

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2022

Present

Chairman: The Mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe, MBE

Councillors: Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr J. Broom, Cllr R. Doney, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner

Officers: A. Mullins (support services manager), J. Wright (town clerk)

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe read out the town prayer.

A one-minute silence was held in memory of former town councillor and council employee Ken Hitchcock.

21/166/C Public Forum

L. Markham

L. Markham said he was the proprietor of Lyme Rocks sweet shop and he was at the meeting to put a business proposal to the council, a new idea to attract more people to this end of Lyme Regis. He said he wanted the council's permission to run a mobile kiosk at the rear of the shop, in-keeping with the area, to serve both locals and visitors with quality hot and cold drinks, soups, bacon rolls, cakes, etc, using local produce. He said there were no facilities this end of the town and more people were coming to this area, especially with the Mary Anning statue, coastal walks and fossil walks. L. Markham said they had been tenants of the council for four years and had a proven track record, Lyme Rocks had become a go to destination and it was fantastic the amount of repeat customers they had. He said the kiosk would be a new income for the council and all the risks for Lyme Rocks. He said it would benefit all the businesses at this end of the town and create a great place to be to take in the wonder of Lyme Regis.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe said this matter was dealt with under the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee meeting.

21/167/C Dorset Council Matters

Cllr B. Bawden was invited to give her report. She said she had attended two Full Council meetings at Dorset Council (DC); the meeting on 14 April 2022 was highly charged and party political and it was interrupted by two protestors and eventually re-convened into a smaller room. She said no more debate was permitted but she had a speech prepared which she was not allowed to deliver. Cllr B. Bawden said the meeting on 12 May 2022 attracted a lot of protestors outside the building as there was a motion on the agenda to condemn the protestors, which she was against.

However, she delivered her speech and paid tribute to former ward member Daryl Turner for his service to Lyme Regis and Charmouth.

Cllr B. Bawden said she had attended various induction and training sessions but she didn't have a functioning laptop so she wasn't yet up-to-speed. She said she had attended an electric vehicle charging strategy meeting and one committee meeting, at which she was allowed to speak, even though she wasn't a member. She said she passed on feedback that DC's team that were working on the Ukrainian refugee settlement scheme had been great.

Cllr B. Bawden said she was a member of the Audit and Governance Committee and the Appeals Committee.

Cllr B. Bawden said there had recently been an issue with communication with the town council regarding the EAT Festival and John Sellgren, executive director of place, had since offered to come to Lyme Regis to walk around to see what the issues were. She said various departments in DC had not been communicating with each other or the town council properly.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe said Blue Flag awards had recently been published and he asked how many beaches in Dorset had been awarded one. He also asked how the situation at Church Cliff Beach had affected the rest of Lyme's beaches.

Cllr B. Bawden said there were two beaches in Dorset with Blue Flags. She said DC needed to pay more attention to coastal towns, not just their economies but also the physical coastline.

21/168/C Questions from Councillors

There were none.

21/169/C Apologies for Absence

Cllr C. Aldridge – prior commitment
Cllr C. Reynolds – shielding
Cllr R. Smith – family commitments
Cllr T. Webb – unwell

21/170/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

21/171/C Dispensations

There were none.

21/172/C Honouring the Service of Derek Hallett, Sergeant of Mace

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe brought this item forward on the agenda.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe said the council wished to recognise Derek Hallett for his service to Lyme Regis and the council as a mace bearer, but also as a former town councillor and former employee. He paid tribute to his diligence as dog warden and enforcement, his passion and commitment as mace bearer, and his determined approach to being a councillor.

D. Hallett was presented with a plaque bearing the council's coat of arms and he and his partner Susanne Whitemore were presented with a voucher for a meal for two.

As a former mayor, Cllr M. Ellis also thanked D. Hallett and S. Whitemore for all they had done.

D. Hallett thanked the council for the recognition and said it had been a privilege to serve the council.

21/173/C To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 6 April 2022

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe asked for his statement which he read out as part of his notice of resignation to be included in full as he had given three reasons for his resignation but only two were included.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 6 April 2022, with the above amendment, were **ADOPTED**.

21/174/C Matters arising from the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 6 April 2022

Maintenance operative position

The town clerk said interviews had been held to fill the vacancy and an offer had been made. He said the successful applicant would be taking up the post on 23 May 2022.

Magna Housing Association

Cllr D. Sarson asked if there had been a response from Magna regarding the issues of anti-social behaviour raised by a member of the public at the previous meeting.

The town clerk said there had been no response but his email hadn't necessarily asked for one; it just informed Magna that the issue had been raised at the meeting.

Cllr B. Bawden said she was going to look into how she could help as a DC member.

21/175/C Update Report

There were no updates.

21/176/C Planning Committee

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 5 April 2022.

21/177/C Environment Committee

Cllr M. Ellis asked that if there were people who were contributing to the meeting, their names could be listed at the top of the minutes.

It was agreed if someone had been invited to speak in advance, they would be listed as a 'guest' but if they had not been invited they would be included under the public forum.

Proposed by Cllr B. Bawden and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Environment Committee held on 4 May 2022 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

21/67/ENV – River Lim Project Monitoring – April 2022 report

RESOLVED: that the council writes to Chris Loder MP to say the council would like to work towards re-designating Church Beach as a bathing beach, therefore it would like Mr Loder to write to South West Water to put pressure on them to improve water quality on the River Lim to help achieve this.

21/68/ENV – Community Energy Champions Progress report

RESOLVED: to purchase a thermal imaging camera for £370 from the climate action budget, to be loaned to the community energy champions.

21/178/C Human Resources Committee

It was noted the meeting scheduled to take place on 13 April 2022 did not take place.

21/179/C Strategy and Finance Committee

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Strategy and Finance Committee held on 11 May 2022 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

21/92/SF – Review of Standing Orders

RESOLVED: to approve the proposed standing orders, including replacing the reference to The Data Protection Act 1998 with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK Data Protection Regulation.

21/93/SF – Financial Regulations

RESOLVED: to approve the proposed financial regulations.

21/94/SF – The Annual Review of the Complaints' Policy and Procedure

RESOLVED: to approve the amended complaints' policy and procedure and note the volume and nature of complaints received since March 2021.

21/95/SF – The Annual Review of the Fixed Asset Register

RESOLVED: to approve the fixed asset register, with the removal of the youth shelter.

21/96/SF – A35 Trunk Road

RESOLVED: to nominate Cllr J. Broom to attend to attend a meeting with other A35 parishes and communities to discuss common issues regarding the A35 on the invite of Chideock Parish Council's clerk, and to formulate a joint response to National Highways.

21/97/SF – List of Payments

RESOLVED: to approve the schedule of payments March and April 2022 for the sums of £490,491.13 and £113,963.77, respectively.

21/180/C Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee held on 27 April 2022 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

21/84/TCP – Oyster Festival

RESOLVED: to approve the request from Coastal Marks to hold an Oyster Festival on council-owned land adjacent to its Oyster and Fish House on 3 September 2022 and add the event to the council's calendar of events.

21/181/C Town Management and Highways Committee

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee held on 20 April 2022 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

21/76/TMH – 31 Ware Cliff Chalet, Request to Construct Extension

RESOLVED: to approve the request to extend the chalet at 31 Ware Cliff subject to the owner obtaining any other necessary permissions or consents.

21/77/TMH – Flail Mower

RESOLVED: to support the purchase of a flail in principle subject to details of the full and updated price being available for consideration prior to any final decision being made.

21/78/TMH – Request to Site Mobile Catering Trailer on Council-Owned Land rear of Guildhall

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe said this request had some merit until the council had a better use proposed for the land. He asked how far away the council was from having use of that land.

Cllr J. Broom said the land could be put to use as additional parking as early as October or November this year. He added that he was not in favour of the idea of a catering trailer as members had been complaining about takeaways, rubbish and seagulls and this would contribute to that problem.

RESOLVED: that the request to site a mobile catering trailer on council-owned land to the rear of the Guildhall be not supported and that the potential to create additional parking for staff and councillors be further investigated as an alternative.

21/79/TMH – Performance Area Shade Sail

RESOLVED: to support the repair, if possible, of the existing sail in the short term and its subsequent replacement by something which provides a long term and cost-effective solution which does not require replacing or repairing every few years.

21/80/TMH – Kitchen Garden – Three-month review

RESOLVED: to support the continuation of the kitchen garden at Langmoor Gardens in its current location subject to a further review in 3 months' time.

21/81/TMH – Lighting in Drakes Way

RESOLVED: that Dorset Council be requested to investigate the provision of improved lighting in Drake's Way, Broad Street, Lyme Regis.

21/82/TMH – Skateboarding

RESOLVED: that both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the local PCSO be approached about the problems of irresponsible and unsafe skateboarding in areas of Lyme Regis to see if they can suggest any ways of improving local policing and enforcement.

21/182/C Information Policy

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr R. Doney, members **RESOLVED** to approve the revised Information Policy.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.