

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2008

Present

Chairman: The Mayor, Cllr Ms. S. Holman

Councillors: Mrs. B. Austin, Mrs. A. Bradbury, Mrs. M. Ellis, K. Hitchcock, Dr. S. Hogg, Mrs. L. Jenkin, O. Lovell, K. Whetlor, P. Williams and S. Williams

Officers: Mr. M. Lewis (Town Clerk) and Miss V. Stickler (Admin. Officer)

Prayers

A prayer was offered by Cllr P. Williams.

08/47/C

Public Forum

Mr. D. Hallett

Mr. D. Hallett expressed his concerns that if the town council was to take over the running of the toilets on Marine Parade, the cost of cleaning these toilets would still be included in the council tax that residents pay to WDDC.

Members agreed to investigate this matter further.

Cllr Col. G. Brierley – Dorset County Council

Cllr Col. G. Brierley reported:

- The Dorset County Council Road Safety Team was not prepared to do a Road Safety Audit of Sidmouth Road as there had been few major accidents there. However, they had contacted Dorset Police and asked them to give Sidmouth Road special attention in the hope that this would reduce the number of drivers speeding.
- A meeting had taken place with Magna Housing Association and a resident of Staples Terrace to discuss residents parking. It was agreed to convert the grass area in front of the bungalows into hard-standing for parking cars.
- A highways inspection was due to take place on the 2nd October 2008 with Mr. G. Laurie of Dorset County Council and Lyme Regis councillors.
- Driver training events for the over 55s were due to take place in Bridport and Charmouth, with practical courses also being offered. Further information was to be placed in the town notice boards.

08/48/C

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Miss L. Campbell, Cllr D. Cozens, Cllr K. Meech and Revd. J. Harrison.

08/49/C

Declarations of Interest

Cllr O. Lovell declared a personal prejudicial interest in the payment noted on page 879 of the list of payments for the period ending 31st August 2008, made to Cllr O. Lovell's son, D. Lovell. He would leave the room for this item.

Cllr O. Lovell also declared a personal prejudicial interest in minute no. 08/41/P (a) – Tourism & Advertising Sub-Committee – 26th July 2008, and 08/41/P (b) – Tourism &

Advertising Sub-Committee – 2nd September 2008, as he was the owner of a B&B in the town. He would leave the room for any discussion of these items.

Cllr Mrs. B. Austin declared a prejudicial interest in minute no. 08/35/P (d) – To receive formal notification from the Lyme Regis Club for Young People that the organisation no longer requires the £70,000 loan pledged by the town council to help with the purchase of a site to build a new facility. She would leave the room for any discussion of this item.

Cllr Mrs. B. Austin also declared a personal interest in minute no. 08/36/P (a) – To consider potential future uses for Strawberry Field.

As she was a chalet owner on the Western Beach, the Mayor, Cllr Ms. S. Holman declared a prejudicial interest in minute no. 08/35/P (a) – To receive the budget comparison of income and expenditure to the 31st August 2008 and would leave the room for any discussion on the Western Beach Parking.

Cllr S. Williams declared a personal interest in the payment noted on page 890 of the list of payments for the period ending 31st August 2008, made to him. He stated that he would not leave the room for this item as the payment was made for mileage and parking when Cllr S. Williams was attending meetings on behalf of the town council.

Cllr Mrs. L. Jenkin declared a personal interest in minute no. 08/35/P (c) – To be advised that a final bid of £920 was accepted via EBay for the former ice cream caravan, as she was an ordinary member of the Lyme Regis Development Trust.

Cllr Mrs. A. Bradbury declared a personal interest in minute no. 08/41/P (a) – Tourism & Advertising Sub-Committee – 26th July 2008, and 08/41/P (b) – Tourism & Advertising Sub-Committee – 2nd September 2008, as she was the owner of a B&B in the town. She would leave the room for any discussion of these items.

Cllr Mrs. M. Ellis declared a personal interest in plan 1/D/08/001456 as she was the Store Manager for Lyme Regis Woolworths.

08/50/C To approve the signature by the Chairman of the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 20th August 2008

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 20th August 2008, having been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs. A. Bradbury and seconded by Cllr P. Williams, the minutes were ADOPTED.

08/51/C To receive ‘Mayor’s Announcements’

A summary of recent mayoral engagements is attached to the minutes of this meeting. NOTED.

The Mayor, Cllr Ms. S. Holman thanked all councillors that had supported events in the town recently and reminded them of the ArtsFest Trail which was taking place at the time.

Members were informed of a meeting due to be held on the 3rd October 2008 on the topic of ‘Transition Towns’.

The Mayor also informed members that the Turn Lyme Green initiative had recently won a ‘Pride of Place’ award.

08/52/C Planning Committee

The Planning Committee's recommendations on planning applications forwarded directly to the planning authority, and also the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th September 2008, having previously been circulated to members, were NOTED.

08/53/C Policy Committee

The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on the 10th September 2008, having previously been circulated, were presented for adoption by the Chairman, Cllr O. Lovell, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mrs. M. Ellis.

(a) Minute No. 08/30/P – Public Forum and Minute No. 08/36/P (a) – To consider potential future uses of Strawberry Field

The Town Clerk reported that he had met with Mr. P. Evans who was acting on behalf of the Lyme Regis Football Club, to discuss a specific financial matter in relation to Strawberry Field. Separately, he had also met with a representative of the Golf Club which had expressed interest in operating a pitch & putt facility at the Strawberry Field site.

The Mayor, Cllr Ms. S. Holman advised members that once the Golf Club had submitted formal notification of their proposal, a meeting would be arranged of the Strawberry Field Working Group to discuss all potential uses of the site. All councillors would be invited to attend this meeting. NOTED.

(b) Minute No. 08/34/P (b) – To consider requesting WDDC to reposition seafront recycling bins alongside litter bins

Cllr Mrs. L. Jenkin again expressed her disappointment that WDDC had not agreed to reposition the bins and requested that this be pursued further. She informed members that she had photographs of recycling bins used on the seafront in Cornwall. Cllr O. Lovell asked that this be discussed at the next Policy Committee meeting and that Cllr Mrs. L. Jenkin bring the photographs to that meeting. NOTED.

(c) Minute No. 08/36/P (f) – To receive an update from the Town Clerk in progress with introducing a policy to govern the future management of Marine Parade and the seafront

The Town Clerk reminded members that Mr. N. Browning, Principal Engineer for WDDC, would be assessing the drainage issue behind the Cart Road day huts with consultants this autumn. He reassured members that Mr. Browning was aware of how important this issue was. NOTED.

(d) Minute No. 08/37/P (b) – The Chairman to comment on the daily parking charging structure adopted by the district council this season in relation to long stay car parks

Members AGREED to arrange the meeting with representatives from WDDC to discuss parking charges and public toilets for 6:30pm on Monday 20th October 2008.

(e) Minute No. 08/38/P (c) – To consider the future status of the Community Plan Implementation Sub-Committee as recommended under the final paragraph of Minute No. 08/21/CP – Review of the first year of the Community Plan Implementation Sub-Committee

The Mayor, Cllr Ms. S. Holman requested that this item be deferred to discuss under the Community Plan Implementation Sub-Committee minutes.

- (f) Minute No. 08/39/P (c) – To pursue Dorset County Council as to a resolution of the two longstanding requests to register public rights of way in respect to Bagsters Steps (Coombe Street) and Tenerife path linking Broad Street to Marine Parade

Cllr S. Williams proposed that the minute be amended to read ‘*Cllr P. Williams requested that the Town Clerk write to Dorset County Council to demand a resolution*’ seconded by Cllr Mrs. L. Jenkin. Cllr Mrs. L. Jenkin asked that if no action was taken as a result of this planned correspondence, then the town council seek to take legal action on the matter. AGREED.

- (g) Minute No. 08/41/P (b) – Tourism & Advertising Sub-Committee – 28th July 2008 and Minute No. 08/41/P (c) – Tourism & Advertising Sub-Committee – 2nd September 2008

Cllr K. Whetlor advised members that talks and incentives were underway to establish a new tourism website for the town council and the Tourism & Advertising Sub-Committee hoped to be able to report progress to Full Council by the end of 2008. NOTED

There being no further items raised for discussion, the report and recommendations with the exclusion of minute no. 08/38/P (c) were ADOPTED.

08/54/C Community Plan Implementation Sub-Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th September 2008 having previously been circulated, were presented for adoption by the Chairman, Cllr S. Williams, seconded by Cllr K. Whetlor.

- (a) Minute No. 08/26/P (a) – Review of the first year of the Community Plan Implementation Sub-Committee

With reference to minute no. 08/38/P (c), the Mayor, Cllr Ms. S. Holman apologised that her intentions to propose the upgrading of the the status of the Community Plan Implementation Sub-Committee to a full committee, had not been made clear and discussed at the Policy Committee meeting on the 10th September 2008. As a result of this, the Mayor had made a further proposition at the next Community Plan Implementation Sub-Committee meeting on the 17th September 2008, which resulted in two conflicting recommendations being made to this Full Council meeting.

Cllr O. Lovell expressed concerns that this matter had not been handled correctly as he believed that the Mayor should have requested that minute no. 08/38/P (c) be deleted from the Policy minutes or voted on at that stage of the meeting.

The Mayor, Cllr Ms. S. Holman apologised for the confusion and for deferring the discussion incorrectly. Members discussed the correct procedure for this matter and AGREED that they were content with the remainder of the Policy Committee minutes.

Subsequently, Cllr S. Williams proposed that the Community Plan Implementation Sub-Committee be upgraded to committee status, seconded by Cllr Mrs. L. Jenkin and AGREED with two councillors abstaining from voting.

- (b) Minute No. 08/28/CP (a) – To receive a report from the Lyme Regis Environment Group

Cllr Mrs. L. Jenkin proposed a wildflower garden be established in the area of the gardens below the Alexandra Hotel and that a sign be installed informing the public of this intention as suggested by Miss M. Bolton. This was seconded by Cllr Dr. S. Hogg and AGREED.

- (c) Minute No. 08/29/CP (c) – To receive a report from the Lyme Regis Safer Neighbourhood Team on the summer season, main events and Radiolink

The Mayor, Cllr Ms. S. Holman stressed the importance of members of the public logging reports of incidents with the Police. She also suggested that the meeting between Cllr S. Williams and PCSO M. Case to discuss ways in which the town council can support the PCSOs and Radiolink be arranged.

- (d) Minute No. 08/30/CP (a) – To receive a report on recent developments and presentation to the Local Area Partnership/LymeForward on the 11th September 2008

Cllr S. Williams reported that all councillors had received a letter from Magna Housing Association which sought their support in encouraging all local people in need of housing to register with Magna and WDDC. They had informed councillors that nine one-bedroom flats would be available from next year. Cllr Mrs. L. Jenkin added that people needing housing should register as soon as possible, as it was her understanding that last minute additions to the list would not be considered.

There being no further items raised for discussion, the report and recommendations were ADOPTED.

08/55/C Staffing Sub-Committee

As the item about to be discussed was deemed to be of a confidential nature regarding both staff contracts and remuneration, Cllr Mrs. M. Ellis proposed that the press and the public now be excluded from the meeting, seconded by Cllr Mrs. L. Jenkin and AGREED.

Cllr O. Lovell informed members that a meeting had taken place with staff on the 22nd September 2008 at the end of the six-month trial period governing new working arrangements under phase 2 of the staffing review.

Cllr O. Lovell proposed that the salary recommendations in the report be implemented in full and backdated to 1st April 2008 in recognition of the successful completion of the six-month trial period of the new arrangements, seconded by Cllr Mrs. M. Ellis and AGREED with Cllr P. Williams voting against and one councillor abstaining from voting.

08/56/C To approve the list of payments for the period ending 31st August 2008

Cllr O. Lovell left the room.

The list of payments for the period ending 31st August 2008 had previously been circulated to members.

Members discussed the seemingly high electricity bill for the Cemetery, and the 5 pence electricity bill for the Guildhall and AGREED for the Finance Officer to investigate. Cllr K. Hitchcock queried if the town council was paying for the heating of the Pantomime and Operatic Societies rented store/workshop as he believed that the heaters could not be regulated. The Town Clerk AGREED to check whether the costs were being re-charged to the societies, which was his understanding of the situation.

Therefore, it was proposed by Cllr P. Williams to approve the list of payments in the sum of £72,256.31 for the period ending 31st August 2008, seconded by Cllr Mrs. B. Austin and AGREED.

A copy of this list is attached to these minutes.

Cllr O. Lovell returned to the meeting.

08/57/C To note any items that the Chairman decides are urgent

There were no items raised for discussion.