



**MINUTES OF THE LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CLAREMOUNT HOUSE ON
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL Monday 10th July 2023**

Start 7.02pm

Present: Cllr T Saunders (Chair)
Cllr C Harris
Cllr P Johns
Cllr S Holmes
Cllr R Holmes (Vice-Chair)
Cllr R Kemsley (arrived 7.36pm)
Cllr W Osborne
Cllr S Cave
Cllr P Macklin
Cllr M Jones (Co-opted member joined the meeting at 7.15pm)

In attendance: M Greenfield (Clerk)

Members of the Public: Cllr M Topping (District Councillor) and 2 members of the public.

Councillor T Saunders welcomed all present and gave the usual 'housekeeping' announcements.

The Council held a One Minute Silence in honour of the Late Councillor and Mayor Derek Biddle.

A private funeral ceremony is taking place on Wednesday 12th July, with the hearse leaving Hurst Farm at 10.00am, travelling down Highfield Hill and turning to Forest Road towards the crematorium.

The Mayor mentioned that the family of Mr Biddle have organised a public memorial service on Sunday 16th July 2023 at 12.30pm, Lydney Town Hall and all are invited to attend.

Open Forum

A. Sally Jenkinson, Communities Manager, gave a presentation on a community-led Fringe Festival scheduled for March 2024 within the Forest of Dean.

They require assistance with locating local groups who would like to participate in the event.

Packages of support are available to facilitate Forest of Dean-based artists in developing their ideas over the coming year, in preparation for a debut at the FOD Fringe.

Applications for commissions are open until the 27th of August 2023 and all the details on how to apply can be found in this link: [FOD Fringe 2024 — Wyldwood Arts](#)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and noted, from Cllr E Taylor.
Cllr R Kemsley provided advance notice that he will be late to the meeting.

2. **CO-OPTION ONTO LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL**

To review and appoint Co-option Councillors to Lydney Town Council
Cllr Michele Jones was co-opted onto the council.

The Clerk witnessed the Signing of the Acceptance of Office and Cllr M Jones joined the meeting at 7.15pm.

3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None declared.

4. **MINUTES**

The minutes held on **Monday 12th June 2023** were accepted as read.
Proposed by Cllr W Osborne Seconded by Cllr C Harris. Approved Abstention – 3.

5. **REPORTS**

A verbal report was received from District Cllr M Topping.
In summary:-

- Cllr Topping mentioned that he is the Leader for the Forest of Dean District Council (FoDDC).
- Cllr Topping explained the Cabinet and Full Council structures.
- The Forest of Dean District Council are looking at various subjects including the Local Plan and the impact it will have in Lydney and across the Forest as it develops over the next 20 years.
- 4000 houses are needed in the Forest area and FoDDC are also looking at infrastructure projects, as a whole, and Lydney is key to the plan and connected services.
- Communication with residents is also important.

Cllr W Osborne asked if the Planning Department at FoDDC could consider sewage waste, as the sewage system was designed in 1974 and with the growth of 4000 houses this will have an impact, especially if sewage were to be pumped into the River Severn.

Cllr M Topping commented 'Yes', and that emissions were also key and FoDDC will have to work with developers on these and other areas.

Councillors asked if Cllr M Topping could ensure officers from FoDDC contact them. The names of the FoDDC Officers were provided to Cllr M Topping.



Cllr W Osborne commented that it was disappointing that the police were not present at the meeting tonight.

Cllr T Saunders highlighted that meetings with the police were occurring on a regular basis and councillors have been provided with follow-up information.

6. **FINANCIAL MATTERS / RFO REPORT**

6.1 **Payments**

To approve accounts for payment as detailed by the RFO

It was proposed by Cllr T Saunders that the Payments were made for the agreed for payment. Unanimously Approved

6.2 **Income and Expenditure Reports/ Earmarked Reserves / Balance Sheets / RFO Report/ Bank Reconciliations for 31.05.2023**

To receive and approve the above financial reports for 31.05.2023

It was proposed by Cllr T Saunders that the reports be approved.
Unanimously Approved

6.3 **Direct Debit Card Report**

To note the Direct Debit Report for 31.05.2023.

Noted

6.4 **In-house Audit**

To request councillor representation to undertake an in-house Audit of the Council's accounts covering the period April, May June 2023 and for July, August September 2023

It was agreed that the following councillors would undertake the In-house Audit of the council's accounts:

for April/May/June (Daytime Audit)

Cllrs P Johns, M Jones, S Holmes, C Harris and R Holmes

(Date of audit to be arranged for August)

for July/August/September (twilight/evening)

(Date of audit to be arranged for October)

Cllrs P Johns, C Harris, R Holmes, S Holmes, P Macklin and S Cave

Cllr R Kemsley arrived 7.36pm

6.5 **Events Expenditure**

To approve expenditure from Events (Budget 4440/300) to Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust totalling £3500 towards the Community Event scheduled for 22nd July 2023



The proposer withdrew the proposal.

7. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

To receive an update from the Town Clerk.

Noted

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

Reports received from Chairman or Leads of groups

Planning and Highways Committee - Cllr C Harris

A meeting with held with a Gloucestershire County Council Highways Officer on 27.06.23

The next meeting is scheduled for later September, early October 2023.

If any councillor has any highways issues, please report it to Cllr C Harris or to the Clerk.

It is understood that Lydney North will need further consideration and it was suggested that having a Lydney North councillor present at the next meeting would be helpful.

Youth Lead - Cllr C Cave

Small silver cannisters were found around the skatepark.

Cllr T Saunders commented that these are being removed, as part of the litter picking routes, supported by the Grounds Team.

Finance & Scrutiny - Cllr R Holmes

Cllr R Holmes thanked the Officers for their work with the accounts.

Mayor - Cllr T Saunders

Cllr R Holmes attended the Manor Care Home Party, which has been opened for 3 months.

Cllr R Holmes attended the Dean Forest Railway event

Cllr T Saunders thanked all the councillors for their participation and assistance alongside the organisers of the Community Heroes Award held at Lydney Town Hall on Wednesday 5th July 2023.

9. **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

To consider and decide on signing the Service Level Agreement for Speedwatch with Gloucestershire Constabulary

Proposed by Cllr T Saunders Unanimously Approved.

10. **TO AGREE THE EXCESS MONEY RAISED FROM THE CORONATION BIG LUNCH TO GO TO THE COMMUNITY**

To agree to resolve that the excess money raised from the Coronation Big Lunch to be split equally between the Dean Forest Kitchen and the Mayors Charity of Choice – Teens in Crisis

Proposed by Cllr S Holmes Seconded by Cllr S Cave Approved.

11. **ELECTION COSTS REMINDER**

To note possible future By-Elections costs between July 2023 and the next Ordinary Parish Election in 2027. Noted.

12. **THE LAND AT THE OAKS**

To resolve to agree a contractor to clear the land at The Oaks and to excavate the drainage ditch

Proposed by Cllr W Osborne Seconded by Cllr C Harris Agreed Abstention – 1

The council have appointed C&R Groundworks to clear the land at The Oaks and to excavate the drainage ditch.

13. **WILDLIFE FENCING**

To approve a quote for wildlife fencing below the recreation area near Primrose Hill
The proposer withdrew the proposal.

14. **CORRESPONDENCE**

To note correspondence received and answered and to agree responses, as appropriate
Noted.

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

Full Council – Monday 11th September 2023 in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, High Street. Lydney

Meeting closed at 8.11pm



