

## LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE 2018

#### Present

**Chairman:** The Mayor, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis

**Councillors:** Cllr J. Broom, Cllr R. Doney, Cllr D. Hallett, Cllr P. Hicks, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr O. Lovell, Cllr S. Miller, Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, Cllr J. Scowen, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr S. Williams

**Officers:** Mr M. Green (deputy town clerk), Mrs A. Mullins (administrative officer), Mr J. Wright (town clerk)

#### 18/25/C Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

#### 18/26/C Apologies for absence

There were none.

#### 18/27/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

#### 18/28/C Dispensations

There were none.

#### 18/29/C Minute 18/13/TMH – Unauthorised Trading on the Seafront

**RESOLVED:** to obtain counsel's opinion and to write to the trader concerned in the form suggested by the council's solicitor and with the additional wording agreed by the Town Management and Highways Committee, in conjunction with West Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council, requesting that the unauthorised trading, involving the sale of ice cream and cold drinks from a mobile tricycle and currently being undertaken by Marie Amesbury, of Weavers Cottage, Coombe Street, Lyme Regis ceases with immediate effect.

#### 18/30/C Asset and Service Transfer: Response to West Dorset District Council's Offer

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business as it included confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person within the meaning of

paragraphs 1 and 8 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (see Section 1 and Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985), as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

## **18/31/C Exempt Business**

### **a) Asset and Service Transfer: Response to West Dorset District Council's Offer**

Members discussed the proposed land swap at Monmouth Beach, as there was some concern this would not be in the town council's interests.

Cllr S. Williams said the land the town council was proposing to give up was valuable, and as the accreted land was constantly growing in size, West Dorset District Council (WDDC) would continue gaining land.

The town clerk confirmed the accreted land was part of the proposal, as it gave WDDC a comparable area to operate boat storage from. He said the lease with WDDC had 38 years left to run, with an income of less than £100pa, and the council couldn't do anything with the land due to lease constraints.

Cllr O. Lovell said he couldn't support the proposal due to Cobb Gate car park being transferred on a 25-year lease, as the council had always maintained car parks had to be part of the deal. He believed the deal, as it stood, would deplete the council's reserves.

Cllr B. Larcombe was concerned the proposal was not cost-neutral, which had been the original intention, that refurbishment costs of £20k per toilet were not realistic, and concessions or a market on the Church Cliff walkway would not be appropriate as it was the only remaining uncommercialised space in the town. He also said he would not be in favour of raising the precept to pay for additional services.

Cllr S. Miller said the council had never agreed to raise the precept, and although a cost-neutral position had been the aim, the deficit had closed to £20k, which the council could comfortably cover. He said he had obtained professional valuations, which demonstrated the council would be taking over valuable assets in the toilets, which could also provide substantial income if required.

Some members believed this was the council's final opportunity to agree a deal, acknowledging the council had conceded on some matters, but agreeing this was overall a good proposition.

Cllr B. Larcombe was concerned the financial model was based on assumptions and some figures were too optimistic.

*Cllr S. Larcombe arrived at the meeting at 6.46pm.*

The town clerk said officers had been prudent in their assumptions. He said officers had always made it clear to members there was a deficit, and this deficit is £34k, but there were some things which could be considered to close that gap.

Proposed by Cllr S. Miller and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, the minutes of the WDDC Service Review Working Group meeting held on 21 June 2018 were **RECEIVED**.

Cllr O. Lovell requested a recorded vote on the following motion:

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED**:

- to agree the proposed deal with West Dorset District Council for the transfer of assets and services, as outlined to the working group on 21 June 2018, on the condition the land swap at Monmouth Beach is agreed, subject to satisfactory condition surveys on all assets, and with one final request for the freehold of Cobb Gate car park, but to withdraw the request for a 25-year lease on the toilets at Charmouth Road and Holmbush car park and concede to 10 years.
- if the town council cannot secure the freehold transfer of Cobb Gate car park, members agree endeavours should be made to secure a roll-over clause and/or a first refusal on purchase clause.
- to authorise the town clerk, in consultation with the chairman of the Strategy and Finance Committee, to draft the final letter as determined by this meeting, to be sent to WDDC no later than 29 June 2018.

**Voted for** – Cllr R. Doney, Cllr J. Scowen, Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, Cllr J. Broom, Cllr S. Miller, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis

**Voted against** – Cllr S. Williams, Cllr O. Lovell, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr D. Hallett, Cllr B. Larcombe

**Abstentions** – Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr P. Hicks

*The meeting closed at 6.55pm.*