

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOURISM, COMMUNITY AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE 2023

Present

Chairman: Cllr C. Aldridge

Members: Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr R. Smith

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

23/01/TCP Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr D. Ruffle that Cllr C. Reynolds is chairman of the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr R. Smith that Cllr C. Aldridge is chairman of the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee.

Cllr C. Aldridge was duly **ELECTED** as chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson that Cllr D. Ruffle is vice-chairman of the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr B. Bawden that Cllr R. Smith is vice-chairman of the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee but he said he did not wish to be nominated.

Cllr D. Ruffle was duly **ELECTED** as vice-chairman.

23/02/TCP Terms of Reference

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, the committee's terms of reference were **RECEIVED**.

23/03/TCP Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

23/04/TCP Apologies

There were none.

23/05/TCP Minutes

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, the minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2023 were **ADOPTED**.

23/06/TCP Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

23/07/TCP Dispensations

There were none.

23/08/TCP Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 April 2023

Value of Tourism

Cllr B. Bawden asked if the data was available yet and if so, could it be shared with members.

The support services manager said the data would be available in November after the peak season and it would be shared with members via this committee.

23/09/TCP Update Report

Sculpture Trail and Arts Initiatives in the Gardens

Cllr M. Ellis asked when the three-year plan for the continuation of the sculpture trail would be brought to members.

The support services manager said it was hoped it could be brought to the next meeting.

Lyme Eats Boutique

Cllr C. Aldridge asked if there was any feedback from the events.

Cllr D. Ruffle said he didn't think there was enough signage pointing people in the direction of the street market and several other members agreed Gun Cliff might not be the best location.

The support services manager said the organiser had had some negative feedback from food traders in the town about external vendors coming in and as such, the organiser had confirmed she would not be holding an event in August during the peak season. She said she would have a full de-brief with the organiser after the last event in July and report back to this committee.

23/10/TCP Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee – Objectives

The support services manager said although it had been reported that the volleyball net was being put out on the beach each evening, she had been mistaken and the net had been put out by someone else. The intention was for the net to be put out and taken in by the evening seafront attendants when they were in post.

In relation to the bursary scheme, Cllr B. Bawden said the Boat Building Academy (BBA) would like to find a way to offer care leavers some skills so representatives from Dorset Council (DC) were going to meet with the BBA to see how this could be developed.

Cllr C. Aldridge asked if there was any timescale for meeting with the BBA and Lyme Regis Development Trust (LRDT) to progress the repairs café.

The town clerk said there had been a delay as one of the key trustees from the BBA had been on an extended period of leave. However, he and Cllr C. Reynolds had visited the repairs café in Axminster, the organiser from Axminster had met with council representatives and BBA representatives and he had met with the chief executive of LRDT to discuss whether they could be part of any partnership. He said he hoped the repairs café could be set up after the summer, run as a voluntary organisation and driven by the BBA.

23/11/TCP Fossil Festival 2023 and 2024

Cllr R. Smith said the 2023 event was a placeholder to keep the event in Lyme Regis, in the hope it could be developed into something better and more engaging in future years, but the unknown was what support the festival would need for next year.

The town clerk asked members to consider if they wanted the council to help augment the festival and make it a prestigious event for the town. He said he had already started talking to the museum about its plans and any support it may be looking for from the council for 2024 and beyond. As such, he suggested a small group was set up to meet with the museum to scope out future festivals. He added that the council's budget was committed in 2024-25 to the office project so if it wanted to support the festival, it would have to reduce the level of reserve.

Cllr C. Aldridge asked whether the festival could be supported through the council's term grants process and when these grants would be available again.

The town clerk said term grants were already committed for the first year of the new council administration, i.e., 2024-25, so the process for considering applications would start in autumn 2024.

Cllr D. Ruffle said the museum was actively looking for funding itself and the vision it had for 2024 was good but he agreed a group should be set up to see how the council could help.

The town clerk said the council gave support other than financial backing for the 2023 festival, such as operational help, advice and publicity. He suggested he and one or two members met with the museum director initially and if funding was required, it could be fed into the budget, which would be a decision for the whole council. He said the group could also involve other partners the museum might want to involve.

Cllrs D. Sarson, D. Ruffle and R. Smith said they would like to be in the group.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to indicate support for the 2024 Fossil Festival, and

the town clerk and Cllrs D. Sarson, D. Ruffle and R. Smith meet with Lyme Regis Museum to develop an outline project and funding proposal.

23/12/TCP Summer Exhibition

Cllr C. Aldridge asked if Richard Austin would be selling his photographs or just exhibiting and if there were any issues with insurance.

The town clerk said it would just be an exhibition of his work, he would not be selling photographs, and the insurance would be Richard Austin's responsibility.

Proposed by Cllr D. Ruffle and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve a proposal for an exhibition of the works of local photographer Richard Austin at the Jubilee Pavilion from Monday 14 August until Saturday 30 September 2023.

23/13/TCP Funding Proposal from The Boat Building Academy

The town clerk clarified that the children who would benefit from the funding would have to come from Lyme Regis because this was Lyme Regis taxpayers' money. In response to members' questions, he confirmed the BBA was asking for £6k from the council and 50% would be match funded by the BBA.

Cllr M. Ellis said the town council should be working with DC on this project; she referred to the project Cllr B. Bawden raised earlier in the meeting about care leavers and said there may be potential to work together and get more people involved.

Cllr B. Bawden said there was no guarantee of DC funding but she could ask if there was the potential for some kind of joint arrangement.

The town clerk said he was aware of funding available at DC, some of which was for training, so if some of this could be extended beyond the normal educational establishments, there was the possibility of establishing a longer-term project between the Woodroffe School and the BBA.

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to agree funding of £6,000 to the Boat Building Academy as part of the council's bursary scheme to support short courses for Lyme Regis young people aged 16-25 years' old.

23/14/TCP De-brief on the Coronation Event

The town clerk said the food went slightly over budget but everything else was within budget. He said there was a big call from people who attended to hold another event next year; if this happened, he didn't think it would be an exact replica of the coronation event but it could be similar. He suggested the council developed some ideas on a budget that was perhaps half or a third of the £20k committed to the coronation event.

Cllr D. Sarson said he would like to see another community event next year but he felt it shouldn't be on the seafront so it would be focused on the local community and not visitors.

Cllr C. Reynolds said there were not enough members volunteering at the event and there would need to be more if there was an event next year. She said Seaton held a community event with live music but people were invited to bring picnics.

Cllr M. Ellis said although the event would be for local people, she would like it to be held on the seafront roof, perhaps an outdoor cinema, as this would also bring trade to businesses on the seafront.

The town clerk said the council could work on a programme of events out of season so the emphasis was more on locals than holidaymakers. He suggested one or two members met with officers to develop some ideas and those ideas could then be brought back to this committee.

Cllr M. Ellis thanked staff who worked hard organise to coronation event and on the day.

Cllr D. Ruffle said he would like to work with officers on a proposal.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that Cllr D. Ruffle works with the town clerk and support services manager to work up a proposal for one or more community events at various venues and to bring it back to the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee.

It was agreed other people could be pulled into the group as and when required and the proposal should be pulled together before the budget-setting process.

23/15/TCP Town Map

Proposed by Cllr B. Bawden and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to note the budget overspend on the re-printing of the town map.

23/16/TCP Managing Consultation Exercises

The support services manager said since the agenda had been issued, St Michael's Primary School had sent a consultation about the extension of the school day, which had been emailed to members.

Cllr B. Bawden said the pro-dog group had been very active in promoting the dog-related Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) consultation and asked how the council could encourage people who might have a different view to make their views known.

The town clerk said a report would be brought to the Strategy and Finance Committee with the suggestion that a small group of members formulated a response to the consultation, to be brought back to the Full Council meeting to sign it off. He said the council would be putting information on its website and social media pages to let the public know the consultation was live.

It was noted paper copies of the PSPO consultation were available at the library and that there were many people in the town who would only be able to complete a paper copy. As such, the support services manager said officers would ask DC for further copies to be available at the council office.

The meeting closed at 8.14pm.