

# LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 2022/01/10 – 50

Minutes of the meeting held at Watney Hall, 3 Hill Street, Lydney  
on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.00pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors A Harley (Mayor and Chair of the meeting),  
J Greenwood, C Harris, R Holmes, S Holmes, S Cave, R Kemsley, W  
Leach, L Penny, S Stockham, S Thomas-Brown, T Saunders, and E  
Taylor.

Mr S Holley, Town Clerk  
Mrs T Clarke, Events and Administration Officer (Minutes)

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The Mayor welcomed all present, wished everyone a Happy New Year and gave the usual 'housekeeping' announcements.

1. **APOLOGIES**  
Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors P Macklin and C Vaughan.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
No declarations were made.
3. **OPEN FORUM**  
No Members of public were in attendance.
4. **MINUTES**  
Councillor A Harley Proposed from the Chair that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 be approved as a correct record.  
APPROVED with the following Record of Voting: For – 7, Against – 0, Abstentions – 5, Absent/Apologies - 2.
5. **REPORTS**
  - (i) County and District Councillors – County Councillor Preest had advised the Planning Committee that work to Harbour Road was in the air.
  - (ii) Lydney Town Councillors - Councillor C Harris reported that a recent presentation on flooding issues given to the Friends of Forest Waterways group had been very well received. Councillor Harris also advised that certain pages of the Council's website needed updating, particularly the Flood Warden tree. There was also reference to Shropshire County Council, which should be changed.
6. **FINANCIAL MATTERS/RFO REPORT**
  - 6.1 **Payments**
    - (i) The list of payments was Proposed for approval by Councillor T Saunders, Seconded by Councillor S Thomas-Brown and unanimously APPROVED.
    - (ii) In response to a member's question about increasing repair costs for the Grounds Team Ford Ranger truck, the Town Clerk reminded the Council that the current year's Budget and the Draft Budget for 2022/23 both allowed a build-up of funds to allow replacement of the truck in a few years.
    - (iii) In response to another question, the Town Clerk agreed that the Office Team would look to make more use of alternative suppliers for hardware.

# LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 2022/01/10 - 51

### 6.2 **Income and Expenditure Report/Balance Sheet/Bank Reconciliations**

- (i) The Council NOTED the financial reports for Month 9 (December).
- (ii) Councillor R Holmes (Chair of the Finance and Scrutiny Committee) requested that use of the Council's debit card be the subject of a new report.

### 7. **DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2022/23**

(i) The Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer presented the Final Draft Budget for the next financial year. He explained that work had started in September and the Council's Committees had all been invited to provide estimates. The Town Council had considered a First Draft in its December meeting and the agreed changes had been incorporated into the Final Draft. The growth in housing allowed the proposed Precept to be shared around more residents, thereby minimising the effect on the individual Council taxpayer. The Council was only able to provide an estimate of the cost at Band D - £197.31. This was the first increase for three years and was not only below inflation but remained lower than the £198.39 cost at Band D for 2019/20.

(ii) Councillor W Leach Proposed the following, which was Seconded by Councillor S Holmes and unanimously APPROVED:

- That the Draft Budget for 2022/23 be agreed;
- that Forest of Dean District Council be advised the Precept for the coming year will be £635,122; and
- that the Council issues a Press Release explaining highlights of the Budget (such as the additional £15,000 for Events) and the cost to the Band D Council Taxpayer;

(iii) The Town Clerk advised that further work remained to be done on the Earmarked Reserves.

### 8. **LYDNEY FORWARD – REGENERATION AND COVID RECOVERY PROJECT**

(i) Councillor A Harley, Chair of the Town Improvement Sub-Committee, advised that she had been looking at how to start the funding window off for the £18,000 grant funding available to support the review of the Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). The application had to be submitted by end of January so the Mayor and the Town Clerk would arrange a meeting with Place Studio to discuss this. The NDP had to be in compliance with the District Local Plan and other requirements if it was to be approved by the Government Inspector and the process could take 18-24 months or more.

(ii) Councillor Harley also advised that the contractor working on the feasibility study for a Business Hub in Lydney had provided a progress report and would be visiting for an informal meeting with key businesses and interested Councillors to discuss progress.

(iii) Councillor R Kemsley, the Lead Councillor for 'Enhancing the appearance of the Town Centre' explained that he had spoken with a number of businesses and shop owners. He would arrange a meeting with fellow Working Group member Councillor C Harris to discuss progress and prepare a report for the next meeting of the Council on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

(iv) Councillor Harley said she would speak with the Chairs of all the Working Groups engaged in Regeneration Work with a view to ensuring momentum was not lost (*Note: identified in Minute 7 of the Meeting of the Council held in November 2021*)

# LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 2022/01/10 - 52

### 9. **STRATEGIC PLAN**

(i) The Town Clerk drew attention to the recommendation of the Amenities Committee from the Meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 that the provision of additional Allotment land be added to the Strategic Plan, supported by £25,000 from the Unallocated Reserves. This was Proposed by Councillor S Stockham, Seconded by Councillor C Harris and unanimously APPROVED.

(ii) Members noted the long waiting list for allotments and were reminded that, a few years previously, a piece of land by Bathurst Pool had been rejected for Burials because the water table was too high. However, it might be suitable for allotment land. It was AGREED this should be discussed further at the next meeting of the Amenities Committee.

### 10. **FRIDAY NIGHT PROJECT**

This item was DEFERRED, because it had become clear that the purpose was to request a sizeable grant from the Town Council and grant applications needed to follow due process.

### 11. **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND EXTERNAL BODIES**

(i) Following Councillor C Harris' withdrawal from the River Walk and River Lyd Working Group the Council AGREED to appoint Councillor S Stockham as its Vice-Chair.

(ii) Councillor R Holmes pointed out that he was the only member of the Working Group charged with 'Influencing the Development of the Co-op site' and asked that interested members contact him to discuss the task further.

(iii) It was understood that the Community Centre would like a Councillor on its Committee. Councillor C Harris expressed an interest and was so Proposed by Councillor Saunders and Seconded by Councillor S Holmes. Unanimously AGREED.

### 12. **LYDNEY HARBOUR**

(i) The Council NOTED the report provided by the District Council's Regeneration Officer, who had suggested that litter collection be doubled in view of the extra visitors now the Café had opened and because the plans would lead to a further increase in visitors and litter. The Clerk would discuss this with the Environment Agency.

(ii) The Council remained concerned about the resurfacing of Harbour Road.

### 13. **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES, SUB COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES AND FROM LEAD COUNCILLORS**

#### 13.1 **Amenities Committee business referred to the Council**

(i) The Council had been requested to consider how to split the £16,500 allocated to Events in the (now approved) Budget for 2022/23. However, Councillor S Holmes, Chair of the Committee, requested that this be DEFERRED as it was felt the suggestions in the Agenda required further thought at an informal meeting of members of the Amenities Committee.

(ii) Councillor S Holmes advised that the National Lottery was supporting the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with £22 million for community events. Councillor Saunders was looking into this and other grant funds. The Jubilee proposals would be considered at the same informal meeting in preparation for the next meeting of the Council.

# LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 2022/01/10 - 53

### 13.2 **Reports from the Chairs of Committees, Sub-Committees, Working Groups and from Lead Councillors**

- (i) Councillor S Holmes reported that improvements to the corner of Templeway West and High Street were in hand.
- (ii) Councillor S Stockham advised that burials had been extremely busy, with up to five in one week before Christmas.
- (iii) Councillors Stockham, Penny and Harley had visited the route of the potential footpath along the River Lyd. The next step was to find out who owned the land by the B&M store and any history of Public Rights of Way there. The developer of the Lidl store was keen to work with the Council on developing the community area in the store's planning permission with a view to integrating it within the riverside walk.
- (iv) Councillor Penny had been interviewed on the Plastic Free Lydney project by BBC Radio earlier that day.
- (v) Councillor Penny, as Lead Councillor for Arts, stated that she had some ideas for Street Art she would like to develop and had been meeting various groups.
- (vi) Councillor S Cave reported a lot of positive feedback on the lights being sorted at the Skate Park, only one light was still down and this would be dealt with through Lydney Recreation Trust. A working group was likely to be formed to lead on the refurbishment or replacement of the skate park. The Mayor invited Councillor Cave to draft Terms of Reference for consideration by the Trust.
- (vii) Councillor W Leach felt it would be useful for the Lydney Multi-Agency Stakeholder Food Defence Group and the Friends of the Forest Waterways to meet and possibly work together. The County Council had engaged consultants and Lydney was now the highest priority area for flood defence work in the county.
- (viii) Councillor J Greenwood reminded the Council that the Greenway project had submitted a planning application and the Town Clerk would be asking why the Council had not been advised of it as a planning consultee.
- (ix) Councillor S Holmes advised that Lydney Community Centre had over £2,000 earmarked for youth work in the centre, which had been the venue for the Hub before it moved. A plan was needed for this money.
- (x) Councillor Saunders asked Councillor Leach to relay to Kings Arms Church her thanks for the Christmas Carol Service at the bandstand. Thanks were also due to the office staff for all their help.
- (xi) Councillors S Holmes and Saunders had contacted Lydney schools to offer some of the surplus Christmas presents for the children. Presents had been delivered to Primrose Hill School and Severnbanks School; Lydney C of E school had declined the offer. The remaining presents had been delivered to the Salvation Army.
- (xii) The Mayor thanked all of the Committees and their members for all the hard work over the last few months.

### 14 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Covered elsewhere in the meeting.

### 15. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- (i) Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – opportunities to engage with the Queens Platinum Jubilee.
- (ii) Forest of Dean District Council – invitation to live Q&A session on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

# LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 2022/01/10 - 54

(iii) Visit Dean Wye – request for assistance with video and photo shoot as part of a marketing plan to promote the Forest towns.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – Watney Hall, 3 Hill Street. Likely business to include

(i) Initiating the search for new Burial Ground

(ii) Burial fees for 2022/23 (*Note: usually follows the District Council's update to burial changes*); and

(iii) report from Lydney Youth Hub on how it had spent the Council's grant funds.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chair .....

Date .....

# **LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL**

## **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 2022/01/10 - 55**

### **APPENDIX 1**

Save as Word document – physically cut and paste list of Payments (usually item 6.1) onto this page (covering this note) and scan as PDF. Upload the PDF version!