

# LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 2022/10/10– 29

Minutes of Meeting of the Council  
held at, Council Chambers, Claremont House, High Street, Lydney  
on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors T Saunders (Mayor - Chair), S Cave, J Greenwood, C Harris, R Holmes, A Harley, R Kemsley, P Macklin (three vacancies)

**IN** Mr S Holley - Town Clerk

**ATTENDANCE:** Miss Laura Jayne – Minute Taker  
2 members of the public were present

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Mayor / Chair T Saunders welcomed all present and gave the usual 'housekeeping' announcements.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Taylor and Leach

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of Interest.

3. **OPEN FORUM**

There were two members of the public in attendance. Chair Saunders gave an introduction to the procedure taken when a member of public speaks.

A resident raised concerns over the Election and how much money was being spent on it. Various Councillors shared concerns noting elections were run by the FODDC and not LTC. It costs £8000.00 for a full Election. Lydney East had 2 vacancies, but only 1 person stood.

A resident sought an update on what was happening with The <sup>Mesne</sup> ~~Mean~~. The land is already owned and maintained by Lydney TC. No changes would be made without residents being consulted. It was reiterated, that it was members of the public whom reside in Lydney, that initially requested the use of a community orchard and space for allotments. A plan for the siting of trees is being progressed with the Head Gardener. The Town Clerk added that he has contact details for a landowner on The Mean who has deeds to the land.

A resident observed the meeting highlighting her links with FVAF.

4. **MINUTES**

(i) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2022

Approved with two abstentions

Proposed: Councillor Holmes, Seconded Cllr Greenwood.

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5. **REPORTS**

No reports had been sent in.

6. **FINANCIAL MATTERS/RFO REPORT**

6.1 **Payments**

The list of Payments was Proposed for approval by Councillor Holmes.

6.2 **Income and Expenditure Report / Balance Sheet / Bank Reconciliations / Debit Card Report**

Councillor Harris questioned Page 2, Month 6 – Vehicle costs and this was clarified. No other questions received.

6.3 **Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2021/22**

The Town Clerk read out the statement that PKF Littlejohn had sent and reaffirmed that Lydney TC had sent all required information in good time. The AGAR will be forwarded as soon as it's available.

6.4 **Budget-Setting for 2023/24**

- (i) There had been problems trying to reduce the number of Geese by cull and that numbers will need to be further reduced before next Summer before the problem gets worse. The Geese are causing a problem to the condition of the lake, the sports grounds and surrounding pathways. Councillor Cave raised that it may be a good idea to speak further with the sports grounds owners, if they are going to be unable to use their clubs for some time.
- The most humane way to reduce numbers is by oiling eggs, which involves people going out on boats and performing the process. This will make it harder for the Geese to lay their eggs and with time they will move on. Oiling is expensive and so more money will be needed. Councillor Holmes explained it would be a one off cost per year, Chair Saunders stated that the cost would be a maximum of £28,000.00 per year, this includes water testing and egg removal.

Councillor Harris proposed Lydney Recreation Trust to get a £25,000.00 increase to the budget and Councillor Cave seconded. There was a unanimous vote for.

- (ii) The Town Clerk urged Councillors to flag up any future plans or developments, that may need extra funding, to what is already in the current budget, stating that it's better to have a rough idea of what may be needed and focus on the detail at a later stage, than to not have any provisions put by for it at all.

The Town Clerk would need to know this information by November, ready to discuss at the end of November. In December the draft budget will be submitted for finalising in January.

The Town Clerk mentioned the idea of taking up the Doctors Surgery and using it as offices, however this may involve borrowing from PWLB.

Councillor Holmes stated that given the economic crisis and rising costs of living, that it was time to give back to the residents of Lydney. A suggestion of a below inflation increase to tax, keeping it as low as possible. Councillor Harley added that as Lydney is expanding, it would be beneficial to look at the tax cost per household.

Concerns shown by Councillors over whether the new Doctors Surgery will be able to deal with the upcoming influx of additional residents.  
Chair Saunders said that an update on the Coop, was to be released shortly.

6.5 **In House Audit**

Councillor Holmes can attend the in house audit, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October.  
Councillor Kemsley also agreed to take part and Cllr Leach would be invited.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND 'LYDNEY FORWARD / REGENERATION PROJECTS AND REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN**

7. Councillor Harley presented her report

Steve Stockholm to be involved in Traffic and Transport plan.  
Magnocks Fund – Councillor Holmes attends meetings and will find out more.

**REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S PLAY EQUIPMENT**

8. Chair Saunders stated that a working party had been set up but not yet had their first meeting. Chair Saunders has begun looking through proposals and costings.  
Councillor Kemsley to arrange dates for meeting and identifying priorities.

Councillor Harris suggested when new planning applications come through, for them to put in Section 106 provisions for play equipment. Town Clerk agreed and will ask Planning Committee.

Councillor Cave commented on the Skate park and Section 106 monies, however the Town Clerk said the Skate Park will be executed over the next few years and Section 106 monies would take too long.

9. **EVENTS**

- (i) Christmas Lights 2.12.2022 - Chair Saunders and staff were progressing arrangements.  
£2000.00 had been spent on Christmas lights, by end of April. This was on 8 sets of reconditioned, LED lamppost lights, which are low cost to run. Purchased from Blachere Illumination UK.  
Road closures notices had been submitted.
- (ii) Taurus Crafts – Lydney TC paid (sponsorship) to have free activities for children, every day in half term.
- (iii) Councillor Cave raised a Youth Street Art project. The proposed cost was £860.00 which included two artists, materials and a tailored theme. Councillor Holmes suggested that this item could go under urgent reports on the Amenities Agenda, with the Town Clerk agreeing.

10. **ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE PARADE AND SERVICE 2022**

Road closures for the Parade had been submitted. The British Legion can no longer run this event and it will now be led by the Town Council who would provide Marshalls. Volunteers were sought. LTC would provide the buffet, ambulance and order of service.

Chair Saunders commented that a request for a second ambulance had been made due to past fainting of attendees. This request was denied, due to the large additional cost and that there were trained First Aiders in attendance.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL AND REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES, SUB COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES AND FROM LEAD COUNCILLORS**

- To be advised. (Note: formal decisions, particularly expenditure, need to be in the Agenda. Otherwise, this section should be used for progress reports / information only).
11. Councillor Greenwood had no additional information
- 11.1 Email RE. Light Fantastic, received 29/9/22 to be responded to. Residents at the end of Greenway – 3 ongoing complaints, after initial delays in responding to questions. Freedom of Information raised.
- 11.2 Staffing Internal review has been appealed. Additional questions raised by residents, which the Town Clerk is going to look into and respond to ASAP.

Councillor Macklin to join The Greenway Project.

12. **REQUEST FROM LYDNEY RECREATION TRUST**

Further information given by Councillor Holmes regarding the community orchards and allotments.

Testing kits, to test for heavy metals in the earth - £172.00 each, with a processing fee, per test of £85.00. Giving a total of £2750.00 for 10 test kits.

These will test randomly selected 3 meter squared sections.

Councillor Kemsley stated this will be useful information to have.

Councillor Cave proposed to purchase 10 kits, Councillor Greenwood seconded. Unanimously voted for.

Councillor Holmes is in talks with FoDDC Tree officer, working on pre-assessment planning form, to decide where the trees will go.

Councillor Harley queried on when will they hear back from Trees for Towns, as they had a proposal for opposite the Coop.

Town Clerk added information on another project relating to Cherry trees, outside of Lydney. A GCC Officer could provide some trees, but this has yet to be confirmed.

13. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

No items reported.

14. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence from residents of Greenways.

Lady concerned about Harry Ives post

15. **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE BUSINESS**

Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, High Street.

FoDDC double booked (Local plan meeting) Spoke with Nigel Gibbons

Extra meeting for delivery of the plan from FoDDC.

Chair Saunders requested extension to the 14<sup>th</sup>.

7<sup>th</sup> additional meeting with District.

Busy November, with evening meetings every Monday.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The minute taker left the meeting at 21:12

Signed: [Signature]

Date: 12/12/22