

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 2022/10/17 –

DRAFT Minutes of Amenities Committee

held at, Council Chambers, Claremont House, High Street, Lydney
on Monday 17th October 2022 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors C Harris, R Holmes, S Holmes (Chair), T Saunders (Mayor), (Chair) and E Taylor.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor W Osborne – Observer
Mr S Holley - Town Clerk
Miss Laura Jayne – Minute Taker
10 members of the public

Chair S Holmes welcomed all present and gave the usual 'housekeeping' announcements.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Harley and Vaughan.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of Interest.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Councillor C Harris Proposed the approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 21st July 2022 as a correct record. (Note: this meeting had been postponed from 18th July due to an extreme heatwave).
Seconded by Councillor E Taylor and unanimously APPROVED.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

The Chair explained the procedures for when a member of the public wished to speak.

(i) District Councillor Harry Ives stated that he was speaking to represent the residents of Primrose Hill and gave a statement with regards to the proposed community Orchard. The main concerns were that parking was already difficult in the area and would be made further so, if people were to want to visit the Orchard, travelling by car. Councillor Ives stated that families had used every part of The Mesne for generations; they were not willing to accept any reduction to the area of play. Councillor Ives concluded by asking the Town Council to abandon its plans of putting an Orchard in this area.

(ii) Resident A. stated that she had previously sent her concerns in regarding The Mesne via email. She had lived in the area for 51 years and had watched many families over this time, use the entirety of The Mesne for fun and play. The resident did not agree with the area being reduced, especially due to the high amount of additional housing that will be coming to Lydney. The lack of parking was a main concern and explained that she allowed others to use parking space at her business, but she would stop that if the Orchard was allowed. Resident A is concerned that the parking problem will be a risk to the safety of children nearby.

Additional concerns were rotting fruit and an influx of leaves will attract Vermin, Wasps and Boar. The views will be affected by such trees and public money could be better spent on additional play equipment, which would overall equate to less money having to be spent.

Resident A is not opposed to an Orchard and is happy with the two other sites in question, but wants The Mesne to be removed as an option from future plans.

Resident B, who has lived on Primrose Hill most of his life states he had worries the Boar may be attracted to the fruit.

Mr Wedge a Trustee of the Gloucestershire Orchard Trust. Mr Wedge volunteered any assistance that may be needed.

Given that all members of the public in attendance, were there with regards to the proposed Orchard at Primrose Hill, the Chair, Councillor S Holmes decided to move Item 6 to Item 5.

6. **PROPOSED COMMUNITY ORCHARDS**

To receive an update on proposals for Community Orchards and to agree the next steps

Councillor S Holmes gave members of the public handouts relating to the proposed Orchards.

Councillor S Holmes firstly reassured members of the public, that the proposed trees were not going to be put next to the old tree, neither were they going to reduce any of the playing area around the play equipment.

It was stated that a letter was received from Mr Harry Ives, on the 12th of August, relating to rumours surround the Orchard, to which Councillor S Holmes, replied on the 15th of August, requesting to meet with Mr Ives, to explain the proposal. Unfortunately, a reply to this request was not received.

A member of the public stated that she was not able to attend such meeting due to personal reasons, however she felt that other members of The Friends of The Mesne, could have also been contacted.

Of the 1,825 people living within The Mesne, from the data given by Andrew Knight, only 197 people had actually voted on whether they wanted an Orchard. Councillor S Holmes reiterated that the Town Council were always going to follow the proper process of going to Public Consultation, so that all people on The Mesne would get the chance to vote and have their say.

Members of the public began to speak over Councillor S Holmes, to which the Town Clerk reminded the public that the committee was out of Open Forum and the public should not be debating or commenting within any additional Agenda items.

Progress on Centurion Way has been made, Stuart Payne had visited and the pre-planning assessment was to be submitted.

Green of Gloucestershire will be providing the trees, free of charge.

With regards to the Rec Trust ground, 3 source samples are to be taken from the ground where the allotments are hoping to go, measuring a 50 x 60 area.

Members of the public continued to talk over the Chair and Councillors.

Councillor Osborne stated, that given the members of public were so passionate about Lydney, there had been 3 vacancies going to become a Councillor for their Town Council, but only 1 person stepped forward to take this position. The public left the meeting.

The Town Clerk suggested, either a recommendation to remove The Mesne from the proposed Orchards sites, was to be made and voted on, or, the Town Council would continue with the Public Consultation.

It was unanimously voted for to continue with the Public Consultation.

5. **COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR 2023/34**

To consider this Committee's estimates for the Council's Budget for 2023/24.

The Town Clerk talked through the Draft Budget.

Councillor S Holmes Proposed an increase to the Christmas Events budget, from £3,000.00 to £3,500.00. All unanimously voted for.

Christmas Event Budget to be increased to £3,500.00

Christmas lights – To be kept at £9,500.00 (only £7,000.00 spent last year)

The additional budget allows for the Lamppost survey.

Arts budget to be reduced to £2,500.00.

It was suggested a 1 day Event for the Coronation to be held with a budget of £5,000.00, although Councillor Saunders added that funding for this event may become available nearer the time.

The Environment Agency will be taking over the Litter and Grass cutting at the Harbour with effect from April 1st and therefore the contractors will be paid directly from the E/A hence the litter and grass cutting costs will decrease.

Forest Equipment Services to increase year 3 of the contract by the RPI to 13.1%.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

7. To receive an update report on planning for Christmas Events.

Mayor T Saunders gave an update.

Confirmed the remaining GCC grant funding was sent on additional Street Christmas lights.

The Grotto to be inflated prior to the event to ensure in working condition. All road closures are in place, with the amendment of Church Road, in hand.

The same food vendors will be used, as in previous years, these have all been vetted.

8. Grotto presents to be ordered in the next week, with various ages ranges
The Town Clerk added that timings will need to be thought about when advertising and informing of upcoming road closures. A half page spread in the local paper would be beneficial and better signage on the roads that will be closed, up to a fortnight before will give residents plenty of notice.

GRASSED VERGE OUTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE

To receive an update on the proposal to plant flowering cherry

- The Town Clerk informed Councillors that there were to be 11 Cherry trees, put outside of Lydney Community Centre. These were being provided by Greener Gloucestershire, the contact being County Councillor, Sarah Nooms. Originally the Community Centre were going to be purchasing 6 of the trees, with the Town Council paying for the remaining 5, however the trees have been donated, free of charge. They will be delivered to the Town Council offices. Greener Gloucestershire are also providing the fruit trees and the Head Grpoundsman is to visit Gloucester Orchard Trust at Hartp ury for advice and information.
- 9.

BENCHES ON HIGHFIELD AND BREAM ROAD

To receive an update on the benches.

The Town Clerk to continue contact with the GCC, with the position of the benches. There are funds in the budget to cover these.

STREET ART PROJECT

10. To consider a report detailing a new provider for the Street Art Project and the associated costs.

Councillor Saunders lead this Agenda item, in absence of Steve Cave.

The art boards that had been installed at the skatepark. Had in fact been put together double sided, leaving the display looking rather small.

The boards are facing the Recreation ground and can also be seen from the road. On a positive note, there has not been any graffiti or damage done to the boards, since August.

It was said that the boards may be damp and work, Councillor S Cave is to investigate this.

To salvage this project and the budget that had been agreed, in addition to the children that are waiting to work on the project, it has been said that the same children will be invited to Camp Hill Crest in St. Briavels. This is on Monday of half term.

Mayor T Saunders would like in writing whether those that run the project at Camp Hill Crest, are DBS checked, she would also like to ensure that the boards will be in situ and not flat pack. In addition to finding out timings for the session, i.e. a full day or a few hours.

A theme was decided, a Skateboard theme, that is somehow linked to Lydney. The Town Clerk confirmed that the structure was to be temporary and could be removed once the Skatepark was complete, if the Town Council and residents did not like them.

Councillor C Harris proposed to allow Councillor S Cave to continue to move forward with this project (which had already been agreed, the only difference being with new artists) Councillor E Taylor seconded. 4 in favour, 1 abstention.

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

11. To note URGENT Councillors Reports on matters relevant to the remit of this Committee

Councillor E Taylor commented on an email about putting a bus shelter in outside of Taurus Crafts. A local resident has been asking for one for some time. There is

the correct flooring for a bus shelter to be erected, but no shelter and with the wetter weather incoming, this would be beneficial to those that would use it. Councillor C Harris suggested rather than waiting for Planning and Highways, she could contact County Councillor Alan Preest.

Cllr Saunders was under the impression that a shelter had already been proposed. The Town Clerk and Steve Stockholm were aware of this, but now need to include it within the budget. Town Clerk to look into costs.


No other reports.

12.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note Monday 16th January 2023 as the date of the next scheduled Meeting of the Committee.

End of meeting: 20:36

Signed: 
Dated: 18/10/2023.

