

# LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

## FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 2020/02/10 – 119

MINUTES OF THE LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Monday 10 February 2020 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs W Leach (Chairman), Z Arnold (late arrival), J Carr, J Greenwood, A Harley, R Holmes, S Holmes, P Macklin, A Preest, S Stockham and T Tremlett

District Cllr Topping, Forest of Dean District Council  
District Cllr Leppington, Forest of Dean District Council  
Two members of the Public  
Mr D Kent – Town Clerk  
Miss C Wheeler – Assistant Clerk – Minute Taker

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Cllr Leach 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 L Arnold and R Kemsley.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Approval of the public minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 13 January 2020 was proposed by Cllr Carr, seconded by Cllr S Holmes. Unanimous.

Cllr Leach informed Members that Agenda Item 11 (Lydney Harbour Project) would be discussed directly after Agenda Item 4 (District Councillors Report), however the minutes reflect the order as shown on the agenda.

4. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

District Cllr Topping informed Members that the District Council would agree its budget in 10 days' time and it was likely that Forest of Dean District Council's (FODDC) Band D charge would increase by 2.8%. However, FODDC would need to make some serious decisions in the future as they were facing a £1.3M deficit in their funding.

District Cllr Topping advised that FODDC would be updating their policies in line with the climate emergency and were identifying areas in the Local Plan which were suitable for renewable energy. Members were informed of FODDC's wish to become carbon neutral by 2030 and were currently investigating the use of hybrid and electric vehicles.

District Cllr Topping spoke on his aim to set up Lydney and Aylburton Solar Streets (a small community action group) and it was hoped that a meeting would take place in the future at Lydney Town Hall. District Cllr Topping also welcomed suggestions for a community energy project.

5. **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Members were provided with a copy of the report which had been produced by County Councillor Preest (Appendix A), the content of which was noted.

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County Cllr Preest then spoke on the following topics:-

Lydney Growth Bid – provided members with an overview of the work which had been undertaken over a number of years in order to create the Lydney Cycleway Scheme for which funding had been secured from LEP. County Cllr Preest advised that Gloucestershire County Council had given a commitment to support any growth deal bid from Lydney Town Council and he extended an invitation to the Mayor and the Town Clerk to attend a future meeting with Senior Officers from Gloucestershire County Council.

New Developments – County Cllr Preest spoke of the efforts being made to ensure that the housing developers at the top of Highfield Road liaised with each other. It was noted that difficulties were being experienced regarding the provision of a pavement between development sites as the developers were not engaging with each other and County Cllr Preest felt that a planning condition should have been specified which required the pavement to be installed prior to the occupation of dwellings on the development.

Cllr Z Arnold arrived at this point.

Lydney Flooding – County Cllr Preest spoke on the efforts made by a member of the public who lived at Lakeside to implement the Sandbag Telephone tree on 9 February 2020 due to persistent and heavy rain. County Cllr Preest provided Members with an overview of the action which had been taken on the day in a bid to prevent water runoff from the Oakdale Phase II development flooding Lakeside properties which had not previously flooded. Cllr Leach provided Members with an overview of the discussion which had taken place at the last Multi Agency Stakeholder Meeting.

Lydney Cycleway – County Cllr Preest requested that the Clerk circulate to all Members the e-mail which he had previously received regarding a digital cycle map. County Cllr Preest advised that a media launch of the Cycleway would be conducted in the future.

6. **POLICE MATTERS**

No report given.

7. **OPEN FORUM**

No questions were posed by members of the public.

8. **YOUTH FORUM**

No report given.

District Cllrs Topping and Leppington excused themselves from the meeting at this point.

9. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk drew attention to the completed actions list which had been circulated prior to the meeting, the contents of which were noted (Appendix B).

The Clerk explained that local newspapers had published reports of the Town Council's Budget and Precept for 2020/21 before he could issue a press release. Cllrs Tremlett and Leach spoke on the need for the Council to ensure that it took control of its press releases and that they were issued within a prompt timeframe.

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Cllr Tremlett spoke on the need for greater use of the Town Council’s website for displaying old press release and called for the website to receive a general update. The Clerk gave a commitment to update the website.

**Action by – the Clerk**

**10. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENT -</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 2020</b>		
<b>Opening Bank Balances as 1st April 2019</b>			
LLOYDS BANK - Current account		98,188.61	<i>2018/19 Commitments Brought Forward</i>
LLOYDS BANK - Lydney In Bloom - Current		1,362.14	<i>£6,110.00</i>
LLOYDS BANK - LGPS - Current		23,498.30	
<b>LLOYDS BANK - Earmarked Reserves:</b>			
S106	29,191.50		
Lydney War Memorial	2,000.00		
Play Areas (General)	5,000.00		
Play Areas (Leaze Court)	129.86		
Cemetery	13,842.14		
Cemetery: St Mary’s Churchyard/Wall	4,000.00		
Cemetery: Memorial Testing	12,500.00		
Cemetery: Additional Burial Space	20,000.00		
Cemetery: Green Burial Space	1,500.00		
Election Costs	10,000.00		
Machinery	8,500.00		
Town Panel Maps	1,062.00		
Town Events (Christmas Grotto etc)	7,000.00		
Civic	1,000.00		
Pear Mapping Cemetery	1,870.00		
Lydney In Bloom	1,000.00		
Environment Agency 2019/2020	5,500.00		
Youth Provision (The Hub)	25,000.00	<b>149,095.50</b>	
<b>LLOYDS BANK - General Reserve</b>		<b>170,513.03</b>	<b>319,608.53</b>
			<b>442,657.58</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Receipts APRIL		280,260.31	
Receipts MAY		13,032.47	
Receipts JUNE		2,476.93	
Receipts JULY		14,059.69	
Receipts AUGUST		4,275.48	
Receipts SEPTEMBER		280,414.65	
Receipts OCTOBER		29,110.03	
Receipts NOVEMBER		2,951.91	
Receipts DECEMBER		1,623.76	
<b>Receipts JANUARY</b>		<b>6,747.37</b>	See Separate Sheet
Receipts FEBRUARY			
Receipts MARCH			
<i>Lydney In Bloom: Income banked to LIB current a/c</i>		<i>1,100.00</i>	
<b>Total Receipts YTD</b>		<b>636,052.60</b>	
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Payments APRIL		5,127.18	
Payments MAY		72,529.88	
Payments JUNE		92,281.41	
Payments JULY		38,696.34	
Payments AUGUST		44,497.63	
Payments SEPTEMBER		6,525.77	
Payments OCTOBER		92,632.15	
Payments NOVEMBER		44,936.92	
Payments DECEMBER		31,878.70	
Payments JANUARY		30,139.57	
<b>Payments FEBRUARY</b>		<b>41,378.08</b>	Detailed Belwo
Payments MARCH			
Payments PRIOR TO YEAR END			
<i>Lydney In Bloom: Cheque Payments to date from LIB a/c</i>		<i>776.25</i>	
<b>Total Payments YTD</b>		<b>501,399.88</b>	
		<b>577,310.30</b>	

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<b>Reconciled Bank Statements as at end</b>	<b>JANUARY 20</b>	
LLOYDS BANK - Current account		<b>219,337.36</b>
LLOYDS BANK - Lydney In Bloom - Current		<b>1,685.89</b>
LLOYDS BANK - LGPS - Current		<b>23,508.07</b>
<b>LLOYDS BANK - Earmarked Reserves:</b>		
S106	29,191.50	
Lydney War Memorial	2,000.00	
Play Areas (General)	5,000.00	
Play Areas (Leaze Court)	129.86	
Cemetery	13,842.14	
Cemetery: St Mary's Churchyard/Wall	5,500.00	
Cemetery: Memorial Testing	13,000.00	
Cemetery: Additional Burial Space	20,000.00	
Cemetery: Green Burial Space	5,500.00	
Election Costs	10,000.00	
Machinery	8,500.00	
Town Events/ Christmas (Grotto etc)	7,000.00	
Civic	1,000.00	
Pear Mapping Cemetery	1,870.00	
Lydney In Bloom	1,000.00	
Environment Agency 2020/21 Payment	5,500.00	
Youth Provision (The Hub)	25,000.00	
	<b>154,033.50</b>	
<b>LLOYDS BANK - General Reserve</b>		<b>178,745.48</b>
		<b>332,778.98</b>
<b>Bank Balances as at:</b>	<b>31-Jan-20</b>	<b>577,310.30</b>

### FEBRUARY PAYMENTS

			<u>Chq. No</u>		<u>Description/Spending Power:</u>
<u>Payment made by Direct Debit/Standing Order</u>					
Konica Minolta Business	03.01.20	317.13	DD	Quarterly	Photocopier
BNP Paribas Leasing	07.01.20	330.00	DD	Annual	Telephone/Internet
ATOS Fuel Genie	14.01.20	124.19	DD	Monthly	Van Fuel/Cemetery/BPRT
ADT	15.01.20	54.97	DD	Quarterly	Recharge
ADT	15.01.20	224.61	DD	Quarterly	CCTV
Forest Equipment Service Ltd	20.01.20	1,212.90	STO	Monthly	Establishment
EE Limited	22.01.20	84.00	DD	Monthly	Litter –
FoDDC	23.01.20	14.45	DD	Monthly	Gen/Harbour/Cemetery/Dogwaste
Cable Stream Ltd	24.01.20	143.17	DD	Monthly	Telephone/Internet
Redline Telecom	28.01.20	38.94	DD	Monthly	Telephone/Internet
Odlings (Columbaria Company)	28.01.20	108.00	BACS	Ad Hoc	Cemetery Plaques
		<u>Direct Debits:</u>			
		<u>Sub total</u>			
		<b>2,652.36</b>			
<u>Interim Payments made in advance of meeting:</u>					
Arkell & Hurcombe	13.01.20	281.88	9584	Ad Hoc	Cemetery Plaques
Light Fantastic DIY Ltd	13.01.20	10.55	9585	Monthly	Machine/Tools/Repairs
Sage (UK) Ltd	13.01.20	42.60	9586	Annual	Stationery
Expenses	13.01.20	143.10	9587	Monthly	Training
Forest Equipment Services Ltd	14.01.20	306.12	9588	Monthly	Dog waste/Carpark/Litter
<b>Interim Payments Total</b>		<b>784.25</b>			

### Payments for approval at meeting held on:

**10th February 2020**

Corporate: Payroll	13,762.38	BACS	Monthly	February
Corporate: HMRC	4,018.55	BACS	Monthly	February
Corporate: Glos LGPS	3,967.92	BACS	Monthly	February
Payments Sub Total	<b>21,748.85</b>			
Columbaria Company Cancelled Chq	-108.00	9577	Ad Hoc	
Bridgend College	2,000.00	9589	Annual	
Exhaust Tyres & Batteries (Worcester) Ltd	17.50	9590	Ad Hoc	
FoDDC	7,120.48	9591	Ad Hoc	
GAPTC	150.00	9592	Ad Hoc	
JRB Enterprise Ltd	268.80	9593	Ad Hoc	
Light Fantastic DIY Ltd	101.63	9594	Monthly	

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Odlings	84.00	9595	Annual
Office Star Group Ltd	381.81	9596	Monthly
Promo-Pro Ltd	12.00	9597	Ad Hoc
Revill Mowers	1,144.03	9598	Ad Hoc
SLCC	180.00	9599	Annual
Wildin & Co	945.00	9600	½ Yearly
Worksafely Ltd	180.70	9601	Ad Hoc
Bathurst Park & Recreation Trust	2,716.59	9602	Quarterly
Lydney Recreation Trust	650.18	9603	Quarterly
Expenses	143.10	9604	Monthly
Cash	43.30	9605	Monthly
Cash	161.50	9606	Ad Hoc
<b>Payments for approval: Sub total</b>	<b>16,192.62</b>		

**TOTAL PAYMENTS      FEBRUARY      41,378.08**

**A list of unrepresented Cheques (For Information only)**

Mincost Ltd	42.41	9529	
Mincost Ltd	50.25	9555	
Sovereign Design Play systems Ltd	406.92	9559	Not Issued
Window Competition Winner 2	60.00	9568	
Richard Cole Contracting	296.23	9573	
DBC Solutions	420.00	9575	Not Issued
Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association	100.00	9578	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,375.81</b>		

**Monthly Payment Listing – Month 11**

Receipt of the monthly payment schedule (including the transfers/virements shown below) was **proposed by Cllr Z Arnold, seconded by Cllr Tremlett.** Unanimous.

Approval of the payments therefrom **proposed by Cllr Z Arnold, seconded by Cllr Tremlett.** Unanimous.

**Virements**

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
None		

**Transfers**

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
None		

**Membership of Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Tourist Association**

It was **proposed by Cllr Leach** that the Council would renew its annual membership at a cost of £144.00. Unanimous.

**Action by – the Clerk**

**Councillor Training**

It was **proposed by Cllr Leach** that Cllrs S Holmes and Stockham would be permitted to attend a “Being a Better Councillor” course run by GAPTC (date to be agreed) at a cost of £170.00. Unanimous.

**Payroll Services**

The Clerk informed Members that the Payroll Assistant would retire at the end of March and that the Council would either need to recruit a replacement member of staff or it would need to outsource its payroll production.

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During discussion Members were informed that it was not possible for other members of staff to cover the function. The Clerk advised that he had approached a number of accountancy organisations which provided payroll services in order to obtain information on their charges. The Clerk advised that Members would be presented with a summary of the outsourcing costs for their consideration at the next meeting. Cllr Harley requested that Members also be provided with costs for employing a member of staff for comparison purposes.

**Action by – the Clerk**

### **2021/22 Budget**

Members were asked to note the requirement of provide separate funding of £4,000 nett to the Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust in respect of the renewal of multi-use play equipment in the 2021/22 financial year. Noted.

### **Lydney Hub**

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with a copy of Lydney Hub's (the Hub) audited accounts for their perusal. Cllr Leach advised that the Hub had now registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

The Clerk drew attention to the fact that previously the Council had stipulated that a Councillor would need to be appointed as a Trustee of the Hub as one of the conditions to release the earmarked funding. However, the Clerk stated that the Council's appointed representative (Cllr Macklin) could only be appointed as a committee member, not a Trustee and he advised that this was due to a point of law. Cllr Tremlett questioned if the earmarked sum of £25,000 was required to be paid to the Hub in one lump sum and the Clerk advised that he had not viewed anything which said that the funding was not to be given in one payment. Responding to questions which had been raised by Members, Cllr Leach advised that the funding had been agreed as a "one off" sum and the funding would be used to support the Hub's building from which they would provide services for youths. Accordingly, **Cllr Leach proposed** that the funding be released. Vote carried.

The Clerk was requested to produce a press release with representatives of the Hub; to arrange for a presentation cheque to be obtained from the Council's Bank; to arrange for a publicity photo to be taken in order that it may be released to local press.

**Action by – the Clerk**

### 11. **LYDNEY HARBOUR PROJECT**

Cllr Leach welcomed District Cllr Leppington to the meeting. District Cllr Leppington provided Members with an update on the "Destination Lydney Harbour" project and advised that Officers at Forest of Dean District Council were working hard to discharge a number of planning conditions; that meetings had taken place with building and waste contractors; that a response was awaited from the Environment Agency regarding works to the canal; that Lydney Coastal Communities Team Executive Committee would be requested to authorise building and landscaping works at the site; that the Lydney Skiff Project had been registered as a Community Interest Company; consultation was taking place on art work on the roundabout; liaison was taking place with utilities regarding connections for the site and Gloucestershire County Council regarding improvements to the highway.

Cllr Preest advised that Gloucestershire County Council were looking to further contribute to the project by increasing the financial contribution for walking links. Cllr Holmes called for the harbour gates to be brought back on to use and felt that this needed to be a priority for the Environment Agency.

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Responding to a question raised by Cllr S Holmes District Cllr Leppington advised that the Environment Agency's preferred partner for the harbour had yet to sign an agreement as it was taking longer than first anticipated to complete the required legal documentation.

### 12. INFORMAL COUNCIL STRATEGIC MEETING

Cllr Leach expressed thanks to all Councillors who had confirmed attendance at the meeting which had been organised to obtain Member's thoughts as to where the Town wished to be in 10-20 years' time. Members were also informed of the desire to update the Town's Neighbourhood Development Plan and increase the amount of community engagement.

### 13. TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Prior to the meeting Members had been provided with a report from the Grants and Events Administrator detailing options and costings for using recycled paper for the Town Council's newsletter and delivery options. Members were asked to consider, if they elected to change the current arrangements, how the resultant additional expenditure would be funded in their 2020/21 budget.

During discussion Members noted that quotations for printing the newsletter had only been provided by two companies and the Clerk was requested to contact "The Graphics Shack" to obtain a third quotation.

**Action by – the Clerk**

Consideration was given to displaying the newsletter on the Council's noticeboards around the Parish, in addition to displaying on the Council's website, and Councillors noted that the existing contracts for the newsletter would finish in April. Cllr Leach felt that the Council needed to conduct a wider review of what information it wished to communicate to members of the public and the form such communication took. Members suggested that the Council may wish to revise the information displayed on its website and it was suggested that this may be something which Cllr Turner may wish to consider leading on. Cllr Leach gave a commitment to approach Cllr Turner.

**Action by – Cllr Leach**

It was also felt that the Environmental Working Party would consider the report from the Grants and Events Administrator regarding the use of recycled paper and delivery options for the newsletter.

**Action by – Cllr Carr (Environmental Working Party)**

### 14. FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

### 15. COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

Cllr Stockham advised that a Climate Strike would take place at Lydney Cross on Friday 14 February 2020 from 11.30 am to 2.00 pm and he encouraged his fellow Councillors to attend.

Cllr Harley advised that a member of the public had yet to receive a report from a meeting they had attended with Gloucestershire County Council's Local Highway Manager in August 2019. Cllr Harley advised that she had forwarded the member of public's concerns to Forest of Dean District Council in order that they may be included on the agenda for the next Partnership meeting on road safety. Cllr Harley gave a commitment to provide Cllr Preest with a copy of the concerns raised by the member of the public.

**Action by – Cllr Harley**

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Cllr Preest advised that he had forwarded an e-mail to the Clerk and Assistant Clerk re digital cycle maps and requested that said information be circulated to all Councillors.

**Action by – the Clerk**

Cllr Greenwood advised Members that Greenways were now involved in the Multi Use Track and had identified a new route which was due to be walked shortly. Cllr Greenwood advised that the Local Highway Manager was supportive of the project and Dean Forest Railway were engaged in communication. Accordingly, Cllr Greenwood felt that Lydney Town Council would need to formally look at its own relationship with the project for which there may be a call on the Council's financial reserves.

Cllr Carr advised that three productive meetings of the Environmental Working Party had taken place and that advice was being sought from Rewild. Three main areas were being focused on:

***In-house:*** Cllr Carr instructed the Clerk to investigate using 100% renewable energy for the Council office as well as using recycled paper. The Clerk highlighted the amount of paper which was used to provide copies of agendas for the public and suggested that copies of such agendas should only be printed if a request was received in advance of a meeting. Cllr Z Arnold suggested the Council should purchase sufficient tablets for Members use therefore negating need for hard copies of the agenda for Members. Cllr Tremlett suggested the Council electronically project its agendas. Cllr Leach suggested that the existing tablets should have sufficient windows open so as to display individual items for Members.

Cllr Carr informed Members that lighting was left on all night in the Council office. The Assistant Clerk advised that only one light was left on following advice from a CCTV provider to ensure that images of any intruders were captured. Cllr Carr requested that consideration be given to replacing the strip light concerned with an LED unit when it became necessary to change the tube.

***Green Spaces:*** Cllr Carr advised that the Head Groundsman was investigating areas where trials could be conducted on using an alcohol based weedkiller; strimming off weeds; leaving weeds unmanaged. In the meantime, Cllr Carr advised that the Working Party had given approval for the Head Groundsman to purchase new equipment which would allow targeted application of Glysohate weedkiller and advised that funding was in the budget to cover such purchase. Consideration was also being given towards the future management of grass cutting; the machinery required to conduct this through in-house means; the development of meadow areas on recreation grounds.

***Community:*** Cllr Carr advised that a questionnaire was currently being developed in connection with three small areas which the Working Party had identified. Consideration was being given towards approaching local schools/older people regarding Lydney in Bloom. Furthermore, the creation of forest garden areas was being considered for the recreation ground.

Noting that the Council had declared a Climate Emergency, Cllr Carr expressed a desire for the Council to declare an Ecological Emergency as she felt the degradation of eco systems was causing greater damage. Cllr Z Arnold felt that the Council had yet to show concrete action on the Climate Emergency as it was not aware what action it could take. The Clerk suggested that text on the Summons/Agenda could be amended to remind Members of their duty to



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consider environmental matters. Cllr Z Arnold suggested that the amendment include a duty to consider social, economic and environmental matters.

Cllr Tremlett advised that she had not been able to attend the last Health Forum meeting but had received a report on the meeting which had considered the role of unpaid carers in Gloucestershire and she enquired if another Member would be available to attend the next meeting which would take place on the first Tuesday of the month at the West Dean Centre. Cllr Tremlett informed Members that she would meet with the Destination Lydney Harbour Community Projects Leader on 27 February 2020 and that a meeting of the Christmas Lights Facebook Volunteers would take place at Forest Leisure, Lydney on 24 February 2020 (room provided free of charge). Cllr Tremlett also reminded Members that if they required use of the Council Chamber outside of office hours they would need to obtain the consent of the Council. Furthermore, that any expenditure for room hire must be authorised by Full Council prior to any booking being made.

Cllr Leach advised that he had received numerous approaches regarding the cessation of a food service by Age Concern. During discussion it was believed that the provision of a food service would be taken up by Gloucestershire County Council's provider. Cllr Preest gave a commitment to contact Cllr Alloway-Martin for an update on the situation.

Cllr Leach advise that he had attended GAPTC and Lydney Flood Defence meetings. Cllr Leach also reminded Councillors that the Annual Town Meeting would take place on 27 April 2020 in Lydney Town Hall; that changes would be made to the format for this year's meeting to make the event more "open" and encourage greater engagement. All Councillors were reminded of the need to attend the meeting.

### 16. PRESS RELEASE

It was agreed that a press release would be produced regarding the release of the donation to Lydney Hub. Furthermore, that the Council would publicise its decision to withdraw providing hard copies of public meeting agendas, unless it received a specific request to provide such, via its noticeboards and its website.

**Action by – the Clerk**

### 17. MEETING DATES

As per the meeting schedule (unless cancelled/postponed due to insufficient business by the relevant Chairman).

17 February 2020 at 7.00 pm	- Finance & Scrutiny Committee
9 March 2020 at 6.30 pm	- Planning & Highway Committee
9 March 2020 at 7.00 pm	- Full Council

The Assistant Clerk excused herself from the meeting at this point.

## **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC & PRESS Page 129 (Inclusive) - CLOSED SESSION**

### 18. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Approval of the confidential minutes from the closed sessions on 13 January 2020 were **proposed by Cllr Z Arnold seconded by Cllr Greenwood. Unanimous.**

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19. **LEGAL ISSUES**

To approve payment for legal services to the Council.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Chairman .....  .....

Date .....  .....

**Carol Wheeler**

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**From:** PREEST, Cllr Alan <alan.preest@gloucestershire.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 10 February 2020 09:01  
**To:** Town Clerk  
**Cc:** Carol Wheeler  
**Subject:** FW: Lydney Division County Councillors Report Feb 20

Dave, see below. The last item is relevant to events in Town yesterday.  
Alan

Cllr A Preest

If you are contacting me as a local constituent please be aware I may need to share your personal information when contacting County Council Officers or other agencies relevant to your query.

For more information on how I and the County Council use personal data visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/privacy-notices](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/privacy-notices).

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**From:** PREEST, Cllr Alan <[alan.preest@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:alan.preest@gloucestershire.gov.uk)>  
**Date:** Monday, 10 Feb 2020, 8:03 am  
**To:** PREEST, Cllr Alan <[alan.preest@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:alan.preest@gloucestershire.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Lydney Division County Councillors Report Feb 20

Dear All,

Budget 20/21

1000 on Weds 12 Feb will see the County Council (GCC) debating and agreeing to the budget for the forthcoming financial year. Key elements which will undoubtedly attract extra funding will be Adult Services, Children's Services, Climate Change and Highways. Once the budget has been ratified I will circulate the detail.

3CC Revised Local Transport Plan (LTC).

The consultation period 16 Jan - 26 Jan 20 is well under way. Locally a informative session will take place at Forest of Dean Council (FoDDC) Offices on 16 Mar between 1100 and 1500 followed by an invite only session between 1600-1730.

Following the recent meeting between FoDDC Leader Cllr Tim Gwilliam, FoDDC Transport Champion Cllr Clive Elsmore and myself it was agreed to take the following five bullet points forward on behalf of FoDDC for further discussion; (in no particular order)

- 1, increased Multi Use path provision to link between our four towns.
- 2, a business study for the provision of electric bicycles.
- 3, to continue lobbying Stagecoach for increased/improved route provision.
- 4, provision of a West of Severn "Park and Ride" facility.
- 5, an increase in Rail services at Lydney.

I must thank Tim and Clive for this excellent collaborative working.

This is in no way a definitive list, all other ideas/suggestions on the LTP revision will obviously be more than welcome.

A meeting has been arranged at FoDDC "District Transport Needs", 27 Feb 1000-1200.

Unfortunately due to the GCC Meeting on Weds 12 Feb I have had to tender my apologies for the Transport themed Local Economic Meeting at Coleford which has been convened sadly at the same time.

Rail

The revised 15 Dec Transport for Wales train service from Lydney has heralded improvements on Sundays'. Lydney is now served by a 0923 train in the Gloucester direction and a 0904 train in the Cardiff direction. A welcome and much needed earlier Sunday service opening up far better connectivity to both the Midlands/North and the South West/London.

GCC Lydney Rail Station overflow car-park.

As at 4 Feb one of the two derelict caravans has been removed. The remaining one in the far LHS (facing the Station) will be removed in the very near future.

GCC Civic Vice-Chairman Duties.

Duties in and around the County continue to come thick and fast. In the last month it has been a pleasure to attend 2 more - with another on the 11 Feb, Citizenship Ceremonies at the Coroners Court in Gloucester. In addition I represented the County at St Mary's Priory Church, Abergavenny for Monmouthshire County Councils' Holocaust Memorial Day Service which was an extremely poignant and moving event. The GCC Chairman Cllr Ray Theolodou and myself also visited the Three Choirs Vineyard in the far north of the Forest.

Sometimes, I'm afraid, that the extra GCC Civic duties (circa 40 since May last year) that I attend do sadly impact on my attendance at other "booked" meetings. I would particularly like to thank District Cllr Harry Ives for subbing for me at FoDDC on occasion.

Glos Talks - Mental Health

As GCC Vice-Chairman, I am more than happy to support the Glos Talks organisation in their campaign that encourages everyone to talk more openly about mental health and their mental health experiences so those who are struggling will seek help. The campaign is focusing its work on those groups of people that are at a higher risk of suicide and for those people stigma around mental health is a barrier to getting help when they need it.

To find more about Glos Talks please take a look at their web site.

Having attended the one day GCC Mental Health Training/awareness session, I intend to attend the forthcoming two day event. Invaluable.

Mini Town Centre Regeneration.

I'm delighted to report on the excellent entrepreneurial scheme by a local business that has taken place on the site of the old "Harrys' Bar" in Regents Walk Lydney. Office space has been tastefully created encompassing flexible, affordable terms, internet-ready, kitchen and w/c facilities, 24 hour access, a meeting room and a bike store - obviously with the soon to be completed Multi use path in mind ! Very well done on this initiative.

I have invited my GCC Cabinet colleague for business Cllr Lynden Stowe to Lydney in the near future. We will be visiting and meeting many local businessmen and women.

Ex Lydney Town Councillor Kevin White.

Kevin living now in Caerphilly, has left his local employment role and is now working with a Dementia organisation closer to home. I saw first hand just how passionate that Kev was on working with others against this most awful of diseases and wish the absolute best to him and his good lady for the future.

Highways.

31 Jan. After walking the extent of the Lydney Multi-Use Path with two Senior GCC Engineers. I met with Local Highways Manager Brian Watkins and Senior Highways Manager Clive Saunders. Town Clerk Dave Kent had already met with Brian and had discussed some areas of concern.

Brian, Clive and myself then drove around Lydney and Aylburton looking at our "problem" areas. The amount of rain and its ingress into surfaces is certainly causing concern, the actual extent of the damage will become clearer no doubt as spring arrives.

I have asked for a definitive quote on the Hams Road section in Town. I am also keen to relay the paved area from Lloyds' pharmacy to Greggs with Tarmacadam.

Keep feeding in the concerns either direct to GCC Highways or myself.

I'm pleased to report that the problems with the traffic light sequencing in the A48 bus lane approaching the Over roundabout has now been remedied by Highways England after much contact from GCC Officers.

Chepstow Transport Study.

Monmouthshire County Council are progressing a second phase of the study.  
GCC Officers will keep me informed of developments.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

FoDDC are the only one of the Six Boroughs/Districts in Gloucestershire not to commit to CIL.  
I remain committed in my eternal quest to set up a meeting between FoDDC and GCC.  
(GCC Senior Officers Anyiam and Mead remain on standby)

Lydney Growth Bid. ( "new" GCC Facilitation)

I will verbally update on this,

New Developments. ( GCC Highways Development Management)

I will verbally update on the plethora of ongoing developments in relation to Highways.

Lydney Town Council " The Big Picture"

I fundamentally absolutely welcome this initiative and will be attending the launch.

British Gas Workings

I have been briefed by the GCC Traffic Management Unit and I know that LTC Clerk Dave Kent is also aware of the potential of significant disruptive long term work being carried around Lydney by British Gas that commences in March 20. I have advised Stagecoach South West MD Rupert Cox.

"Hot off the Press"

A £642,000 boost for bus services in the county announced by the Secretary of State for Transport in Westminster on 6 Feb is good news. The funds will augment the £3m that the County Council already spends on bus services in the county and help to protect and expand existing bus services in Gloucestershire.

(GCC supports over 100 bus services in the County - although over 90% of services are run commercially with no subsidy)

Separately GCC are working to enable two bespoke Rural Bus Schemes in the County. One will be in the North Cotswolds the other will be in the Forest of Dean.

I will elaborate and brief interested parties when the finite detail has been decided upon. At that point I will also convene a Forest of Dean Bus users group meeting.

"Hot off the Press 2".

09 Feb. Following persistent and heavy rain, around 1200 ex LTC Cllr Rose Christoulides attempted to initiate the LTC sandbag tree. I was the first Cllr that she was able to contact and armed with the sandbag store key attended the problem area around 96 - 116 Lakeside Avenue. Assessing the situation with FoDDC Lydney East Cllr Claire Vaughan who also attended and local residents the area in question at that stage was well past and unsuitable for any reasonable intervention that sandbags could have provided, therefore, I did not further attempt to initiate the LTC sandbag tree.

The problem required the pumping out of the Attenuation Pond that Persimmon had created on the Oakdale Phase 2 Development. Rose had managed to contact FoDDC Flood Officer Laurence King and also Persimmon Site Manager James - who was trying to contact his operative who is responsible for the daily watch and maintenance of the Pond.

On seeing that the situation was fast deteriorating, in the interim taking advice from GCC colleagues, and the threat of household flooding was a real possibility I took the decision to ring the Fire Service, unfortunately and understandable in the adverse weather conditions the Fire Service could not commit to the situation as there was obviously no immediate threat to life.

Thankfully around 1400 the heavy rainfall was decreasing, with it the flooding threat.

With hindsight I firmly believe that the granting of Planning Permission on this location is both inappropriate and incompetent. I really wish that those in any way responsible at the LPA whether recommending or voting in favour of the application could have seen the situation and the distress that their actions is causing to our long term residents. This type of situation will undoubtedly reoccur.

Rose and myself will be able to give a fuller brief at the next LTC Flood Meeting.

I would like to unequivocally thank Rose for all the work and interest she continues to carry out on consistently monitoring this situation in this part of Lydney, also the help and support from Cllr Vaughan. We were all literally soaked to the skin.

Rose reported later that someone from Persimmon had attended the actual site circa 1500, but, had not made contact with the residents whose homes were under threat.

Cllr Alan Preest.  
GCC Vice-Chairman  
GCC Planning and Infrastructure Champion.  
Lydney, Feb 20.

Cllr A Preest

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For more information on how I and the County Council use personal data visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/privacy-notices](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/privacy-notices).

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**Actions from Full Council meeting on 13 January 2020**

Agenda Item	Action
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future agenda item – Lydney Dial-a-Ride.</li> </ul>
8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk to provide PS Parry with dates of Full Council meetings in order that he may diarise future attendance at meetings. <b>(Done)</b></li> </ul>
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk to ensure that the wording of the Open Forum is amended to conform to the Council's Standing Orders. <b>(Done)</b></li> </ul>
13.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk to ensure that £8,632.00 is utilised from General Reserves in order to offset the 2020/21 budget. <b>(Done)</b></li> <li>• The Clerk to ensure that the Council's Precept Demand is submitted to Forest of Dean District Council. <b>(Done)</b></li> <li>• The Clerk to be added as a Full Power Signature to the Town Council's bank accounts. <b>(Done)</b></li> <li>• The Clerk to arrange for the purchase and installation of Rialtas Omega Financial Director for Local Councils and arrange for staff to be trained on same <b>(Done)</b></li> </ul>
14.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk to inform the member of public that the Council will not issue an apology; that the member of public had incorrectly spelt Cllr Leach's e-mail address therefore it had not reached him; query how the member of public had gained the e-mail when it had only been sent to Councillors <b>(Done -except for observation on mis-spelling)</b></li> </ul>
15.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Councillors to inform the Clerk if they are able to cover any of the dates on the Councillor Surgery rota where spaces existed.</li> </ul>
16.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk to send a further letter to specific retailers requesting they arrange for deliveries to be made to the rear of their premises. <b>(letter sent to 6 local businesses)</b></li> <li>• The Clerk to approach Gloucestershire County Council to explore a "no loading" area. <b>(Done)</b></li> <li>• The Clerk to inform PS Parry of the issues which have been experienced. <b>(Done)</b></li> </ul>
17.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Kemsley to provide the Assistant Clerk with a list of Clubs, and confirmation of their consent for their details to be displayed on the Town Council's website.</li> <li>• The Clerk to report a problem with weeds growing at the rear of Lloyds Pharmacy in the Newerne Street Car Park to Forest of Dean District Council. <b>(Done)</b></li> <li>• The Assistant Clerk to contact the Officer at Gloucestershire County Council to request that they reply to the member of public and copy Cllr Harley into the e-mail. <b>(Done)</b></li> <li>• Cllr Harley to contact the Officer at Forest of Dean District Council to raise the member of public's highway concerns with the Road Safety Partnership.</li> <li>• The Clerk to ensure that Cllr Z Arnold's street name suggestions are considered at the next Planning &amp; Highway Committee meeting. <b>(Done)</b></li> <li>• The Clerk to arrange for the text on the Member and Employee Training page on the Town Council's website to be updated to reflect the change in title from CEO to Town Clerk. <b>(Done)</b></li> </ul>
18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk to issue a press release regarding the Town Council's Precept for 2020/21; the amount the Council agreed to take from its General Reserves and the savings which it has made in its budgets. <b>(Pre-empted by comprehensive press report)</b></li> </ul>
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk to arrange for two members of staff to receive amended contracts. <b>(Done)</b></li> </ul>