

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – 2021/07/19 – 01

Minutes of the Meeting held at Watney Hall Hill Street Lydney on Monday 19th July 2021
at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors S Holmes (Chair), A Harley, R Holmes, S Stockham,
E Taylor, S Thomas Brown, T Saunders.

Two members of the Public (one by Zoom)
Mr S Holley – Town Clerk
Mrs C Whittington – Assistant Clerk/RFO (Minute Taker)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillor Vaughan.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 19th October 2021 were confirmed as a true record, following a Proposal by Councillor Harley, Seconded by Councillor S Holmes. Record of Voting: For – 4, Against – 0, Abstentions – 3.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

A resident spoke to the Committee on updating the Skatepark, explaining skateboarding was receiving its biggest boom since 1999 due to Covid giving people more time for leisure activities. Skateboarding was now an Olympic sport which had gained it more support. He felt the skate park at Lydney Recreation Trust was not only dated, but also little used by beginners of children having been designed for high ability users. As a result, many Lydney skateboarders preferred to travel out of the area to Coleford, Monmouth, Cinderford and Gloucester.

The resident recommended that a new skatepark be made from concrete, which was not only the best material for skaters but also required less maintenance. Suitable provision in the town would improve people's fitness and help with their mental well-being.

The resident was part of a group that would be happy to be 'hands on' to give them something to look after and be proud of. The Clerk advised that the Council and its Trusts were developing a Strategic Plan for the next few years. The item would be discussed by Lydney Recreation Trust later in July. Councillor Taylor offered to be the point of contact given her role as Lead Councillor for Youth and because the skatepark had already been identified as an area for updating. Councillors agreed the Skatepark was not in bad condition, but aware it was not much used. The Town Clerk and members thanked the resident for speaking to the Committee.

5. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE**

Councillor A Harley was Proposed by Councillor R Holmes and Seconded by Councillor Stockham. Councillor Taylor Proposed Councillor Saunders,

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Seconded by Councillor Thomas Brown. On being put to the vote Councillor Harley received the majority and was duly elected as the Committee Vice Chair.

6. **GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT**

The Committee was provided with a report prior to the meeting to show that the area of grass at the top of Bream Road had been missed off the original contract. Countrywide, the appointed contractor for grass-cutting, had quoted £20 to add this to the contract.

Councillor Thomas Brown Proposed this addition, Seconded by Councillor Harley and unanimously APPROVED.

Action by – the Clerk

7. **COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Committee was advised that, largely due to the unprecedented circumstances arising from the Covid pandemic in 2020/21 the Council had unallocated Reserves of £133,000. A discussion regarding the various events and areas that could be improved or added to took place.

It was agreed a Brainstorming session would help generate thoughts and ideas. All Councillors/Trustees could be involved with the opportunity to take ownership of different areas and projects. Meeting date and time to be arranged.

Action by – the Clerk

8. **SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECT**

Councillor Stockham, the Chair of the Environmental Working Party, reported that the group had held its first meeting the previous week to identify projects. He would bring progress reports and proposals to future Amenities meetings. Councillor Harley Proposed that £5,000 be delegated to the Clerk (guided by the Environment Working Party) for distribution to projects up to £1,000 value for each project. Seconded by Councillor R Holmes and unanimously APPROVED.

9. **ALLOTMENT CHARGES**

It was explained that, prior to the Covid pandemic, the Council's allotments had been mapped out with the intention of addressing historic anomalies in the prices per plot. Work had stopped with the first Lockdown. To revive this work, the Clerk suggested the best method would be to charge per square metre to take effect from April 2022. If required, significant increases could be phased in over successive years. Councillor S Holmes advised she would be having a meeting with some of the allotment tenants. A discussion took place as to whether an additional allotments site could be incorporated in the Strategic Plan and whether the Council currently provided provision for disabled users by providing raised beds. The Finance Assistant confirmed the allotment had four raised beds.

10. **GROUNDS TEAM SUMMER REPORT**

The Head Gardener's report was circulated prior to the meeting outlining all the work that has been achieved over the summer and the plans for the rest of the year. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Grounds Team for all the good work completed around the town and especially for the lovely floral displays.

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11. **CHRISTMAS EVENTS**

Councillor S Holmes advised the Committee that the Town Hall was being considered as the likely venue for the Christmas Light Switch-on Event on Friday 3rd December 2021. Discussion took place on how the event could be held. Councillors S Holmes and Saunders would liaise with the committee for ideas for the event.

12. **IMPROVEMENT PROJECT- CORNER OF TEMPLEWAY AND HIGH STREET**

Councillors discussed how the area at the corner of Templeway and High Street could be tidied up at a reasonable cost. It was suggested that it be used as an area to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee event, with a special commemorative bench (*refer also to Minute 14, below*). Councillors were invited to consider the different suggestions to formulate a plan for the area.

13. **STREET FURNITURE**

The Committee was requested to consider proposals for new litter bins, dog waste bins and grit bins. It was AGREED that further investigation was required before putting a sum in the Budget for 2022/23. Councillors felt better signage could be put around the town.

14. **QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022**

The Committee discussed ways in which the Queens Jubilee could be celebrated in the town, with community involvement. Councillors were invited to come up with ideas for discussion at the next meeting.

15. **COUNCILLORS REPORT**

No reports

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

18th October 2021, at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Chair

Date