

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2023

Present

Chairman: The Mayor, Cllr M. Ellis

Councillors: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr R. Doney, Cllr B. Larcombe, 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)

The Rev. Chris Martin gave a prayer.

The town clerk confirmed Cllr S. Cockerell had signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

22/142/C Public Forum

E. Holt

E. Holt, chairman of Lyme Regis Town Band, said the band would like to thank the council for its continued support through funding, advertising and attending band events and concerts. He said from the minutes of the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee meeting, members would see the band expressed concerns over the change in the funding structure. When considering the proposal, he asked if members could consider the following points. He said the band had organised, advertised and performed at the Tuesday evening concerts for many years without council support and this had given them the freedom to cancel an event if they struggled to get sufficient players, or adapt the timing of the free concerts and choose when in the season to start and finish. E. Holt said by taking the Tuesday evenings under the banner of the council funded events, the band was worried they would lose the flexibility they had needed in previous years and instead they would be contracted to perform at a standard below which they believed they were capable. He said the band were not worried about the extra funding they would receive from the new charging structure and they felt it greatly undervalued the band and what they did for the town. However, he said if the funding structure had to remain, they would request the band retains some flexibility to choose not to perform if necessary. E. Holt said this would only be when necessary, for example due to illness, insufficient players or extreme weather making it dangerous. He said they would also not be expected to pay if they didn't attend. He said this would only affect the Tuesday evening free concerts during the summer holidays and would not affect any agreed Sunday dates. He said ultimately, they would like the funding structure for the town band to remain as it had for many years and not change but if it must, they would request that flexibility.

S. Holman

S. Holman spoke in relation to agenda item 22, OK World Championships. She said four years ago, Lyme Regis Sailing Club agreed to take on the championships, then the pandemic hit so it was put off. She said now it was a very popular event, the prime single-handed sailing competition of the year, and it was going to happen in Lyme Regis. She said they were expecting 80 to 100 competitors and the club took on the competition on that basis; entry couldn't be limited, which meant there were now around 149 competitors. This meant a lot more dates, more people, which was good as visitors would come to the town, competitors from 13 different countries and among them at least seven world champions, so it was very prestigious. S. Holman said they were running out of space so the request to the council was to cut across a corner of the sand beach to access emergency parking for the dinghies, if necessary, and for trailer parking at Strawberry Field and on the pebbles at Monmouth Beach, for which they would provide matting. She said most of what they did was in consultation with Dorset harbours as it was their land and they would use their harbour and facilities, so it was quite unusual to ask anything of the town council. S. Holman said because there were so many boats, they couldn't run a normal Olympic course and had to set up a different course, for which they needed a lot of extra markers. She said the course was one to two miles out to sea, over a mile long and over a mile-and-a-half wide so the markers had to be big and dramatic to be seen from a distance, costing £640 each. She said they had borrowed some markers but were asking if the town council would sponsor two or three. She said they would be able to brand them with the town council's logo but not before the event because there wasn't enough time.

P. Evans

As president of Lyme Regis Football Club, P. Evans spoke in relation to the proposed multi-use games area (MUGA). He said he welcomed this initiative and congratulated the council on the project but he wanted to make one plea; the biggest user of Anning Road Playing Field was the youth football section. He said they had over 100 children from age six to 15 training at the playing field most evenings. He said the pitch was the minimum size and they would need to retain it at this size. P. Evans said he believed there was a suggestion to move the pitch slightly to the east and this would be no problem, but they needed to keep it at the minimum size because they had no other field to use. He said they were not able to use Davey Fort to that extent because of drainage problems. He said of the 100 members, they had four teams playing in local leagues and qualified coaches, so this was one of the most successful times of the youth section, who would be future starts of the football club.

K. Gollop

K. Gollop spoke in relation to agenda item 26, Use of Jubilee Pavilion. He asked members to bear in mind what most people in Lyme Regis thought. He said there were enough cafes, tea shops and gifts shops and people didn't want any more commercialisation on the seafront. He said the council didn't need to rent it out as it had enough money to get by. He said the town put a lot of money into the Jubilee Pavilion when it was renovated and there was a good system operating to open it to the public. K. Gollop said a lot of money was put into it by locals, but someone on the

council upset the volunteers so they left. He said surely with a bit of initiative, locals could be persuaded to use it, even if it was just for weekends, for things like bring and buy sales and art exhibitions. He said all it would require were some tables and chairs and some hooks to allow for exhibitions and he was sure once it got going, people would use it.

R. Daw, C. Lambert, D. Conibere (all submitted the same letter, read out by an officer)

On behalf of the Lyme Regis Loving Dog Owners, Visitors & Friends Facebook group, they said they welcomed the town council's ambitions for Lyme Regis to become carbon neutral by 2030. They said many abled bodied dog owners, as well as dog owners with mobility issues or disabilities and their dogs, struggled with the alternative beaches of Monmouth, Church Cliff and East (Back) Beaches, which had been deemed unsuitable for them by Dorset Council. They said in the current dogs in open spaces Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), before the climate emergency was raised, it was stated that dog owning residents driving to other dogs off leads beaches was 'acceptable'. They shared a real-life situation of a resident disabled dog owner (Mr H) who could use the front sandy beach if he was allowed to have his dog off lead. Mr H was registered disabled, he either walked with a stick or a walker, was prone to falling, and was unable to use the alternative beaches in Lyme Regis. They said Mr H had no choice but to drive daily to exercise his dog off lead, driving five miles there and five miles back home to Lyme Regis. They said Mr H walked his dog twice a day (20 miles per day), seven days a week (140 miles a week) so in just one year, Mr H increased the carbon footprint by having to use his car by 7,280 miles. They said if this was multiplied by all the resident dog owners that were also driving elsewhere in the winter months due to the dogs on leads restrictions, those numbers increased by a huge amount. They said just 10 resident dog owners driving elsewhere to exercise their dog off lead was 72,800 extra miles a year and 20 dog owners was 148,600 miles per year just so they could walk their dog off lead, and so on. They said there were many people like Mr H, both disabled and abled bodied, who had been forced into their cars due to the unfair restrictions as a direct result of Lyme Regis Town Council asking for a ban of dogs on the only safe and accessible front sandy beach. They were aware Dorset Council wished to harmonise all the beaches to have the same dogs off leads restrictions in the winter months. In light of the town council's wish to become carbon neutral due to the climate emergency, they asked what it was prepared to do to work with dog owners to decrease the need to drive to other dogs off lead beaches. They said the group would suggest working with the town council using, for example, the Green Dog Walking Scheme, using the law-abiding dog owners to promote good dog ownership to others in order to use the safe and accessible front sandy beach for dog off lead exercise. In turn, they said resident dog owners wouldn't have to drive elsewhere for off lead exercise, which would help combat climate change due to lowering the carbon footprint.

C. Humphreys

C. Humphreys said it was great to see Lyme Regis was aiming to become carbon neutral by 2030, something everyone should be supporting as it was so important to look after the valuable resources and planet. She said she was at a loss as to why the council had a policy in place whereby officers had previously confirmed to her in

writing it was acceptable to push residents, visitors and holiday makers into cars and out of Lyme Regis, when there was a perfectly obvious solution in Lyme itself. She said she was referring to the highly discussed issue of dogs on the main beaches. C. Humphreys said she had seen the correspondence from the Kennel Club, the council and other dog owners and lovers over the last few years since the rule was put in place. She said it made her sad the town council was not willing to even discuss the compromises the Kennel Club had suggested, as this would have so many benefits, one being to reduce the number of journeys made by car. She said all dog owners were required by law to exercise their dogs off lead every day and at times the only safe, accessible space within walking distance was the main beach with restrictions. C. Humphreys said she would not walk alone on the beaches where dog walking was allowed in the dark winter evenings, assuming the tide was out when she finished work, because they were not near to any cafes or public spaces. She said in support of the commitment to carbon neutrality, it would be great if there was an agreement to at least trial the compromises that were put forward as nothing other than a few people disliking dogs had ever been mentioned as a reason to not do this. She suggested dogs should be allowed off lead on all beaches during the winter months as they had photo evidence there was never anyone else on the beaches, on-lead exercise was not sufficient, and she felt it was cruel to dogs who wanted to run and play. C. Humphreys suggested dogs could be allowed off lead before 10am and after 6pm when the beaches were not busy. She said on the odd day they were busy after 6pm, dog owners would keep their dogs off until later as they would prefer to exercise their dogs on a quiet space. She said she hoped the council would respond to her email as there was no point publicly talking about carbon neutrality when on the other hand the council was actively encouraging people into cars. She said as mental health was also such a key topic, it would be good to see this being taken into account too, as well as the business and revenue lost to Lyme Regis which they had evidence of.

C. Lambert

C. Lambert said she no longer walked her dog on any beach in Lyme Regis and chose to drive 50 minutes, on a very good day's drive, to Weymouth where her dog could run and walk on the beach without a lead. She said this extra expense and fuel was necessary because she couldn't walk her dog on her local beach and she would continue to do this and utilise the businesses in Weymouth for as long as the dog restrictions remained in place.

S. Ladd

S. Ladd said she would like the council to reconsider dogs to be allowed on the beach off the lead in the winter months. She said they used to go to Lyme Regis and walk their dog and meet other dog owners three to four times a week. She said after they walked their dog they would always have a coffee but they now went to Charmouth, which was further from where they lived in Kilmington. She said she couldn't understand why the council would not allow dogs to run free on the main beach in the winter months. S. Ladd said other beaches in Cornwall and Devon were dog friendly. She said she would be grateful if the council would reconsider the process and she was sure this would bring more people to Lyme Regis who were animal friendly.

K. Read

K. Read said she was, or had been, a regular visitor to Lyme for well over 20 years but the recent restrictions on the beaches meant they came infrequently, despite owning a property. She said when they were in Lyme, they travelled to places where they felt welcome as the only beaches deemed safe in Lyme were either inaccessible much of the time or were unsafe due to broken glass, etc. She said they would walk into Lyme every day and eat and drink at the local pubs and shop locally. K. Read said Lyme was now losing their money and they were not being green by travelling so much, not to mention adding to the traffic at peak times. She said so many areas across the UK had a working relationship with dog owners but Lyme Regis was sadly so out of touch and its economy would continue to suffer accordingly. She said it was humans leaving behind rubbish and dangerous waste at the beach, never an animal.

22/143/C Dorset Council Matters

Cllr B. Bawden's gave the following updates:

- Dorset Council's (DC) annual council meeting had been held and all the committee places had been allocated according to the political parties' proportions. None of the requests the opposition parties made were granted and a vote to elect an independent vice-chairman was unsuccessful.
- As part of Learning at Work Week, various events had taken place online and at County Hall, which included councillors talking to staff about what they did.
- Upcoming meetings and events – a western and southern area planning committee, a meeting with the police sergeant, an online briefing about Dorset Youth Council, Charmouth's annual parish meeting, a meeting with Uplyme Parish Council and Devon Highways, a Harbours Committee meeting, and Audit and Governance Committee meeting.
- She had attended a Rural Services Network webinar on rural transport, which she would follow up with DC on the options other local authorities were doing.
- The second phase of the libraries' consultation had finished and a members' briefing would follow.
- Current consultations – Planning for Climate Change, which would close on 8 June 2023, Dorset Impact Survey on Education, Health and Care Services, which would close on 26 June 2023, and Call for Sites for the Local Plan, which would close on 1 July 2023.
- She praised the Citizens' Advice Bureau for providing help and advice to residents, particularly on council tax queries.
- She was chasing DC to get several walls repaired in Lyme Regis but it was slow progress. The Marine Theatre wall was scheduled to be repaired but there was no plans in place yet to repair the Cobb Gate car park wall.
- New electrical vehicle chargers would be installed in DC car parks but she was unsure of the date.
- The planning enquiry into the refusal of planning permission at Stile Lane had started.

22/144/C Questions from Councillors

Cllr R. Doney

Cllr R. Doney asked where it was formally recorded in the council minutes when a councillor was disqualified from office.

The town clerk said if a member didn't attend a meeting for six months they were disqualified and the process of recruiting another councillor was managed by DC's electoral services; he said members had been notified but there was no requirement to formally register this at a Full Council meeting.

Cllr R. Doney said he understood this but felt it was an important point for public record, in the same way new members were welcomed onto the council.

22/145/C Apologies for Absence

Cllr C. Aldridge – holiday
Cllr P. May – holiday

22/146/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr R. Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 26, Use of the Jubilee Pavilion, as he was a member of Lyme Regis Gig Club and the club had some involvement with the pavilion.

22/147/C Dispensations

There were none.

22/148/C To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 5 April 2023

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 5 April 2023 were **ADOPTED**.

22/149/C Matters arising from the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 15 February 2023 and the extraordinary Full Council meeting on 29 March 2023

There were none.

22/150/C Update Report

There were none.

22/151/C Mayor's Announcements

As this was her last meeting as mayor, Cllr M. Ellis thanked her husband Alan Ellis, deputy mayor Cllr C. Reynolds and the deputy mayor's consort Alan Reynolds for their support throughout the year at the many events they had attended in Lyme Regis

and all over Dorset. She said it had been a memorable year covering events for the Platinum Jubilee, the Queen's passing, reading the official proclamation and the King's coronation, along with all the special events that happened in Lyme Regis.

The mayor, Cllr M. Ellis said she had held 10 fundraising events for the mayor's charities, Axminster and Lyme Cancer Support and Lyme Regis Pantomime Society, raising £2,962.84, which she would make up to £3,000 so each organisation received £1,500.

Cllr C. Reynolds said it had been a pleasure to work with the mayor for a year and congratulated her on the amount of money raised.

22/152/C Planning Committee

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 18 April 2023 and to note the recommendations made under the chairman and vice-chairman's delegated authority following the cancellation of the meetings on 4 April and 2 May 2023.

Cllr B. Larcombe said due to Planning Committee meetings now being held every fortnight, the number of applications on each agenda was diminishing, but this had been done to fall in line with DC's requirement for a 21-day return on comments, which didn't fit with this council's cycle of meetings. He felt the council needed to review this to find a better way of working.

22/153/C Environment Committee

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Environment Committee held on 3 May 2023 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

22/70/ENV – River Lim Action Group Report

RESOLVED: that the council writes to South West Water to urge them to invest in 2024-25 to help solve the severe impacts caused by sewage in the River Lim at the earliest possible opportunity.

22/71/ENV – Environment Policy Review

RESOLVED: to set up a working group to formulate an Environment Policy for consideration by the Environment Committee and to appoint Cllrs P. May, B. Larcombe, B. Bawden, D. Ruffle and S. Cockerell to the working group.

22/154/C Human Resources Committee

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 12 April 2023 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

22/84/HR – Civility and Respect

RESOLVED: that members recognised the principles outlined in the Civility and Respect pledge and officers prepare a draft pledge which is adapted to fit the organisation and ready for the new intake of councillors to sign up to in 2024.

22/155/C Strategy and Finance Committee

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Strategy and Finance Committee held on 10 May 2023 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

22/87/SF – Review of Standing Orders

RESOLVED: to approve the revised standing orders.

22/88/SF – Review of Financial Regulations

RESOLVED: to approve the revised financial regulations.

22/89/SF – The Annual Review of the Communications/PR Policy and Procedure

RESOLVED: to approve the revised Communications/PR Policy and Procedure.

22/90/SF – Project Proposals

RESOLVED: to pursue the project to install a multi-use games area at Anning Road playing field.

22/91/SF – Seafront Evening Litter Bin Collections

RESOLVED: to introduce seafront evening litter bin collections for the 2023 summer season.

22/92/SF – Mary Anning Scholarship Legacy Fund

RESOLVED: to re-allocate, in principle, the £5,000 Mary Anning Scholarship Legacy Fund to The Woodroffe School, St Michael's Primary School and Mrs Ethelston's Primary School to develop a proposal to support girls and young women into science, subject to further proposals being considered by the Strategy and Finance Committee.

22/93/SF – Dog-Related Public Space Protection Order

RESOLVED: to respond to Dorset Council that the council would like a total ban on dogs on front beaches all-year-round.

22/95/SF – List of Payments

RESOLVED: to approve the schedule of payments in March 2023 for the sum of £275,278.53.

22/156/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 26 April 2023 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

22/104/TCP – Sharing Information with Local Residents

RESOLVED: to produce a quarterly newsletter which is sent via the Royal Mail to everyone in the DT7 3 area and to also send the newsletter via email if requested.

22/105/TCP – Lyme Regis Town Band

RESOLVED: to restructure payments to Lyme Regis Town Band so they are paid £100 for all performances, i.e., four Sunday performances during the summer school holidays and eight practice performances on Tuesday evenings.

22/106/TCP – Dorset Council Free Parking Days

RESOLVED: to agree a change to the non-charging dates in Lyme Regis car parks, replacing Carols Round the Christmas Tree on 23 December with the Christmas Tree Festival on 15 December, and instruct officers to liaise with Dorset Council Parking Services.

22/107/TCP – Leisure Strategy Consultation

RESOLVED: to delegate Cllr C. Reynolds to work with the support services manager to respond to Dorset Council's Leisure Development Strategy on the council's behalf.

22/157/C Town Management and Highways Committee

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee held on 19 April 2023 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

22/89/TMH – Monmouth Beach Garages Policy

RESOLVED: to restrict the hire of Monmouth Beach garages to Lyme Regis residents and to inform those on the waiting list who live outside Lyme Regis they are no longer eligible.

22/90/TMH – Gardens Land Stability Reporting

RESOLVED: that officers engage with Dorset Council to find out how ground monitoring information in the gardens is received and processed, how much the ground monitoring costs, what contribution the town council would be required to

make, and to establish if Dorset Council would be interested in contributing to the cost of the town council's ground monitoring.

22/91/TMH – Repair Works at The Bowls Club – Request for Contribution Towards Costs

RESOLVED: to make a 50% contribution towards the cost of repair works at The Bowls Club, Monmouth Beach and to make it clear this was a one-off payment, without prejudice, and the council accepts no liability.

22/93/TMH – Dorset Council Highways Meeting and Highways issues

RESOLVED: to conduct five potential speed indicator device site surveys at a cost of £950 from the external works' budget.

RESOLVED: to send a letter of support on the proposed road widening scheme on Lyme Road to Uplyme Parish Council for enhanced pedestrian and school children's safety.

22/95/TMH – Traffic and Travel Strategy Working Group

RESOLVED: to form a traffic and travel strategy working group and to appoint Cllrs P. May, B. Larcombe, C. Aldridge, S. Cockerell and B. Bawden to the group.

22/158/C Calendar of Meetings

Cllr B. Bawden said it had been agreed to set up working groups to review the environment policy and to look at traffic, transport and parking and asked if members or officers would organise these meetings.

The town clerk said officers would organise working group meetings.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members **RESOLVED** to approve the calendar of meetings for the 2023-24 council year.

22/159/C The Annual Review of the Complaints' Policy and Procedure

Members noted the number of complaints that had been made but acknowledged it was a relatively small amount given the influx of people into the town during the peak season.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to approve the complaints' policy and procedure and note the volume and nature of complaints received since May 2023.

22/160/C Information Policy

Cllr B. Larcombe said the council had to be mindful that it had an obligation to respond to Freedom of Information requests but there was also an expense limit which

shouldn't be exceeded in responding to requests. He said there were guidelines and these should be adhered to.

The town clerk agreed the council needed to get the balance right; it didn't want to refuse access to information and it needed to be open and transparent where possible, but the response should be reasonable and within defined limits.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to approve the Information Policy.

22/161/C Call for Sites

The deputy town clerk said although the primary purpose of DC's Call for Sites suitable for development was primarily housing or employment, this was an opportunity for the town council to respond formally to DC to say it would like to consider Strawberry Fields in the Local Plan for appropriate uses. He said the issue was what those appropriate uses were and whether the uses were restricted to those in the existing lease, or subject to discussion with the landowner, who may consider other uses to allow cross subsidy to achieve other aims.

Cllr B. Larcombe said as the Local Plan was going to take so long to adopt, he asked whether anything being discussed would prevent the council from making a planning application for Strawberry Field while it was still outside development limits.

The deputy town clerk said there was nothing to prevent the council from making an application as it was anticipated the Local Plan wouldn't be adopted until 2026.

Cllr B. Bawden felt the council should ask for the site to be for economic uses, as well as leisure uses.

Cllr R. Smith asked how this would feed into any decisions about park and ride.

The deputy town clerk said this process was about getting the site allocated for appropriate uses so the principle of it being used for some purpose was agreed; the detail of the use or when it might be implemented was a separate matter. He said the council would have to give an indication of the uses it would anticipate but that didn't have to be decided at this meeting. As the deadline for submissions wasn't until 1 July 2023, there was still time for more discussion.

Proposed by Cllr B. Bawden and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to support the principle of an appropriate allocation of Strawberry Fields through the Local Plan process.

22/162/C OK World Championships

The town clerk said there had been no response yet from Natural England regarding the use of Monmouth Beach to store trailers.

Cllr B. Larcombe said he fully supported the request as it was a one-off and he felt all the requirements were necessary for the event. He said the sailing club was a

significant feature of the town and this event would put Lyme Regis on the map in reputational terms.

Cllr D. Sarson said he supported the request as it was a prestigious event and it would support local businesses and hospitality.

The mayor, Cllr M. Ellis said her only concern was the cost of the markers and she felt the sailing club should have requested funding as part of the community grants' process. She said it was unfair for organisations to come to the council with ad-hoc requests throughout the year.

Cllr B. Larcombe said the need wouldn't necessarily have been identified until closer to the event and this was an exceptional case for an exceptional event.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members **RESOLVED** to support the OK World Championships by allowing Lyme Regis Sailing Club to use Monmouth Beach (subject to consent from Natural England) and Strawberry Fields for the storage of road trailers, permitting access to the harbour part of the main sandy beach, and sponsoring three race markers at £541.25, excl. VAT, each.

22/163/C Replacement Chalet at 50 Ware Cliff, Monmouth Beach

The deputy town clerk said the replacement chalet would incur no change in the site fees as the amount charged was based on the whole plot size.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members **RESOLVED** to support the request to replace the existing chalet at 50 Ware Cliff, Monmouth Beach with one of broadly similar size and design.

22/164/C Works to Monmouth Beach Store and Cemetery Lodge

The deputy town clerk said he was suggesting the council had a preferred contractor for building related professional services as there were several large projects within the objectives, for which the council needed to obtain best value and also work within the council's procurement processes as efficiently as possible. He said procuring professional services for each project would incur a lot of work and time so it would be preferable to only go through one competitive process to choose a preferred contractor.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if there was likely to be anyone who could manage the variety of work required and he asked if a having a preferred contractor limited the competitive process if there were so many elements.

The town clerk said there would still need to be a procurement process and it may result in several contractors doing all the projects. He said it would be beneficial to select a preferred partner for architectural, surveying and contract management.

Cllr B. Bawden asked if preferred contractors could support the council's approach to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

Cllr R. Doney said these kinds of arrangements were not unusual in the private and public sector as there was the potential to save a lot of administration. He asked if the appointment of a preferred supplier would be time limited.

The deputy town clerk said he would expect the appointment to be for no more than three years in the first instance.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked how the council would promote the opportunity to contractors.

The deputy town clerk said as the value of the work would exceed the tender threshold in standing orders, financial regulations and Government guidelines, the opportunity would have to be advertised on the Contract Finder website, so it would be an extensive process. He anticipated it would attract a reasonable amount of interest locally and beyond the immediate area.

Cllr G. Stammers asked if contractor availability would be an issue in the timescales the council was working to.

The deputy town clerk said he didn't think this would be an issue for the kind of work the council was looking to procure but he was more concerned about the availability of building contractors.

Cllr G. Turner asked what work was required to the store.

The deputy town clerk said the building was in a poor condition so a lot of work was required and he believed the council would struggle to do it within the identified budget.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if there would be member involvement in choosing a preferred contractor.

The town clerk said there was member involvement in the tender process and it would be brought back to a committee so there was an opportunity for all members to be engaged in the process.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members **RESOLVED** to note the latest situation with works to Monmouth Beach Store and Cemetery Chapel and agree a 'preferred contractor' approach to building-related professional services, e.g., architectural, surveying or cost-consulting, going forwards.

22/165/C Park and Ride 2023

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, 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.

22/166/C Use of Jubilee Pavilion

Members discussed whether this item should be discussed in open or exempt business.

The town clerk suggested members had the discussion about whether to use the pavilion for commercial purposes in exempt business and then further discussions could take place in public about other potential uses and options.

Members felt as there was a lot of public interest in the pavilion, the discussion should be held in open business but the mayor, Cllr M. Ellis said if discussion strayed into commercially sensitive areas, she would take it into exempt business.

Cllr B. Larcombe said the pavilion was a public facility and he imagined local groups wanting to use it. He felt the council was financially robust so he didn't see the drive for it to be a commercial undertaking.

The town clerk said the report wasn't suggesting the pavilion should be for commercial use; it said there was no longer a requirement for it to be used commercially. He said during Covid the council took a big hit financially and officers were looking at all the options to bring money into the council, but they recognised the organisation had recovered and was no longer in that position. He said there needed to be a proper discussion about what the council wanted to do with the building and several organisations had already said they would be interested in using it.

Several members agreed the Jubilee Pavilion should remain a public building.

Cllr R. Doney said he was one of the volunteers at the Jubilee Pavilion when it was an information point and he saw how useful it was, especially to visitors. He said it was important to get organisations interested in using it because it at that time, it was almost always empty.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to explore and develop the use of the Jubilee Pavilion as a non-commercial, public facility and promote the building to local groups to determine a mechanism for its booking.

Members agreed they should go into exempt business for the remainder of the discussion as there was a proposal for temporary use.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, 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.

Cllr B. Larcombe left the meeting at 8.31pm.

Members discussed the proposal for a one-off temporary use of the Jubilee Pavilion for a display of photographs by local photographer Richard Austin.

Cllr B. Larcombe returned to the meeting at 8.33pm.

Members agreed a summer exhibition of Richard Austin's works would be a good use of the pavilion and the details would be discussed with Richard and brought back to the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee for further approval.

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members **RESOLVED** to support in principle a summer exhibition of photographer Richard Austin's works at the Jubilee Pavilion and for further details to be taken to the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee.

22/167/C Lease Renewal for Trailer Park and 'harbour' use of Accreted Land at Monmouth Beach

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, 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.

22/168/C Exempt Business

a) Park and Ride 2023

The deputy town clerk updated members on the latest position with trying to find a new operator for the park and ride and said one company would be able to provide the service. However, the cost of three buses and three drivers, which would allow Charmouth to continue to be included in the service, would be considerably more for a service that was already losing money last year.

The deputy town clerk felt the council could afford two buses and two drivers; he felt it would be risky to include Charmouth in the service as it would significantly extend the service frequency. He suggested the council agreed two buses and limited the service to Lyme Regis, with the assumption it would reinstate an extended service in future as there would hopefully be proposals from more operators next year.

Cllr B. Bawden asked if it was too late to consider community transport options using smaller buses as she felt the way bus companies were operating, it was becoming unsustainable.

The deputy town clerk said he wouldn't rule this out but the problem in Lyme Regis was at the busiest times, buses with a capacity of 137 were being filled. He said the new operator couldn't offer double deck buses and he had some concerns that at the busiest times, buses with a capacity of around 50 would still not be big enough and people would be queuing for longer than hoped. However, this was the only proposal the council had for this year.

Cllr R. Smith asked if passenger numbers could be limited by limiting the use of the car park to a certain number of cars.

The deputy town clerk said this wasn't possible as it was a privately operated site which wasn't staffed and it wouldn't be reasonable to ask the landowner to manage this.

Cllr M. Ellis asked if the new operator would operate some late nights for major events and she asked when the service would operate.

The deputy town clerk said it was intended to start the service Whitsun week, to operate June and July weekends and the whole of the summer holidays. As the company was based in Exeter, some of the hours the drivers worked included driving to and from the depot. He said they could cover special events in the evening but the only way this could be done was to either provide an additional driver, for the service to start later or for the drivers to have a longer break in the middle of the day.

Cllr B. Larcombe said the service had to be properly promoted with start and end dates as people visiting wanted to know with certainty there was a park and ride operating.

The town clerk said some of this was not in the council's gift as the operation of the park and ride was weather dependent.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members **RESOLVED** to revert to a Lyme only park and ride service for 2023, with the intention of reverting to the comprehensive service in 2024, subject to operator proposals.

b) Lease Renewal for Trailer Park and 'harbour' use of Accreted Land at Monmouth Beach

The deputy town clerk said Natural England had offered a meeting with officers on 19 May 2023 to discuss the issue further. He outlined the possible scenarios and what this would mean for the town council and Dorset Council.

The meeting closed at 9.14pm.