

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024

Present

Chairman: The Deputy Mayor, Cllr P. May

Councillors: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr P. Evans, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr R. Smith, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner

Officers: A. Mullins (support services manager)

23/176/C Public Forum

M. Jenkin – Cobb Gate Junior Parkrun

M. Jenkin said Cobb Gate Junior Parkrun had been running for just over two years and the council had kindly supported them three years ago with set-up costs. He said the team would now like to take part in Lyme Regis Carnival. He said there had been 581 runners between the ages of 4 and 14 on a Sunday morning in the last two years and more than half were visitors, but this was a positive thing. He said a community had built up of children and volunteers and they would like to take part in the carnival, so had requested just over £126 so they could buy banners and horns.

E. Holt – Lyme Regis Town Band

As chairman of the town band, E. Holt said for the last two years they had received generous donations from the council through this grants' process to provide a workshop for brass players. He said their constitution as a band required them to advance the education and training in the art of music and to advance the education of the public in the appreciation of the art of music. He said they believed the workshop achieved both of these by providing a place for brass players to improve their playing through professional tuition, but also providing a free concert for all members of the public to attend at the end. E. Holt said through their last two workshops, they had players who had joined the band permanently, benefiting Lyme Regis by players being able to provide free entertainment every week throughout the summer on the seafront and creating a network of players to cover illness or holidays. He said they were hoping to bring professional tutors from last year's workshop to play with them on the seafront in the summer at the free open-air concerts. He said these benefits meant they could continue to bring appreciation of the art of music, in particular brass band music, to the residents, holidaymakers and businesses of Lyme. E. Holt said the band didn't make any money from the workshop but they did provide it to all of their members in order to continue as an educational group. He said without this generous grant from the council each year, they would not be able to provide the workshop to their members or provide Lyme Regis with the wider benefits that stemmed from it.

G. Barr – Turn Lyme Green/Plastic Free Lyme

G. Barr said the organisation was grateful for the council's support in previous years and they were asking if the council would this year support their aim to promote green matters and the natural environment in Lyme Regis and surrounding areas. He said since January, they had held 10 very well-attended events, three litter picks on the beach or surrounding area, and a recent meeting this year with the chief executive of Surfers Against Sewage was attended by over 100 people. He said they held informative talks and events, which regularly had 25 to 40 people attending and had a local focus, beach cleans attracted around 18 people, and there were over 80 people on their subscribers' list. G. Barr said the newsletter went to 530 people bi-monthly, they had 40 paid members, and they supported local events and fetes with a stand. He said they were asking for £1,000 towards total expenditure of £2,000 to help with community outreach, including monitoring, posting on and improving the website and a venue for meetings. He said people didn't have to be a subscriber to attend meetings and all were welcome, either regularly or on a one-off basis.

S. Rai – Woodroffe Parents, Teachers and Friends' Association

S. Rai said she was the parent of a year seven pupil and she joined the PTFA so she could support the fundraising efforts. She said this year celebrated 100 years of secondary education in Lyme Regis and although people would have both warm and cold memories of school, she hoped any negative associations with the school would not stand in the way of the town acknowledging this historically significant anniversary. She said the school had shaped many people, many who would have moved away and many would have returned to raise their children. She said this year, for the first time in its history, the PTFA had tried to engage with the school alumni and were hoping to use the town council grant to attract, engage and get donations from Woodroffe alumni. In June, they would be organising a nostalgia event at the school for old friends to revisit the school and on the same evening, they were organising a 1920s themed event at the Marine Theatre. S. Rai said they were reaching out on social media to engage alumni in conversations about Lyme Regis and their school memories. She said the council grant would enable them to install a donation function on their website and social media and help cover the costs of the events. She said they also hoped to buy a time capsule for the school, so the pupils could have an historical learning element to their year in 2024. She hoped councillors looked favourably on their application and hoped they could get behind this and support the local school. She said their plan would have additional benefits of supporting the local accommodation providers and hospitality businesses.

L. Charleton and M. Ward – Coastal Community Cupboard

L. Charleton and M. Ward said they set up the Community Café in February 2022 and it had gone from strength to strength. They said many of the people at the meeting came into the café two days a week and they really appreciated the support. They intended for it to be a warm, safe, convivial space for many local people, although they didn't turn tourists away. They said there were many people who couldn't afford the prices in Lyme Regis for a coffee so they tried to keep prices as low as they could and they were not for profit. L. Charleton and M. Ward said people generally wanted to talk and feel safe and most people were from Lyme Regis. They

had regulars and were very busy, particularly with elderly people, retired people and groups of ladies who made it a big part of their week to go in as they might not go anywhere else that week. They said they had people on their own and they chatted to volunteers. They recently had two birthday parties, for an 86 and a 96-year-old, so they baked a cake and to them it was special. They said they underestimated how important the space had become and they were asking for £500 towards a new coffee machine. L. Charleton and M. Ward said when they set the café up, they had no idea how successful it would be and what equipment they would need so they bought a basic coffee machine, which could be difficult when people were queuing up and it took them away from talking and dealing with customers. Therefore, they were looking to buy something better.

J. Sheldon – St Michael The Archangel

J. Sheldon asked if the council would consider a grant for the replacement of the flagpole, which was a very significant landmark in Lyme Regis. She said they were fundraising as there were a lot of other expenses involved in the church and any grant awarded would be a welcome contribution.

J. Law – Lyme Regis Sea School Trust

J. Law said the council had kindly supported the sea school for many years and they were now asking for money towards boats because they were expensive and worn out. She said they were looking to get a small double-handed boat which would be for beginners to the more experienced. She said it would have a trapezoid and spinnaker for the faster sailors but it was also a very safe boat for young people. She said they had taught 600 people, 80% of whom were from within a 20-mile radius. J. Law said in feedback from parents, they realised the mental benefits sailing had on children as when they were out on the water, they had to concentrate on sailing, they were outside and couldn't be on their phone.

C. Matheson – Little Green Change (read out by an officer)

C. Matheson said Little Green Change, a non-profit social enterprise based in Lyme Regis that specialised in environmental education for primary and secondary ages, had won its first award, just six months after it launched on 1 September 2023. She said it was awarded Green/Eco Business of the Year at the Jurassic Business Awards in February. She said locally, Little Green Change had continued to offer its free services to primary and secondary schools in and around Lyme Regis, including for National Careers Week, delivering a 'careers in biodiversity' talk and lesson presentation to pupils at The Woodroffe School. She said they would also have two work experience students over the course of a week, later in the academic year. C. Matheson said Little Green Change would be delivering a free seed sowing activity at Lyme Regis Library during the Easter holiday, and they hoped to offer further free events for kids, subject to funding. She said a further Children's Give or Take event would be proceeding, thanks to a previous contribution of £350 from the town council. She said the previous event directly benefited 112 children plus Uplyme Pre-School, rehoming 275.6kg of clothing, toys and books, which was more than the weight of a male grizzly bear. C. Matheson said nationally, they had continued to extend their environmental education lesson and expert speaker talk resources, covering areas

including electronic waste, food waste recycling and textiles, linking with additional charities, organisations and businesses. She said these were free to all UK state-funded schools. She said they had not yet secured a major corporate funder, being just seven months old, so they continued to rely on smaller funding pots, like Lyme Regis Town Council's community grants, to gain the materials needed to extend their free community environmental education activities locally. She hoped therefore their current application would be successful.

M. Ward – Axminster and Lyme Cancer Support (read out by an officer)

M. Ward said they had seen a huge increase in demand and continued to offer counselling to any local people affected by cancer. She said they were fortunate to work with some incredible professional partners who could see clients very quickly and they were so often connected for an appointment within a few days. She said any support with funding to allow them to continue to offer this would be so appreciated. She had referred four residents of Lyme Regis this week already for counselling, at a cost of £375 per person.

22/177/C Apologies for Absence

Cllr R. Doney
Cllr C. Reynolds – personal commitment
Cllr D. Sarson – illness

22/178/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr D. Sarson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Lyme Regis Bowling Club and Lyme Regis Society as he was a member of both.

Cllr P. Evans declared a non-pecuniary interest in Lyme Regis Bowling Club as he was a member.

Cllr B. Bawden declared a non-pecuniary interest in Turn Lyme Green/Plastic Free Lyme as she was a member of the organisation and in Cobb Gate Junior Parkrun as she was a volunteer.

Cllr C. Aldridge declared a non-pecuniary interest in Turn Lyme Green/Plastic Free Lyme.

Cllr P. May declared a non-pecuniary interest in Turn Lyme Green/Plastic Free Lyme as he was involved with the organisation.

Cllr M. Ellis declared a non-pecuniary interest in Curtain Up Theatre Company and Lyme Regis Pantomime Society as she helped backstage but was not a member, and in St Michael's The Archangel as she was a member of the church.

Cllr R. Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in Turn Lyme Green/Plastic Free Lyme and Lyme Regis Gig Club.

22/179/C Dispensations

There were none.

22/180/C Allocation of Community Grants 2024-25

Axminster and Lyme Cancer Support

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £1,000 to Axminster and Lyme Cancer Support.

Charmouth Scouts

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £500 to Charmouth Scouts.

Coastal Community Cupboard

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr P. Evans, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £500 to Coastal Community Cupboard.

Cobb Gate Junior Parkrun

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £126.37 to Cobb Gate Junior Parkrun.

Curtain up Theatre Company

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £500 to Curtain Up Theatre Company.

Little Green Change

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £477.68 to Little Green Change.

Lyme Bay Chorale

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £411 to Lyme Bay Chorale.

Lyme Heartbeat

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £410.40 to Lyme Heartbeat.

Lyme Morris

Proposed by Cllr D. Ruffle and seconded by Cllr S. Cockerell, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £500 to Lyme Morris.

Lyme Regis Bowling Club

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £500 to Lyme Regis Bowling Club.

Lyme Regis Gig Club

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £1,000 to Lyme Regis Gig Club.

Lyme Regis Majorettes

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £575 to Lyme Regis Majorettes.

Lyme Regis Pantomime Society

Proposed by Cllr B. Bawden and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £900 to Lyme Regis Pantomime Society.

Lyme Regis Sea School

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £1,000 to Lyme Regis Sea School.

Lyme Regis Society

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr S. Cockerell, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £500 to Lyme Regis Society.

Lyme Regis Town Band

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £500 to Lyme Regis Town Band.

St Michael The Archangel

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £1,000 to St Michael The Archangel.

Tanner's Field Film

Proposed by Cllr B. Bawden and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £500 to Tanner's Field Film.

Turn Lyme Green/Plastic Free Lyme

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £1,000 to Turn Lyme Green/Plastic Free Lyme.

Uplyme and Lyme Regis Cricket Club

Proposed by Cllr P. Evans and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £1,000 to Uplyme and Lyme Regis Cricket Club.

Uplyme Preschool

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £488.38 to Uplyme Preschool.

Woodroffe Parents, Teachers and Friends' Association

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2024-25 community grant of £1,000 to Woodroffe Parents, Teachers and Friends' Association.

The meeting closed at 8.02pm.