

## LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

#### Present

**Chairman:** Cllr P. Evans

**Councillors:** Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr G. Caddy, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr P. Evans, Cllr D. Holland, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr P. May, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr J. Trevena, Cllr G. Turner

**Officers:** C. Austin (administrative and community engagement assistant), A. Turner (operations manager), J. Wright (town clerk)

**Guests:** Cllr B. Bawden (Dorset Council ward member), M. Denney (co-option candidate), D. Hollywood-Plant (co-option candidate), D. Robertson (co-option candidate) A. Wood (co-option candidate)

The deputy mayor, Cllr P. Evans read out the town prayer.

#### **24/60/C Election of Chairman (Mayor) and Vice-Chairman (Deputy Mayor)**

Cllr P. May nominated Cllr P. Evans as mayor for the remainder of the 2024-25 council year, seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds.

There being no other nominations, Cllr P. Evans was **ELECTED** as mayor for the remainder of the 2024-25 council year.

Cllr C. Reynolds nominated Cllr M. Ellis as deputy mayor for the remainder of the 2024-25 council year, seconded by Cllr D. Holland.

Cllr G. Turner nominated Cllr P. May as deputy mayor for the remainder of the 2024-25 council year, seconded by Cllr S. Cockerell.

Cllr M. Ellis was **ELECTED** as deputy mayor for the remainder of the 2024-25 council year.

#### **24/61/C Public Forum**

##### **W. Davies (read out by an officer)**

W. Davies spoke in relation to agenda item 8, the Town Management and Highways Committee minutes, minute number 24/45/C. She said there needed to be a plan to monitor the proposed additional speed indicator device in Sidmouth Road and the existing devices to ensure they were working as the one currently in Sidmouth Road

hadn't worked for at least five months, with the exception of a few days shortly after the fault was reported earlier in the summer.

**N. Ball (read out by an officer)**

N. Ball wish the co-option candidates well and said he looked forward to seeing who was chosen. He said he was concerned about the town bus service and asked if this issue was picked up as soon as it was known Damory would finish. He said the service was vital to the town and he hoped the council could come to a decision on it, as it was value for money for which the council had sufficient funds. He asked when the service would be running again as it was a vital link for many people for shopping, social interaction and their only form of transport. He reminded members it was voted the town's top priority in previous consultations dating back to 2017. He thanked council staff and councillors who help guide the town through tricky times and situations.

**24/62/C Dorset Council Matters**

Members asked the ward member to ensure Dorset Council (DC) informed residents to move their cars from the roadside parking with plenty of notice when weed spraying took place.

Members asked the ward member when she was made aware of DC's decision to end the contract with the town bus operator.

Cllr B. Bawden agreed residents should be made aware of roadside spraying in advance. She said she was informed about the decision on the bus contract at the same time as the town council.

**24/63/C Questions from Councillors**

There were none.

**24/64/C Apologies for Absence**

Cllr J. Trevena – holiday

**24/65/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were none.

**24/66/C Dispensations**

There were none.

**24/67/C To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17 July 2024**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17 July 2024 were **ADOPTED**.

**24/68/C Matters arising from the Full Council meeting held on 17 July 2024**

The town clerk said to note a minor amendment to 24/29/C where the lease for Boylo's would be in the name of Caroline Always instead of Daniel Bowstead and the lease would not be affected by this change.

**24/69/C Update Report**

There were none.

**24/70/C Mayor's Announcements**

Members noted the report.

**24/71/C Planning Committee**

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr P. May, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2024, and to note the committee's comments made on planning applications under the power delegated by Full Council.

**24/72/C Planning Committee**

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr P. May, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 13 August 2024 and to note the committee's comments made on planning applications under the power delegated by Full Council.

**24/73/C Human Resources**

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, it was **RESOLVED** receive the minutes of the meetings held on 24 July 2024, and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

**RESOLVED:** the appointment of a member panel comprising Cllr M Ellis, Cllr S. Larcombe and Cllr J. Trevena with a remit to consider the findings of South West Councils into a member complaint and to decide what action should be taken in response to that complaint.

**24/74/C Town Bus Service**

The mayor brought this item forward on the agenda.

The town clerk said the quotes from five contractors were all significantly higher than the current £16,000 a year subsidy. He said other options were being explored, and a volunteer run service would help to keep the costs down but would need buy in from the community.

A member put himself forward to be a volunteer driver for the bus service.

Members expressed concerns over the lack of volunteers in the town and the longevity of the service if drivers needed to be of a certain age to drive the bus. It was suggested if no volunteers came forward, the council would need to look at employing staff to drive the bus, with possible financial support from DC.

Members suggested investigating grants to either pay to support the service or help to purchase the bus.

The ward member said she would ask questions regarding grants for training courses, but DC only funded start up community transport services and did not provide ongoing funding.

The town clerk said the one-day-a-week service in Beaminster was supported by a £16,000 grant from DC this year.

Proposed by Cllr P. Evans and seconded by Cllr P. May, it was **RESOLVED** to approve placing an advert in local media, social media and on the council's website inviting interest from members of the community willing to drive any replacement bus on a voluntary basis, and to authorise the town clerk, in consultation with the mayor, deputy mayor and chairman of the Town Management and Highways Committee, to agree any measures to secure continuity of the town bus service, including placing an order to either buy or rent a suitable mini bus (up to a maximum of £55k + VAT or £1000+ VAT per month respectively) if sufficient suitable drivers can be secured and all other required service arrangements put in place.

#### **24/75/C Co-option**

M. Denney, D. Hollywood-Plant, D. Robertson and A. Wood each gave a presentation to the council and members asked questions of the candidates.

Cllr C. Reynolds requested a signed ballot.

A first vote was taken, and A. Wood received the highest number of votes and was therefore co-opted to the council.

#### **24/76/C Appointment to a council vacancy**

Members noted the report.

#### **24/77/C Office Report**

Members noted the report but expressed concern about parking at the new office. The town clerk said members were welcome to have a look at the new office and vicinity.

#### **24/76/C Dorset Council's 'A Big Conversation'**

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, it was **RESOLVED** for members to consider Dorset Council's engagement exercise, 'A Big Conversation',

establish if the town council wants to submit a collective response and consider delegating any response to the town clerk in consultation with a panel of three members.

**24/77/C List of Payments**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr D. Holland, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments in June and July 2024 for the sum of £137,269.80 and £212,164.53, respectively.

*The meeting closed at 8:15pm.*