

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2024

Present

Chairman: The Mayor, Cllr D. Sarson

Councillors: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr P. May, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner

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

23/181/C Public Forum

J. Edmonds

J. Edmonds spoke in relation to agenda item 5, Special Motion. She thanked members for being willing to listen and the council for making the process so smooth. With 1,847 signatures on the petition, the strength of feeling was clear and this was about safeguarding features of the town for future generations and visitors. She asked members not to underestimate the love people had for the town and to use it to their advantage. She asked members to now take the final steps to saving the structure. There had been offers from the local community to spruce up the gazebo and they would work with the council. The decision was in the hands of the council and she trusted they would make the right decision.

N. Williams

N. Williams also spoke in relation to agenda item 5, Special Motion. He said the number of signatures on the petition was impressive and having worked in regeneration in towns and cities, this was the highest number per percentage of population he had ever seen. He acknowledged the major issues of homelessness, anti-social behaviour, maintenance and safeguarding of staff. He said creative ideas and offers of help had come from the community, also linking with events, social care, schools, help for homeless people and support for anti-social behaviour. He offered to draw these ideas and people together if the council decided to keep the gazebo.

C. Burgess

C. Burgess also spoke in relation to agenda item 5, Special Motion. She said there were three homeless people who lived in Lyme Regis and they were all good people who had helped her with her autistic son so she had a lot of respect for them. She said they had helped a young homeless person who she found in her shed, they got him back on his feet and he had turned his life around. She said these three people didn't want homeless people in Lyme Regis causing trouble.

22/182/C Apologies for Absence

Cllr B. Bawden – holiday
Cllr R. Doney – prior engagement
Cllr P. Evans – illness
Cllr C. Reynolds – personal commitment
Cllr R. Smith – family commitment

22/183/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

22/184/C Dispensations

There were none.

22/185/C Special Motion

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to pass a special motion to allow the council to dispose of the motion 23/71/TMH on the gazebo in the gardens resolved by Full council on 7 February 2024.

22/186/C Car Park Audit Report

Proposed by Cllr D. Ruffle and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, 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.

The finance manager summarised the issues with car park cash variances and parking machines and drew members' attention to the five recommendations made by the auditor. She outlined the measures put in place to mitigate issues in future and said at the moment, things were working well.

The town clerk said officers would continue to monitor the situation and bring any significant issues to members.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr D. Ruffle, members **RESOLVED** to approve the management actions taken in response to the car park cash variances, to continue to monitor with our new checks, including CCTV monitoring, and to revisit the issue when more data from the additional monitoring process is available.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** that the council formally concludes the historic differences in car park cash collections have been fully investigated, and that no further work should be carried out in relation to this matter.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.