



**MINUTES OF THE LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CLAREMONT HOUSE ON**

**MONDAY 13th January 2025
START 7.00pm**

Present: Cllr T Saunders (Chair)
Cllr C Harris
Cllr S Hillier
Cllr R Holmes (Vice Chair)
Cllr S Holmes
Cllr M Howard
Cllr P Johns
Cllr M Jones
Cllr R Kemsley
Cllr T Lindsay
Cllr P Macklin

In attendance: M Greenfield (Town Clerk)
L Bendall (Assistant Clerk & Minute Taker)

Members of the Public: Two

Councillor Saunders welcomed all present and gave the usual 'housekeeping' announcements.

Open Forum

A Forest Road resident, whose home was flooded during storm Bert, advised the council that they were still displaced from their home, with the hope that they may be able to move back in in May. The resident advised that 16 properties on Forest Road were flooded with no known flooding in 75 years. The resident would like to know why it happened, what work can and will be done to mitigate any future flooding and what steps the town council are taking to ensure action is taken and not just talking. The resident has been seen by a representative from Forest of Dean District Council (FoDDC) and was advised that there was no available funding.

A local business owner, whose business was also flooded, commented that businesses within the High Street had been hugely impacted with on average sales reduced by 60%. There is no accountability following recent events and suggested a lobby needs to be made to local MP to release funds to help Lydney.

The members of the public were thanked for attending the meeting and empathies extended. It was commented that council is also frustrated with external agencies response and confirmed that town council is not the responsible flooding authority. The council will continue to push for answers and actions and is working closely with all external authorities involved.

Cllr Saunders has spoken to the MP's office and has been advised that the MP may be seeking to hold a public meeting to discuss recent events.

Updates for Lydney flooding and Newerne Street Bridge can be found on GCC website:
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/major-projects-list/lydney-bridge-newerne-street-bridge/>

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr Taylor.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with Lydney Town Council's current Code of Conduct in respect of Members.

No declaration of interests was declared.

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 9th December 2024 were accepted as read and correct.

Resolved: Unanimously Approved

4. **REPORTS**

To receive urgent reports from Members of the Town, District and County Councils
 No reports were received.

5. **FINANCIAL MATTERS / RFO REPORT**

5.1 Payments

To approve accounts for payment as detailed by the RFO

It was proposed and seconded that the payments totalling £8,519.72 be approved

Resolved: Unanimously Approved

5.2 Income and Expenditure Reports/ Earmarked Reserves/ Bank Reconciliations for 31.12.24 & Bank Statement for 31.12.24 to 07.01.25

To receive and approve the above financial reports

It was proposed by Chair that the Income and Expenditure Reports/ Earmarked Reserves/ Bank Reconciliations for 31.12.24 & Bank Statement for 31.12.24 to 07.01.25 be approved.

Resolved: Unanimously Approved

5.3 Direct Debit Card Report

To note the Direct Debit Card report for December 2024.

Noted

5.4 To approve the PRECEPT/Budget for the Financial Year 2025/26

To receive and approve the PRECEPT/Budget for the financial year 2025/6

Chair proposed that the 2025/26 Precept for £781,018.00, representing a 0.46% increase from the previous year's Precept be approved.

Resolved: Unanimously Approved

6. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Town Clerk's report was received and noted.

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

- Cllr R Holmes requested an update on the roundabout at The Mesne, it was confirmed that the office was in the process of obtaining various quotes to present to council with a hope that information will be available for discussion at next council meeting.
- Cllr Saunders advised that the council will be commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May by lighting the beacon, office are working on the protocol.
- Newerne Street Bridge Update – Highways have removed the broken parapet and confirmed that flood defence of the town is the responsibility of the Environment Agency.
Divers are due to undertake investigations on the bridge structure on 16th January, if deemed safe, Highways may look to introduce one lane of traffic using a priority system to control traffic.
Updates relating to Lydney flooding and planned work on the bridge can be found on the GCC website:
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/major-projects-list/lydney-bridge-newerne-street-bridge/>
- Members of the Council are meeting with the Emergency Planning Team to review current protocols and update accordingly.
- It is noted that the High Street will be closed from 7pm until 7am from 20th January 2025 until 3rd February for resurfacing. It has been confirmed that that only emergency vehicles and pedestrians will be granted access. Councillors to park at the Town Hall for the next two upcoming meetings.
- Council is aware of reports of two homeless individuals within Lydney and confirmed the relevant authorities have been advised. Any residents having to walk to a location due to the High Street Road closure can ask for assistance from staff that will be located at the gates to the road closure. The area will be well lit.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

(a) Mayors for Peace – Newsflash December 2024 – noted.

9. **FLAG DAYS**

To consider and approve flag days for 2025

Chair proposed that the Flag Days for 2025 be approved.

Resolved: Unanimously Approved

10. **STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2030**

To review and update the Strategic Plan for 2023-2030

Councillors are encouraged to regularly review this document and advise the office of any identified updates. Following review, it was identified that item 15.2.3 to be amended from yellow to green as work has been completed.

Plan was noted and updates to be made.

11. **BIODIVERSITY DUTY POLICY**

To review and update the Biodiversity Duty Policy update

Councillors are encouraged to regularly review this document and advise the office of any identified updates.

Policy reviewed; no updates identified.

12. **FREE PARKING DAYS**

To decide and agree on the 6 free parking days for Lydney for 2025.

The proposer withdrew Agenda Item 12.

Resolved: Proposal Withdrawn

13. **CODE OF CONDUCT**

To review and approve the Code of Conduct.

Code of Conduct, following updated guidance, has been updated. It was proposed and seconded that the updated Code of Conduct be approved.

Resolved: Majority Approved

14. **COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

To review and approve the Complaints Procedure.

Following updated guidance the Complaints Procedure has been updated. It was proposed and seconded that the updated Complaints Procedure be approved.

Resolved: Unanimously Approved

15. **MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

To resolve to continue in 'Closed Session' under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 as the following business to be discussed is considered to be of a confidential nature.

Chair proposed to continue meeting in 'Closed Session'.

Resolved: Unanimously Approved

Standing Orders suspended at 7.58pm

Standing Orders resumed at 8.03pm

16. **MAYORS REPORT**

To receive a report from the mayor.

Mayor gave an update to a visit due to Lydney.

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

Full Council – Monday 10th February 2025, 7pm, in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, High Street. Lydney

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

