

# LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

## TOWN MANAGEMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2025

#### Present

**Chairman:** Cllr M. Ellis

**Members:** Cllr G. Caddy, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr M. Denney, Cllr P. Evans, Cllr P. May, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr A. Wood, Cllr G. Turner

**Officers:** A. Mullins (support services manager), AK Mullins (property and projects assistant), P. Williams (acting operations manager), J. Wright (town clerk)

#### **24/69/TMH Public Forum**

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

#### **24/70/TMH Apologies**

Cllr C. Aldridge – family commitment  
Cllr S. Larcombe – holiday

#### **24/71/TMH Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr P. Evans and seconded by Cllr A. Wood, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 January 2025 were **ADOPTED**.

#### **24/72/TMH Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr P. Evans declared a pecuniary interest in the MUGA, under agenda item 7, Update Report, as he lived next to the location.

Cllr P. May declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 13, Bridge Over River Lym at Town Mill, as he was a trustee of the Town Mill.

#### **24/73/TMH Dispensations**

There were none.

#### **24/74/TMH Matters arising from the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee meeting held on 8 January 2025**

##### **Monmouth Beach Land Stabilisation Works**

The town clerk said in addition to the earth removal from the rear section of the car park, there were some drainage works to complete, which would take a further week. He said a section of Ware Cliff would be fenced off for the drainage works.

## **24/75/TMH    Update Report**

### **Three Cups**

The town clerk said a date had not yet been agreed for Palmers' marketing agent to brief the council on the Three Cups.

It was noted that 8 May 2025 would be the 35th anniversary of the closure of the Three Cups, so this would be an opportunity to highlight the issue once again and generate some action from the townspeople to move it forward. Members agreed the council needed to take a tough stance with Palmers and a media campaign around the anniversary would show the public the council was trying its best.

The town clerk said Dorset Council (DC) had compulsory purchase powers so perhaps the town council could ask the ward member to ask DC to consider this, although he suspected DC might not have the appetite for this. He agreed there were things the town council could do to raise the profile of the issue and Palmers' lack of action.

It was agreed a report would be taken to the relevant committee to allow members to consider this more formally.

## **24/76/TMH    Town Management and Highways Committee – Objectives**

Members noted the report.

## **24/77/TMH    To receive the minutes of the Traffic and Travel Working Group meeting on 17 February 2025**

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr P. Evans, the minutes of the Traffic and Travel Working Group meeting on 17 February 2025 were **RECEIVED**.

## **24/78/TMH    Town Bus Operating Arrangements and Route**

The town clerk said the main consideration for members was whether the service should be registered or a free-to use community service and the arguments for each of these were set out in the report. He said officers believed the service could be introduced by April.

The town clerk said the Traffic and Travel Working Group had discussed the route for the bus and suggested some changes to include Woodmead Halls, Woodberry Down, Garmans Field and Uplyme Village Hall, which would probably mean dropping one circuit of the town. He suggested getting the service up and running with these changes, which could then be reviewed six months after its launch.

Members agreed the service should be a free-to-use community service, with a review of the route in six months. It was suggested the drivers and the passengers could be asked for their suggestions for the route.

A member asked if there was any possibility of DC providing funding for the service.

The town clerk said officers would look into this.

It was noted residents needed to get to Woodmead Halls for elections, which always fall on a Thursday, so this could be a consideration for extending the service in future.

The town clerk said the council could also consider running a service to a local supermarket in future.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the town bus should be a free-to-use community service, with the route amended initially to include Woodmead Halls, Woodberry Down, Garmans Field and Uplyme Village Hall, with the route to be reviewed after six months.

#### **24/79/TMH Monmouth Beach Garages Roof Replacement**

The support services manager read out a letter from A. Ball.

A. Ball said the suggested material was ideal for this application but he suggested there was drip stop, anti-condensation backing to the sheets to avoid further condensation, He said goosewing grey would be more suitable than black or anthracite due to its exposure to the sun, which would cause the sheets to become hot, as well as the garages and their contents. He said goosewing grey would also be the closest match to existing sheets.

The acting operations manager confirmed the sheets would be grey, with drip stop.

A member asked if the proposed material was sea and weather resistant.

The acting operations manager said the sheets had a 15-year guarantee and were the best option for the location.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve unbudgeted expenditure of £3,800 for roofing sheets and fixings to replace the roofs of eight garages at Monmouth Beach car park.

#### **24/80/TMH Proposed Highways Changes to Broad Street and Cobb Road**

The town clerk said DC's plans were at a very early stage and no exact costings had been provided. The proposed changes to Broad Street were a possibility for 2026-27 but this would depend on the allocation of budgets at DC. The town clerk said DC officers had suggested any financial contribution from the town council might help to prioritise the project. He advised that the town council should have an idea of costings and timelines before making any formal comment. He also suggested consultation with Lyme Regis Business Group at an early stage, which would help inform the council's view.

Members were generally not supportive of the proposals for Broad Street as it would result in the loss of valuable on-street parking, create a build-up of traffic, and prevent large lorries from delivering to the town.

However, members saw the benefit of widening the pavement next to Bell Cliff.

Members were more supportive of the proposals for Cobb Square as it would improve pedestrian safety but noted some of the issues in that area could be prevented if shops didn't put their items on the road and vehicles didn't park there for long periods.

The town clerk said DC had no budget available for the Cobb Square improvements and had asked the town council to consider funding it.

It was noted officers would be meeting with Lyme Regis Business Association soon and this would be included on the agenda, after which a further report could be brought to members. It was hoped costings and timelines would also be available by then too.

#### **24/81/TMH Bridge Over River Lym at Town Mill**

A member said the bridge was an important access for visitors to the Town Mill area and the businesses at the complex, so it was important it remained and was maintained.

A member asked who would be liable if someone had an accident on the bridge.

The town clerk said the town council would be liable if the accident was on the bridge itself, although there had been no claims in the time he had been with the council.

The acting operations manager said all the bridges in the town were subject to inspection from DC's bridge inspector.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council takes responsibility for the maintenance of the bridge over the River Lym at the Town Mill.

#### **24/82/TMH Council Offices**

The town clerk asked members to consider the proposal for council meetings to take place at the new offices.

Members generally agreed meetings should be held at the new council offices as the Guildhall was not fit-for-purpose, with poor acoustics and members sitting with their backs to the public.

One member felt Full Council meetings should still be held at the Guildhall as they required a level of formality. However, it was noted members didn't have to decide at this point which meetings to hold in the new offices, only whether to turn the space into a meeting room.

The town clerk said work was due to start on site on 3 March 2025 and would be completed by 4 May 2025.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr P. Evans, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to make available facilities for council meetings to be held in the new council offices.

#### **24/83/TMH Complaints, Incidents and Compliments**

Members were disappointed to see more complaints about dogs' mess but it was acknowledged DC enforcement officers were rarely in Lyme Regis to deal with these issues.

The acting operations manager said council staff did pick up dogs' mess if they saw it.

**24/84/TMH Chalet Site at Monmouth Beach**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, 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.

**24/85/TMH Exempt Business**

**a) Chalet Site at Monmouth Beach**

The town clerk asked members to consider whether the recent action taken by the 'owner' to put a new chalet on the site was sufficient and therefore an extension should be granted, or the council should serve notice to quit and formally pursue the recovery of the site. He said if an extension was allowed, a replacement chalet would not be installed until the end of the season as major construction work would not be allowed during the season and consents had not yet been granted.

Members agreed the situation had gone on long enough and as there was no prospect of a replacement chalet being on the site by 31 March 2025, as per the council's previous decision, the site should be repossessed.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr P. May, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that as there is no evidence of any building on the site of chalet 18 Monmouth Beach and it would be impossible to meet the previous deadline of 31 March 2025, the council should serve notice to quit.

*The meeting closed at 8.06pm.*