

# LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 2015/09/21 – 07

**MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING** held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Monday 21 September 2015 at 7.57 pm.

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

B Pearman

Mrs J Smailes – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Miss C Wheeler – Executive Officer (EO)

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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. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllrs Beddis and Biddle.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Amenities meeting held on 22 June 2015 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed by Cllr Openshaw.** Unanimous.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

No requests to speak were received.

5. **TOWN & EVENTS COMMITTEE**

Members noted the remit of the Town & Events Committee (approved at the Full Council Meeting convened on 14 September 2015) at which it was resolved that the following items of business would now fall under the remit of said Committee, rather than that of the Amenities Committee:

- Town Council annual events
- Special one-off events for the Town
- Visitor Information Services
- Promoting the Town and the Town Centre (in conjunction with the NDPCG)
- Town Council Market
- Twinning
- Lydney In Bloom/Wildflower areas (separate budget based on donations/sponsorship, administered by LIB Group/CEO)

6. **ALLOTMENTS**

Members noted that the construction of the raised allotment beds would commence at the end of September/beginning of October.

Members were asked to consider the purchase of a sign which could be affixed to the fencing at the site advising that the site was under the control of the Council. After a



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short discussion it was **proposed by Cllr Pugh, seconded by Cllr Street**, that the Council would approve the purchase of a sign for the South Road Allotment site. It was felt that the sign would cost approximately £50.00 plus VAT. Vote carried with one vote against.

**Action by – the CEO**

### 7. GRASS CUTTING

Members noted that the Council's Contractor has undertaken two cuts of St Mary's Churchyard and the annual cut of the Conservation Area at a total cost of £1,002.00.

Members were then asked to consider if they wished to undertake grass cutting activities on any areas currently cut by other organisations. After a short discussion it was **proposed by Cllr Openshaw**, that the Council would only take on grass cutting activities on areas currently cut by other organisations on a "cost neutral" basis. Unanimous.

### 8. PLAY AREAS

Members were asked to consider if they wished to accept the quotation from Monmouthshire County Council to adjust the gates to the Court Road Play Area (as identified in the Annual Play Inspection) at a cost of £90.00 plus VAT. **Proposed by Cllr Openshaw**. Unanimous.

**Action by – the CEO**

Members noted the requirement for the removal and replacement for 2016/2017 of the old metal roundabout from Primrose Hill, (£7,880.00 plus VAT) and the replacement of perimeter fencing at Beauchamp Meadow Play Area (£4,494.00 plus VAT). Both items would need to be taken from Play Area "Earmarked" fund which currently stood at £8,000 (plus any budget surplus added at Year End 2015/2016) or Members would need to consider increasing the proposed budget to cover such expenditure. Noted.

It was **proposed by Cllr Christodoulides, seconded by Cllr Ives**, that £5,000 would be transferred to the Town and Events Committee from the additional play equipment budget held for Primrose Hill, with the funding replaced once the 2016/2017 budget had been received (as it included £5,000 towards organising an event in Bathurst Park). Vote carried.

**Action by – the CEO**

Noting the comments which had been included in the Annual Play Inspection Report regarding the presence of a "No Dogs" sign and a dog waste bin, it was **proposed by Cllr Openshaw** that such signage should be removed. Vote carried.

**Action by – the CEO**

### 9. THE TACK

Cllr Street advised that he had now received paperwork regarding The Tack from a former Councillor (Mr B Thomas) and he noted the requirement to provide two disabled accessible kissing gates at either end of The Tack. Cllr Street highlighted the numerous exchange of documentation between Lydney Park Estate (LPE) and Mr B Thomas and he questioned if the Council only wished to provide disabled access over The Tack, as the Aylburton end of the path joined an existing Public Right of Way which only provided a standard metal kissing gate.



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Members were advised that Mr Thomas had been discussing the possibility of obtaining a Permissive Path with LPE and that he had been in discussion with Mr G Ellis, Francis Law regarding the legal requirements. The CEO advised that Mr Thomas had been aware that a fund of £2,000 existed from Forest of Dean District Council toward the purchase of signage etc for the Path and that despite numerous requests Mr Thomas had not informed the Council of the legal fees incurred to date with Francis Law.

Cllr Street advised that he was waiting to hear back from LPE but queried whether the Council was aware of the 2013 document proposed by LPE. Cllr Street was asked to provide the CEO with a copies of all such documentation.

**Action by – Cllr Street**

### 10. DOG WASTE BIN

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with a copy of the letter which had been received from Sundean Veterinary Clinic requesting the provision of a dog waste bin in High Street due to the presence of a new tenant in the area. Members noted that Forest of Dean District Council's Streetwardens had agreed to visit the tenant and make them aware of their responsibilities.

After taking the time to consider the matter it was **proposed by Cllr Openshaw** that the request would be declined. Unanimous.

**Action by – the CEO**

### 11. SHARED SERVICES

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with a copy of the letter which had been sent to Blakeney/Awre Parish Council in response to their enquiry regarding shared service delivery, the content of which was noted.

### 12. AMENITIES BUDGET 2016/2017

Members were provided with a copy of the draft 2016/2017 Budget. It was noted that the Town & Events Committee would be provided with its own draft budget for approval. The CEO provided an explanation regarding the formation of the budget. Members noted that reductions had been made in the allotment budget as work on the site had been undertaken in 2015. Furthermore, provision had been included in the draft budget for additional weedspraying, grit bins, floral seed, tree work, etc.

During discussion Members were reminded that Gloucestershire County Council had previously informed the Council that it would no longer carry out weedspraying in the Parish. After taking the time to consider the draft budget it was **proposed by Cllr Pugh, seconded by Cllr Ives**, that the draft budget for 2016/2017 of £57,050 would be accepted. Unanimous.

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13. **COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Cllr Berryman commended the Council on the excellent floral display provided at the Cross Hands junction.

Cllr Street expressed thanks to the Council for weedspraying the Public Rights of Way around Primrose Hill School and it was noted that the Council would endeavour to undertake this activity on an ad-hoc basis.

Cllr Ives advised that the fingerpost signs located near Lychgate Mews had been tampered with and were now facing in the wrong direction

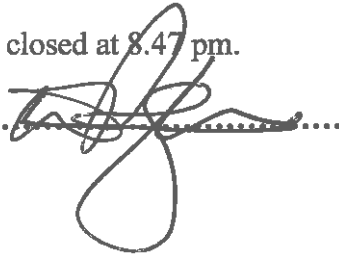
**Action by – the CEO**

14. **MEETING DATES**

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

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm.

Chairman .....



Date 16/11/15.....