

**Annual Town Meeting
Held at, Lydney Town Hall, High Street, Lydney**

Wednesday 24th May 2023

Time: 6pm

Present: Lydney Town Council

T Saunders (Mayor), E Taylor, P Johns, C Harris, R Kemsley (6.04pm),
P Macklin (6.27pm), S Cave (6.43pm).

Mr M Greenfield – Town Clerk

Present: 11 Residents

Cllr Saunders welcomed all present to the meeting and explained that everyone had access to a copy of the Annual Town Meeting Report 2022/23.

It was noted that a digital copy of the report is available on the Town Council's website.

Cllr Saunders thanked the organisations for their contributions to the Annual Town Meeting Report 2022/2023.

Cllr Saunders encouraged residents to visit the stalls situated around the room, once the meeting concluded.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors R. Holmes, S Holmes, W Osborne.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting dated 25th April 2022, were confirmed and approved as a true record and duly signed. **Proposed by Cllr C Harris, seconded by Cllr E Taylor. APPROVED.**

3. **THE MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor commented that the Annual Town Meeting Reports for 2022/23 were available for residents within the documentation provided.

4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

- (i) **Dean Forest Greenway** – a resident asked about the Council's plans regarding the Dean Forest Greenway and retention of funds that are available to the Council.

The resident commented that there may be substantial changes to the identified travel routes and this will have an impact on the Council and should be given some consideration.

The resident enquired as to whether the Council had been asked to remove rubbish from the intended route?

RESPONSE: The Council has not been asked to remove rubbish from the route.

The Council has earmarked £10,000 for when necessary planning applications have been approved.

Funds will be used as per any agreement, as part of financial planning and based on decisions being taken at various meetings.

The allocation would be reviewed at the next Financial & Scrutiny Committee meeting.

A former Councillor was leading on this project, and there is still a commitment from the Council for a cycle way from Lydney to Parkend.

- (ii) **The Mesne and Boar** – a resident commented on the boar that were accessing the Mesne and damaging the grassland and surrounding areas.

RESPONSE: A District Councillor is one of the individuals that the Council is working with regarding the boars accessing the Mesne.

The Council is working with various representatives and agencies to install permanent heras fencing to restrict access from the boars.

The Council is awaiting an appropriate gate, and permissions, to enable it to be fixed into place.

The Council is aware that previous temporary fencing installed by a local resident was removed by persons unknown.

COMMENT: a resident commented that the District Council and the Town Council are working together on this issue.

Springfield Road seems to be the main access for the boar.

COMMENT: a resident commented that the public footpath near to where the boars are accessing needs to be addressed and that a 'Kissing Gate' has already been installed.

The Public Rights of Way Officer at the Forest of Dean District Council may be able to assist, as the boars may be situated by the ponds.

COMMENT: a resident invited a resident to a meeting to progress these suggestions further.

- (iii) **Bream Road Bus Stop** – a resident asked if the bus shelter could be relocated from Bream Road, as it is no longer used, to outside Taurus Crafts, Lydney, subject to various permissions.

RESPONSE: this is an agenda item for the Amenities Committee and is being investigated further.

The structure of the bus shelter is unstable and could be damaged if moved.

A District Councillor has been made aware of the relocation request and they are seeking funding for a new shelter, with the view that it be situated by the entrance of Taurus Crafts, Lydney.

- (iv) **Bio-diversity** – a resident asked if the Council is supportive of bio-diversity, and cited Centurion Road as an example of where, on the left-hand side, children used to play, but now it is overgrown, which seems contrary to Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) guidelines.
The resident commented that a trial was conducted but no consultation, it seems, with the public or Town Council.
The resident further commented that bins need installing and asked who has responsibility for Centurion Way (tarmacked) areas?

RESPONSE: Centurion Way is a mixture of District Council and Town Council responsibilities.

COMMENT: a resident enquired the following: -

- Whether a 'Memorandum of Understanding' between Gloucestershire County Council, District Council and Town Council, can be developed?

This will assist with queries, such as if a person is injured, the residents would know who is responsible?

- What is the responsibility between the Town Council and Gloucestershire County Council and District Council, who is responsible for maintenance?
- Who is responsible for Centurion Way grass cutting?

The resident commented that by making this known it would assist residents.

RESPONSE: All Town Councils have similar problems; we all need to know.

COMMENT: a resident mentioned that the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Lydney is open for consultation. Comments are welcomed. Residents were invited to be part of the NDP and future meetings.

COMMENT: a resident commented that areas around Livia Way and Centurion Road were used as a trial site without Councillor involvement, previously by the Forest of Dean District Council.

The trial proved unpopular with some residents, as there were issues with dog-fouling by the two parcels of land. It also reduced the green space that was available for out-door play areas.

COMMENT: a resident commented that the Neighbourhood Development Plan includes green spaces and walkways.

It was suggested that a letter of support be provided by the Town Council for an NDP meeting scheduled for late June 2023.

Action- Letter of support request for NDP to be added to Council Agenda for June 2023 for decision – Town Clerk.

- (v) **Dog Bins** – a resident asked about installation of dog bins and who is responsible if, as a result, someone has an illness, due to dog fouling left uncleared?

RESPONSE: it is up to the owners to be responsible dog owners. Bins can be situated everywhere, but if it is not picked up from the floor it is the owner's responsibility.

- (vi) **Homeless Individuals at Skatepark** – a resident commented that there are homeless individuals by the skatepark.

RESPONSE: the police are aware and various services are engaging with those individuals.

The homeless individuals have been moved on from that site.

There is a multi-agency meeting scheduled for Thursday 25th May 2023 and this will be on the agenda, as well as other topics.

With no further questions or comments, the Mayor thanked everyone for their contributions and for attending the Annual Town Assembly.

5. **CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.