrived at this point and discussion resumed regarding the election of a Vice Chairman. **Cllr Openshaw proposed** Cllr Beddis for the position. **Seconded by Cllr Christodoulides**. There being no other nominations Cllr Beddis was elected to the position of Vice Chairman. Unanimous.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Biddle – Lydney Festival

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Amenities meeting held on 16 February 2015 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed by Cllr Openshaw, seconded by Cllr Berryman**. Vote carried.

5. **OPEN FORUM**

No requests to speak were received.

6. **EMERGENCY EXITS**

Members were provided with copies of the two quotations which had been received and were advised that a further organisation had declined to quote for the work.

During discussion it was noted that the Council already possessed a comprehensive Fire Procedure and it was felt that it was not reasonably practicable to expect the Council to incur expenditure based on the low number of personnel who attended meetings with mobility problems. It was **proposed by Cllr Openshaw** that the Council would no longer consider the matter. Unanimous.

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7. **LYDNEY IN BLOOM – WILDFLOWER/GATEWAY ENTRANCES**

Election of Lead Councillor to Lydney in Bloom

Members were informed that the Lydney in Bloom areas had been planted and now required greater community involvement in order to ensure their watering/upkeep. Members were then asked to consider appointing a Councillor in a “facilitator” role between the Council and the community to encourage members of the public to get involved with the scheme. **Cllr Openshaw proposed** Cllr Beddis to the position. Unanimous.

Cllr Pugh arrived at this point.

It was noted that a separate budget based on donations/sponsorship was provided for Lydney in Bloom, which was administered by Lydney in Bloom Group/CEO.

Sponsorship Signs

Members were advised that the Council had been required to obtain formal advertisement consent for its proposed sponsorship signs which were to be located on roundabouts/gateways/wild flower areas. It was noted that the Council’s application was currently being considered by Forest of Dean District Council.

Wild Flower Areas

It was noted that said areas had now been sown with flower seed.

8. **ALLOTMENTS**

Members noted that raised allotment beds would be installed by Ground staff late September/October.

9. **PLAY AREAS/OPEN SPACES**

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with a copy of a report from the Head Groundsman in which he expressed a desire to take on grass cutting in a number of areas namely:

- Lydney Lake
- Lydney Recreation Ground
- Primrose Hill Meend

Whilst a number of Councillors were in favour of bringing services back in-house, they felt that they could not justify the expenditure on equipment (approximately £7,000) which may be required in order for Ground staff to undertake the work. Members were reminded that the current grass cutting contract would remain in place until October 2016 and were appraised of the long term plan to undertake all the Council’s grass cutting requirements by in-house means, therefore ensuring that all areas complied with the Council’s high visual standards. Members were also reminded of the complaints which had been received from members of the public regarding the Council’s contracted cutting frequency and their decision not to collect grass cuttings from Primrose Hill Meend. Consideration was also given towards potential collaborative working with other parishes in order to address their grass cutting requirements/generate an income stream.

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It was **proposed by Cllr Ives, seconded by Cllr Pugh**, that further consideration of the matter would be deferred until such time as the CEO had contacted neighbouring Parishes in order to ascertain their interest, with the matter then being pursued further if responses were favourable. Unanimous.

Action by – the CEO

Cllr Beddis reported a lack of grass cutting which had been conducted in the Hams Road Car Park.

Primrose Hill Meend

Members noted that reinstatement work/reseeding work had been carried out on the Meend due to damage by Wild Boar.

10. **WILD BOAR**

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with a copy of the Dean Forest Forum Feral Wild Boar Report. Noted.

11. **DOG WASTE BINS**

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with details of the two requests for dog waste bins which had been received from members of the public (1 x bin in Grove Lane, 1 x bin in Ridler Road).

During discussion it was suggested that the Council should consider installing a dog waste bin by Primrose Hill School as it had been well documented that problems with dog fouling were experienced. Members were reminded of the need to consider the two requests as shown on the agenda and the CEO advised that Members may wish to formally request the provision of a dog waste bin at Primrose Hill School for consideration at the next meeting.

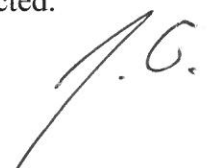
Concern was expressed over the expense which may be incurred by the Council should it receive numerous requests for dog waste bins and it was felt that more action needed to be placed on enforcement by Forest of Dean District Council's Streetwardens. Members evaluated the potential benefit which could be gained by placing bins in both areas against their agreed budget for the 2015/17 financial year and noted the cost which would be incurred for both providing the bin and the regular emptying of same by Forest Equipment Services. It was **proposed by Cllr Ives** that the Council would locate a dog waste bin in Ridler Road. **Seconded by Cllr Biddle**. Members were then asked to consider the type of bin they wished to provide.

Cllr Legg arrived at this point.

Cllr Ives proposed that the Council would provide a dog waste bin and waste bag dispenser for Ridler Road. Vote carried.

Action by – the CEO

Members spoke in favour of greater publicity to raise the issue of dog fouling in the Town and its ensuing health implications when such waste is not collected.



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12. OWNERS/OCCUPIERS LIABILITY – TREE INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with a copy of the Annual Tree Inspection Report and Risk Management Plan which had been received, the contents of which were noted.

Attention was drawn to the items which had been identified as requiring immediate attention for which a quotation had been received and copied to Members, namely:-

T1
T4
T28
G2
T96

Attention was drawn to the recommendation that T20 also be removed, as it had further deteriorated since the time of the original survey. Members noted that the identified work would cost £2,500 plus VAT, in addition to the cost of hiring a cherry picker and traffic management system. Members were advised that the Council could face a potential liability issue if it did not conduct the work, as it was now aware of the condition of the trees. It was stressed that the Council would need to agree to adopt a systematic approach to the work which had been identified in the survey and professional advice obtained regarding the priority order for the work. It was **proposed by Cllr Openshaw, seconded by Cllr Pugh**, that the quotation would be accepted for the most urgent work and that the CEO would use her discretion regarding the suitability of a contractor to provide quotations for any future work. Vote carried.

Action by – the CEO

The Oaks

It was **proposed by Cllr Openshaw** that Delegated Powers would be bestowed on the CEO to authorise work at The Oaks in order to resolve a TV reception issues experienced by neighbouring residents due to the height of the trees at The Oaks. Unanimous.

Action by – the CEO

13. THE TACK

Cllr Street advised that he had met with a former Councillor and was now in receipt of background papers regarding the creation of a permissive path over The Tack. It was noted that Lydney Park Estate were keen to progress the matter and Cllr Street was waiting for the former Councillor to arrange a meeting between Lydney Park Estate and himself to progress the matter. Furthermore, Cllr Street advised that quotations were currently being obtained for items of street furniture for The Tack and he would endeavour to establish the legal charges which would be incurred for the services of Francis Law.

During discussion it was felt that if Lydney Park Estate wished to use their solicitor to carry out the legal process the Council would firstly require details of their proposed charges and it would also consider meeting 50% of said legal charge.

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14. ONGOING AND FUTURE PROJECTS

Christmas 2015

Cllr Harris, who had arrived in the Chamber, was invited to speak by the Chairman. It was noted that the CEO had already booked Danter's Fair, the Santa Suit and was in the process of arranging for the supply and erection of lighting for a Christmas street; Cllr Berryman had approached Lord Bledisloe who had kindly agreed to supply the Town's Christmas Tree to be sited outside the Co-Op Store

Cllr Harris advised that she would be asking Mr C Edwards for the use of the area at the rear of the car lot in order that Danter's Fair could site a number of rides in the space; that she would contact Lydney Training Band to ascertain if they would be available; that Cllr Beddis had offered the assistance of the local Fire Brigade at the event; that Mr Hobman had confirmed that he would be willing to perform the role of Santa; that local choirs had been invited to participate; that a further meeting of the working party would take place on 9 July 2015 at 7.30 pm in The Annexe.

Whilst it was noted that Cllr Beddis had investigated the possibility of providing an ice rink at the event, he recommended that consideration be given towards including the facility at a 2016 event, as insufficient time remained in order to arrange/book. As it was unknown if Kate Humble had agreed to attend the event, Cllr Berryman advised that he was aware that a British Para Triathlon champion would be willing to assist the Mayor with switching on the Christmas Lights. Cllr Berryman was requested to provide contact details for the athlete to the CEO.

Action by – Cllr Berryman

Future Events

Cllr Biddle excused himself from the meeting.

Cllr Openshaw spoke on the necessity to increase Council vision by considering organising a substantial event for the Town which would attract both visitors and residents. Whilst it was felt that there was insufficient time and no budget to organise such an event for this year (current budget provision lay with the Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust), it was mooted that sufficient arrangements could be made for an event in 2016.

During discussion it was noted that previously the Council had been approached by a local organisation who had wished to organise a four day event in Bathurst Park (which would have been funded by the Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust/Lydney Town Council), however, it had not been pursued as it had not been possible to agree management terms.

Regarding an event for 2016/17, it was suggested that it could be based around a vintage theme (i.e. Darling Buds of May). Councillors noted that the Event Budget provision for 2015/16 lay with the Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust and it was suggested that the Trust may wish to consider at its meeting carrying forward its Event Budget to 2016/17 in order that it may organise a joint event with the Council. The Council would then need to include sufficient funding in its 2016/17 budget to provide funding for the event. The need for the Council and the Trust to maximise their income streams was explained to Councillors and it was felt that such an event would have a beneficial impact to both the Town and its retailers. It was agreed that the matter would be an agenda item for the



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Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust meeting on 27 July 2015 in order that the Trust may consider if it wished to work in partnership with the Council and would also be an agenda item for the next Amenities Committee meeting in September 2015 in order that Members may consider if they wished to include provision in their 2016/17 budget for such an event.

All Councillors were encouraged to submit their suggestions to the CEO in order that they may be considered at the September meeting.

15. **COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Cllr Beddis enquired if it would be possible to provide a bin in the Hams Road Car Park as a problem was experienced with litter - Future Agenda item.

Cllr Pugh advised that the proposed solar farm at Yorkley Court Farm would be visible from Grove Road during the winter months.

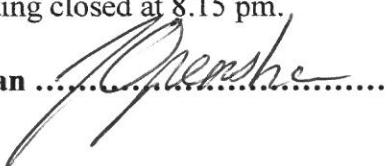
Cllr Street advised that Wild Boar were still in the vicinity of the Town.

16. **MEETING DATES**

Members noted that the next meeting would take place as per the meeting schedule

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Chairman



Date

21st Sept 2015