

# LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

## TOWN MANAGEMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 2022

#### Present

**Chairman:** Cllr J. Broom

**Members:** Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr G. Stammers

**Officers:** M. Adamson-Drage (operations manager), M. Green (deputy town clerk)

#### **21/69/TMH Public Forum**

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

#### **21/70/TMH Apologies**

Cllr B. Bawden – fear of intimidation  
Cllr D. Ruffle – positive COVID test  
Cllr R. Smith – work commitments  
Cllr D. Sarson – positive COVID test  
Cllr G. Turner – personal commitments

#### **21/71/TMH Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 March 2022 were **ADOPTED** without amendment.

#### **21/72/TMH Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr G. Stammers declared an interest in agenda item 7- 20 mph speed limit at Uplyme and park and ride signs on the A35- because both had the potential to affect her employer's business.

#### **21/73/TMH Dispensations**

There were none.

#### **21/74/TMH Matters arising from the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee meeting held on 2 March 2022**

##### **Request for access across Woodmead car park**

Members were concerned that the works seemed to be taking far longer than the originally permitted period and were preventing or discouraging parking in the overflow car park on busy days. The deputy town clerk was requested to meet with the contractor and project manager, in conjunction with the committee chairman, and resolve the issue straight away.

### **Jubilee Pavilion**

The deputy town clerk explained the intention to use Ellis and Co., who had carried out the repairs to the entrance to the Guildhall and the repairs to St Michael's Church and who were specialist stone masons, to carry out the initial investigative works to the pavilion parapet. This would be reported as an exception to standing orders due to the specialist nature of the works and it did not mean that Ellis would necessarily get any contract for the substantive works. The company had proved itself to be excellent in the context of the Guildhall works and were able to carry out the investigative works quickly, which was important given the apparent speed of deterioration to the parapet.

### **Taxi Rank**

Members questioned the latest position with the suggested taxi rank(s). The operations manager undertook to find out what he could from Dorset Council, but he had not received any information for several months.

Cllr. B. Larcombe raised several other highways issues and concerns, including dangerous parking around the Clappentail roundabout and in the area of the adjoining bus stop. He asked that officers press Dorset Council to take appropriate action given the matter had been raised on numerous occasions over a period of several years and nothing had been done, despite the situation continuing to get worse.

### **Mary Anning Statue**

In response to questions from members, the deputy town clerk explained his understanding of the latest situation. The statue would be sited on land owned by Dorset Council and any arrangements for the future management, maintenance and insurance of the area and statue were a matter for Dorset Council and the trustees of Mary Anning Rocks to agree between themselves. The town council were not involved and would have no responsibilities.

The statue was due to be unveiled on 21 May 2022.

### **Seafront Railings**

Members were complimentary about the replacement seafront railings and felt that the works had enhanced the appearance of the area considerably.

Questions were also asked about the 'pedlar' selling clothes on the cart Road. The deputy town clerk informed members that the trading was taking place on land owned by Dorset Council and the relevant officer had been made aware that the 'trading' was taking place.

### **Roof and Balustrading**

The deputy town clerk explained that tests were ongoing to try and establish the cause of the minor leak into the Antiques and Craft Centre. The focus was on the area under and around the ramp, but the cause of the leak had still not been identified.

## **Park and Ride**

Members indicated their support for the extended service and noted the work which had been undertaken to sign and publicise the arrangements.

### **21/76/TMH 31 Ware Cliff Chalet, Request to Construct Extension**

Members were happy to support the requested extension.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the request to extend the chalet at 31 Ware Cliff subject to the owner obtaining any other necessary permissions or consents.

### **21/77/TMH Flail Mower**

The operations manager explained what the flail mower was and how it would be used, if purchased. He pointed out that the budget to acquire the equipment had been previously approved by members, but the purchase had not then gone ahead because of uncertainties about the timing and scope of the highways agency agreement with Dorset Council. That agreement had now been signed.

In response to questions from members, he explained he was not able to provide the precise current price of the equipment, undertook to circulate to members a copy of the agency agreement as signed and agreed that other equipment used by the outside works team would also need to be replaced at some point in the foreseeable future; including the tractor.

Members were happy to support the purchase of the flail in principle, but wanted details of the full and updated price available for consideration when any recommendation was presented to full council.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to support the purchase of a flail in principle subject to details of the full and updated price being available for consideration prior to any final decision being made.

### **21/78/TMH Request to Site Mobile Catering Trailer on Council-Owned Land rear of Guildhall**

Cllr. B. Larcombe spoke in support of the request, pointing out that the land was not currently used for anything else and the applicant, who was a good tenant of the council in the adjoining Guildhall, had taken the initiative when others had not.

Members generally felt that even if the principle of the requested use were to be supported, the opportunity would have to be advertised more widely to enable any other competing interest to also be considered. However, most members were not supportive of the request, feeling it to be an unsuitable use of the land and favouring it being used to create additional car parking, which would then free up spaces at Woodmead car park currently utilised by staff.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the request to site a mobile catering trailer on council-owned land to the rear of the Guildhall be not supported and that the potential

to create additional parking for staff and councillors be further investigated as an alternative.

#### **21/79/TMH Performance Area Shade Sail**

The operations manager explained the alternatives referred to in his report and emphasised that the hope was that any new sail could be installed prior to Jazz Jurassica and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee events on the seafront. Users of the performance area valued the sail and the shade and shelter provided by it.

Members questioned why the old sail could not be repaired, in the short term at least. They also favoured something which provided a long term and cost-effective solution and which did not require replacing or repairing every few years.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to support the repair, if possible, of the existing sail in the short term and its subsequent replacement by something which provides a long term and cost-effective solution which does not require replacing or repairing every few years.

#### **21/80/TMH Kitchen Garden – Three-month review**

Cllr C. Reynolds explained all of the work she and her husband had carried out to tidy the garden, the planting which had now commenced and that which was planned over the coming weeks. She admitted that it had been incredibly hard work and she especially thanked her husband for everything he had done to help.

She admitted that the amount of help and support from others had been limited to date but there were now 15 volunteers and everything would become easier because the really hard work had been done. She and her husband were happy to carry out regular weeding and she was confident that more support would be forthcoming once everyone could see the flowers, vegetables and fruit and the garden starting to produce crops. Already, one local restaurant had made use of the garden and was suggesting recipe ideas.

She felt the willow sculptures produced by pupils at Woodroffe with the support of local artists were amazing and was confident that by the time of the next review, everything would be where she wanted it to be.

Members complimented Cllr Reynolds and her husband on everything they had achieved so far, which had transformed the appearance of the area, and were happy to support the continuation of the kitchen garden in its current location.

In response to questions, Cllr Reynolds explained that the recent graffiti on the hoarding by the cinema site would be overpainted by pupils from Woodroffe.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to support the continuation of the kitchen garden at Langmoor Gardens in its current location subject to a further review in 3 months' time.

#### **21/81/TMH Lighting in Drakes Way**

Members were happy to support the request that Dorset Council investigate the provision of improved lighting in Drake's Way, although Cllr J. Broom felt that, with the

exception of the ramp into the adjoining public car park, the lighting there might be privately owned and the responsibility of the individual owners of the adjacent properties.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that Dorset Council be requested to investigate the provision of improved lighting in Drake's Way, Broad Street, Lyme Regis.

### **21/82/TMH Skateboarding**

In response to questions concerning signage, the operations manager explained that some signs had been deliberately removed and had been re-ordered. The signs, in the gardens and elsewhere, would be replaced as soon as received.

Cllr B. Larcombe referred to problems on Marine Parade, in the seafront gardens and on the main roads through the town. He was genuinely concerned that someone was going to be seriously injured if something wasn't done to control the situation. He agreed that it was a matter of policing and enforcement.

Cllr C. Reynolds pointed out that much of the activity referred to was not by youngsters but by adults. She referred to previous debates about the issue and that skateboarding in some of the areas referred to was not unlawful. She suggested that the Police and Crime Commissioner be approached about the problems to see if he could suggest any ways of improving local policing and enforcement.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the local PCSO be approached about the problems of irresponsible and unsafe skateboarding in areas of Lyme Regis to see if they can suggest any ways of improving local policing and enforcement.

### **21/83/TMH Complaints, Incidents and Compliments**

In response to a question from a member, the operations manager confirmed he was aware of the tent which had appeared on the Cart Road. He understood that the occupant had now moved on elsewhere.

Cllr C Reynolds thanked the operations manager and works supervisor for all their practical help and advice about the kitchen garden.

*The meeting closed at 8.25pm.*