

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2022

Present

Chairman: The Mayor, Cllr M. Ellis

Councillors: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr P. May, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr R. Smith, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner,

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

Guests: G. Littleddyke (Dorset Council, Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator Project)

The Rev C. Martin read the town prayer.

22/60/C Public Forum

R. Thomas

R. Thomas said he was speaking on behalf of the River Lym Action Group and he would like to keep councillors informed of the progress towards cleaning up the river and beaches. He said since the last meeting, the group had met with South West Water (SWW) at the Gun Cliff pumping station and were pleased they had installed event duration monitors on all the combined storm outflows in the town. He said these overflows allowed sewage to spill out at an excessive rate into the river or sea, supposedly only after very heavy rain. He said there had been 10 such events between May and September when it was mostly dry. R. Thomas said in future, all such events would be monitored and SWW promised all data would be available shortly afterwards but no timescales had been given. He said it was good news that Lyme Regis would be added to the BeachLive alert system so any spills affecting Front Beach would be known about. He said the Horn Bridge pumping station had been improved and misconnections affecting the Woodmead Road part of the river had been dealt with. He said the Environment Agency (EA) had agreed to improve its monitoring next spring and summer, with an additional point at Woodmead Road and an earlier start. He said the EA would also carry out invertebrate monitoring and the group was meeting with them on Friday to discuss plans. R. Thomas said the group was pleased the meeting between all the key stakeholders when ahead that day, with the focus now on Front Beach and the Cobb end pollution problems. With regards to the group's funding application, the request for additional monitoring and improved communications would help them to continue to monitor next year and they also planned to carry out regular wildlife monitoring. He said they had also asked for up to £5,000 for a consultant to carry out a baseline ecological survey to help them gather data and help them identify and tackle underlying problems affecting the river. He said the survey was vital to their work as it would provide base line data. R. Thomas said owing to the pollution, the river was fundamentally dead, but they

needed scientific evidence to support that statement. He said they would then be able to utilise the report to persuade SWW and to direct and focus the scientific work the volunteer monitors were carrying out. He said it would allow them to evidence progress, or lack of it, in returning the Lim to its former glory for the town, its residents and visitors. R. Thomas said the group was tasked to get a quote for the work but this had proved challenging owing to the shortage of freshwater ecologists. He said they had not managed to secure quite the right quote but they had submitted an indicative quote, although it was too high, so they were asking for an outline approval to allow them to continue negotiating and working up the details. He said Turn Lyme Green could make up any excess cost over £5,000, within reason. He said the group had set itself a three-year timeline to make a real difference to the River Lim and the survey could only be done in the spring, so in order to achieve this, they needed approval for the funding so they could schedule the work now with the right ecologist.

22/61/C Dorset Council Matters

Cllr B. Bawden gave the following updates:

- The first budget-setting presentations to members had been held, when directors had set out their plans, projects and budget forecasts. There was still a £29million gap in what Dorset Council (DC) thought it needed and what it had. DC had postponed meetings due to take place in December because the Government would not be announcing the local authority financial settlement until 21 December 2022.
- There was a new Dorset Council Plan, which had been refreshed.
- Following a presentation by the climate and ecological emergency team, she had given a presentation to the town council's Environment Committee on the key points which had come from that. DC had adopted a three pillars approach, which she explained. Having learned from its own operations, DC could roll out the experience and guidance to communities and town and parish councils. She would ask if the team could come to the next Environment Committee meeting and they were also doing presentations for the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) which members could attend virtually.
- There was a new 20mph speed limit policy and town and parish councils and community groups could apply online for 20mph speed limits and zones.
- Round 4 of the Community and Culture Project Fund had opened and grants of up to £5,000 were available. The emphasis was on cost of living responses so DC was looking to deal with applications straight away so measures could be put in place immediately, rather than waiting for the January deadline.
- DC would be updating its parking machines, which was expected to take 18 months to complete.
- The current public consultations were: phase two of the libraries consultation, which closed on 22 December 2022, and school admissions, which closed on 18 December 2022.
- Cllr Bawden was on a national Local Government Association working group on the councillor code of conduct, whether it was fit for purpose and whether it was supporting councillors.

- Cllr Bawden was on a DC working group on public questions at Full Council meetings because the chairman didn't like there being so many questions at the last meeting.
- A meeting had taken place in the Guildhall, chaired by West Dorset MP Chris Loder, with the chief executive and customer service manager of Magna Housing, Dorset Police, the police and crime commissioner, DC's community safety team leader and Lyme Regis residents talking about the impact of anti-social behaviour on their lives in Magna properties.
- She had met with Co Cars and Bikes and there was a possibility DC would enable Co Cars to operate from its electric chargers in future.
- She had attended the DAPTC AGM with Cllr C. Reynolds and Cllr B. Larcombe.
- She was doing a series of design requirements seminars on the new planning proposals and Levelling Up legislative changes.

Cllr G. Stammers said she had been informed by a resident it was very dark in the Mill Green area and along the river and she wasn't sure if this was because lights were not working or it was usually that dark.

Cllr B. Bawden said if streetlights were not working, this could be reported on the DC website.

It was confirmed there were several streetlights not working.

22/62/C Questions from Councillors

There were none.

22/63/C Apologies for Absence

Cllr J. Broom – illness
 Cllr R. Doney – family commitments
 Cllr B. Larcombe
 Cllr T. Webb – illness

22/64/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllrs C. Aldridge and Cllr R. Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 27, River Lim Action Group Funding Request, as they were members of Turn Lyme Green.

Cllrs P. May and B. Bawden declared a non-pecuniary interest in the same agenda item as they were river monitors. Also in minute number 22/35/ENV, Community Energy Champions Progress report, as they were community energy champions.

22/65/C Dispensations

There were none.

22/66/C To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 26 October 2022

Cllr D. Sarson clarified under minute 22/29/TMH, Dorset Council Free Parking Days, Carols Round the Christmas Tree was on 23 December 2023, not 21 December.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr D. Ruffle, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 26 October 2022 were **ADOPTED**.

22/67/C Matters arising from the minutes of the Full Council meeting on 26 October 2022

Members noted the report.

22/68/C Update Report

There were no updates.

22/69/C Mayor's Announcements

Members noted the report.

22/70/C Planning Committee

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 15 November 2022.

22/71/C Environment Committee

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr P. May, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Environment Committee held on 23 November 2022 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

22/33/ENV – River Lim Action Group Report

RESOLVED: to approve funding of £1,044 to the River Lim Monitoring Group to carry out monitoring of the river and public engagement.

It was noted the other recommendation under this minute would be dealt with at agenda item 27, River Lim Action Group Funding Request.

22/34/ENV – Big Hedge

It was noted the information required to consider the funding request had not been made available for this meeting and would be deferred to the next Environment Committee meeting.

22/35/ENV – Community Energy Champions Progress report

RESOLVED: to allocate a budget of £450 to purchase a thermal imaging camera in the expectation it will be needed for additional community energy champions.

22/36/ENV – Budget Update

RESOLVED: to ask the Strategy and Finance Committee to clarify if the climate action plan budget would be rolled over from one year to the next if any was unspent and to clarify the start and end dates of the funding.

22/72/C Human Resources Committee

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 30 November 2022 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

22/39/HR – Christmas and New Year Working Arrangements

RESOLVED: to apply 1.5 days' discretionary leave over the Christmas and New Year period, so the council's services cease at 12noon on Friday 23 December 2022 and re-commence at 9am on Tuesday 3 January 2023; apply discretionary leave from 12noon to 5pm on Friday 23 December and Wednesday 28 December; and apply statutory days on Thursday 29 December and Friday 30 December 2022.

22/40/HR – Amenities Assistant, Six-Month Probation Review

RESOLVED: to approve the amenities assistant's (post holder 302) continued employment with the council, effective from 19 October 2022.

22/41/HR – Administrative and Community Engagement Assistant, Six-Month Probation Review

RESOLVED: to approve the administrative and community engagement assistant's (post holder 104) continued employment with the council, effective from 9 November 2022.

22/42/HR – Maintenance Operative, Six-Month Probation Review

RESOLVED: to approve the maintenance operative's (post holder 210) continued employment with the council, effective from 24 November 2022.

22/43/HR – Pay Review

ORIGINAL MOTION: to accept and implement South West Councils' review of employees' pay and to bring a report to the next meeting of the Human Resources Committee to consider anti-social hours payments for postholders 207 and 208.

Cllr G. Stammers said no implementation date had been agreed for any new pay scales to be introduced and she suggested a date of 1 January 2023.

The town clerk said for some employees, the consultant's report said there should be an immediate pay increase but it didn't suggest what the implementation date should be. For those continuing to progress through the pay scale, their pay would be reviewed in April as normal. He agreed 1 January 2023 would be a logical date for those who should be awarded immediate pay increases.

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION: Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to accept and implement South West Councils' review of employees' pay, with an implementation date of 1 January 2023 for any employees awarded immediate pay increases, and to bring a report to the next meeting of the Human Resources Committee to consider anti-social hours payments for postholders 207 and 208.

22/73/C Strategy and Finance Committee

Cllr C. Aldridge asked if members could discuss the Oyster and Fish House seating under this agenda item or elsewhere as she was aware there were some developments members hadn't been told about, including a meeting due to take place the following week.

The mayor, Cllr M. Ellis said members had agreed temporary outside seating arrangements could remain in place until March 2023 so the decking wouldn't have to be removed until then.

The town clerk said officers had been in touch with Mark Hix, of the Oyster and Fish House, to arrange a meeting to try and clarify the respective positions, although he felt the council needed to have a further discussion as it was divided on the issue and how it should be taken forward. He suggested early in the New Year there was an extraordinary meeting of the council so a clear position could be stated in terms of what it expected officers to do.

Cllr G. Turner said the Planning Committee recommended refusal of the planning application and it was a majority decision so he asked why the council was going back over it.

Cllr B. Bawden agreed this was the clear decision of the council and members should not be commenting against that position.

The town clerk said to be clear, the Planning Committee made its recommendations directly to DC, whereas all the other committees made its recommendations to the Full Council, so any decisions of the Planning Committee on planning applications were not endorsed by Full Council. He said members would be aware there was a decision from the Full Council on 27 July 2022 agreeing to do valuation work on the decking; however, there were differing views within the council and the Planning Committee ignored a decision made by another committee.

Cllr P. May said when the minutes of the Planning Committee came to the Full Council, they were accepted and no members said they had a different view. He said he didn't understand why those members who disagreed didn't speak at that time.

The mayor, Cllr M. Ellis said the recommendations from the Planning Committee were not for the Full Council to accept as they went directly to DC.

Cllr C. Aldridge said the three members of the Planning Committee who had voted against the application had been named and shamed in the media for doing what they felt was right and she believed other members and officers should be supporting them. She asked what the meeting between the town clerk, mayor and Mark Hix would discuss and whether any decisions would be made.

The mayor, Cllr M. Ellis assured members no decisions would be made at that meeting. She said the Strategy and Finance Committee had agreed to obtain valuations and until those valuations came back, she felt she couldn't make a decision about the land. She said as landowner, the council should not have made any comments on the planning application and it would have been DC's decision whether or not to grant planning permission.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Strategy and Finance Committee held on 30 November 2022 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

22/41/SF – Internal Audit Report, Visit One 2022-23

RESOLVED: to note the internal auditor's report and approve the management responses from visit one 2022-23.

22/42/SF – Budget and Precept 2023-24 and Five-Year Financial Plan 2023-28

RESOLVED: to set the council's reserve at £1million.

RESOLVED: to approve the budget for 2023-24, to approve the 2023-24 objectives with the removal of either the multi-use games area or the children's play area to be decided at a later date, and to approve the five-year financial plan 2023-28 and the impact on the council's forecast reserve over that period.

RESOLVED: to approve a precept of £132,779 for 2023-24.

22/43/SF – Office Options Appraisal Scoping Report

RESOLVED: to agree the scope of the requested appraisal of options for the council's office accommodation.

22/44/SF – Warm Café

RESOLVED: to award a grant of £2,000 to assist the provision of a warm café at The Hub.

22/74/C Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr D. Ruffle, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee held on 16 November 2022 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

22/47/TCP – Mobile Hoist – Further Considerations

RESOLVED: that due to operational issues, the council does not purchase a mobile hoist at this time but if the situation changes, it can re-visit this in future.

22/48/TCP – Newsletter – Printing and Distribution

RESOLVED: to ask Uplyme Parish Council if they would like a page in the town council's newsletter and if so, to use Royal Mail to distribute it, and to accept the quote from Advantage Digital Print for the printing of the newsletter, regardless of the number of newsletters required.

22/49/TCP – Bands in the Marine Parade Shelters

RESOLVED: that the budget for brass bands is used to pay for other types of performances.

22/50/TCP – Coronation Events

RESOLVED: to appoint Cllrs C. Reynolds, M. Ellis, D. Ruffle and D. Sarson to sit on a working group to develop plans to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023.

22/51/TCP – Sculpture Trail

RESOLVED: to allocate £6,000 in the 2023-24 budget for the sculpture trail in the gardens, using the same model as Bridport for payment of the works around a theme chosen by the council, and that Cllrs B. Larcombe, D. Sarson and C. Aldridge continue to work with the deputy town clerk to agree, in conjunction with the Arts Development Company, the precise basis of how the trail may be delivered in future.

22/75/C Town Management and Highways Committee

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr P. May, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee held on 11 November 2022 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

22/47/TMH – Emergency Planning Procedure Review

RESOLVED: to approve the emergency planning procedure.

22/76/C Collaboration with Dorset Council on the Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator Project

The mayor, Cllr M. Ellis brought this item forward on the agenda and invited G. Littledyke from Dorset Council to speak.

G. Littledyke explained what the project was seeking to achieve and said they wanted to work collaboratively to identify the town council's assets in order to deliver a wireless alternative, the process for making assets available and how much they might be made available for. He said compensation would be given for loss of the use of an asset, which for example might be the corner of a car park or the side of a building on which to site a small wireless device.

Cllr D. Sarson asked which areas of Lyme Regis were 'white spots' where the provision of fibre broadband wasn't commercially viable.

G. Littledyke said part of the process would be mapping out where the white spots were and he would be happy to make that piece of work available to the council.

The town clerk said as part of this work, there was the opportunity for the council to map out its assets on Dorset Explorer, which would also meet the need to create a comprehensive digital database of its land and assets.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members **RESOLVED** to indicate the council's support for the Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator Project and AssetHub.

22/77/C Membership, Terms of Reference and Frequency of Planning Committee Meetings

Cllrs D. Sarson and P. May said they were willing to be nominated to the Planning Committee.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs D. Sarson and P. May to the Planning Committee, to move to a fortnightly meeting cycle and to amend the committee's terms of reference to consider licensing applications.

22/78/C Annual Governance and Accountability Return and the external auditor's certificate for the year ended 31 March 2022

The town clerk said the report confirmed the audit process was complete and once again the council had achieved a successful audit. He said there was one note raised by the external auditor about the level of the council's reserve, and this had been brought to members' attention during the budget-setting process. As a result, the council had agreed to drop the reserve to £1million, which released more money for project expenditure in 2023-24.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr D. Ruffle, members **RESOLVED** to approve and accept the certified Annual Governance and Accountability Return and

the external auditor's certificate (Notice of Conclusion of Audit) for the year ended 31 March 2022, and note the actions required at the conclusion of the review have been undertaken.

22/79/C Appointment of External Auditor 2022-23 to 2026-27

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr P. May, members **RESOLVED** to note the appointment of BDO LLP as the council's external auditor from 2022-23 to 2026-27 and that any member who has a conflict of interest with the appointment BDO LLP amends their Declaration of Interest and informs the town clerk of the conflict so he can notify BDO LLP.

22/80/C Budget and Precept 2023-24

The town clerk said at the start of the financial year, the reserve was £1.3million, which would increase by £200,000 by the end of the year; as such, the proposal was to drop the reserve to £1million. He said in 2023-24, income was estimated to be c.£1.9million and expenditure c.£1.66million. He strongly suggested retaining a budget surplus of £100,000 because of the uncertainty around inflation.

The town clerk said this released ££671,800 for projects and would allow the council to hold the precept at £132,779.

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** to approve up to £671,800 for projects in 2023-24, and earmark £552,584 from the forecast reserve at 31 March 2023 towards the funding of these projects reducing the 2023-24 budget reserve to £1,000,000; approve an income budget estimate of £1,893,658 and an expenditure budget estimate of £1,666,431 in 2023-24, i.e., surplus of £227,226, and allocate £119,216 from the budget surplus to the funding of projects; approve the 2023-24 precept at £132,779; and note the five-year financial plan.

22/81/C Dorset Council's Proposals for Lyme Regis Library

The support services manager said until recently, the council was unaware of the specific proposals relating to Lyme Regis Library but she felt it was important the council should respond to the consultation now the details were known. She outlined the proposals for Lyme Regis and said a needs analysis had ranked it 15th out of 23. She said the proposals would mean Lyme Regis was classified as a 'Library', as opposed to a 'Library+' or a 'Library Connect' and outlined some of the differences in provision between the types of libraries.

As ward member, Cllr B. Bawden said DC's library strategy was very positive, aiming to enhance and improve the role of libraries, and there was no suggestion the consultation would lead to the closure of any libraries, although there was a £29million budget deficit. She agreed the town council should respond to the consultation to show its support for Lyme Regis Library because there was the potential for the opening hours to go from five to four days a week and for volunteers to run it instead of paid staff.

Cllr B. Bawden outlined the activities that took place at the library and said for a relatively small library with limited opening hours, it did a remarkable amount and it was important this was highlighted in the consultation response. She said although the library was limited in its physical size and it served a relatively small population, it scored highly in the needs analysis for education and deprivation, which should also be highlighted in the response.

Members agreed the council should respond to the consultation as an organisation, with the position that future service levels should at least be as good as the existing, also highlighting the many activities that took place at the library.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to respond to Dorset Council's library consultation in support of Lyme Regis Library and to request a future service level at least as good as the existing.

22/82/C Draft East Devon Local Plan 2020-2040 Public Consultation

The town clerk said the plan potentially affected Lyme Regis on the periphery but some of the proposals that could have affected the town more directly, including housing developments at Sidmouth Road and to the east of Axminster, were no longer part of the plan. He said this was the first draft of the plan and the deputy town clerk had suggested members commented on the plan individually if they wished. However, if members felt there needed to be a collective response from the council, time was limited but it would be possible for several members to meet with the deputy town clerk to consider a response, if any.

Cllrs B. Bawden and C. Aldridge said they would like to work with the deputy town clerk to formulate comments.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** that Cllrs B. Bawden and C. Aldridge work with the deputy town clerk to provide comments on the council's behalf on the Draft East Devon Local Plan 2020-2040 by 15 January 2023.

22/83/C Investments and Cash Holdings

The town clerk said the council's income was greater earlier in the year and expenditure was consistent throughout the year so at this point, the reserve was high but it would reduce to £1.5million.

Cllr D. Sarson asked if there were better interest rates the council could take advantage of.

The town clerk said he would take a report on investment to the Strategy and Finance Committee in February 2023 to allow members to consider perhaps taking more risk on part of the reserve.

22/84/C List of Payments

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments October 2022 for the sum of £184,371.22.

22/85/C Recruitment of the Internal Auditor

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr P. May, 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 matters relating to relating to the financial or business affairs of any 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.

22/86/C River Lim Action Group Funding Request

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr P. May, 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 matters relating to relating to the financial or business affairs of any 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.

22/87/C Debtors' Report

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr P. May, 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 matters relating to relating to the financial or business affairs of any 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.

22/88/C Exempt Business

a) Recruitment of the Internal Auditor

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to appoint Darkin-Miller as the council's internal auditor for 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26, with the option to extend the contract for a further two years.

b) River Lim Action Group Funding Request

Cllr R. Smith supported the request and said the comments in the public forum showed how much the river monitors were doing, how hard they were working, how much it would mean to the community and how the freshwater ecological survey would build on the work they were doing to clean up some of the pollution problems in the town.

Cllr P. May said the River Lim Action Group did have two quotes, but one did not meet the specification for an ecological survey so it was rejected, although there were probably two more quotes in the pipeline. He said since the Environment Committee meeting, others had said they would pay the difference over £5,000 so they were not expecting the town council to pay more than they had requested, even though the quote was higher. He said he would expect them to provide more quotations before they commissioned the work and before any funding was released.

Cllr C. Reynolds asked if SWW had been asked to contribute financially to resolving the issues.

Cllr P. May said a baseline survey was required and then SWW would have to pay for any remedial action, if it could be proved there was a problem. He said SWW did some testing to see if they could find sewage outbreaks but they relied on the public to tell them there's a problem before they would go and investigate it. He said this survey would provide that evidence and data.

Cllr B. Bawden said SWW was not responsible for the ecology in the river and this was a wider study, not just looking at sewage but other factors such as invasive species. She said the survey was a baseline of where to start and what improvements were required.

As the work was going to take place in the next financial year, the town clerk clarified that the funding would be taken across to next year.

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members **RESOLVED** to agree up to £5,000 for a freshwater ecological survey of the River Lim, accrued for 2023-24.

c) Debtors' Report

Members noted the report.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.