



John Wright
Town Clerk

Lyme Regis Town Council

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Environment Committee

Core Membership: Cllr S. Cockerell (chairman), Cllr J. Trevena (vice-chairman), Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr P. May, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner

Notice is given of a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at the **Guildhall, Bridge Street, Lyme Regis** on Wednesday 2 October 2024 commencing **on the rise of the extraordinary Full Council** when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright
Town Clerk
27.09.24

The open and transparent proceedings of Full Council and committee meetings will be audio recorded and recordings will be held for one year by the town council.

If members of the public make a representation to the meeting, they will be deemed to have consented to being audio recorded.

If members of the public have any queries regarding audio recording of meetings, please contact the town clerk.

Members are reminded that in reaching decisions they should take into consideration the town council's decision to declare a climate emergency and ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030 and beyond.

AGENDA

1. Public Forum

Twenty minutes will be made available for public comment and response in relation to items on this agenda

Individuals will be permitted a maximum of three minutes each to address the committee

2. Apologies

To receive and record apologies and reasons for absence

3. Minutes

To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 26 June 2024

4. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded that if they have a disclosable pecuniary interest on their register of interests relating to any item on the agenda they are prevented from participating in any discussion or voting on that matter at the meeting and to do so would amount to a criminal offence. Similarly if you are or become aware of a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter under consideration at this meeting which is not on your register of interests or is in the process of being added to your register you must disclose such interest at this meeting and register it within 28 days.

5. Dispensations

To note the grant of dispensations made by the town clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.

6. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 June 2024

To update members on matters arising from the previous meeting that are not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda and to allow members to seek further information on issues raised within the minutes of the previous meeting.

7. Update Report

To inform members about progress on significant environmental developments

8. 2025-26 Budget Proposals

To allow members to consider Environment objectives for 2025-26 ahead of the formal launch of the budget-setting process at the Strategy and Finance Committee on 9 October 2024

9. Appointment of non-members

10. To receive the minutes of the Environment Agency, South West Water/Pennon Group, Dorset Council and Lyme Regis Town Council Bathing Water Quality Meeting 6

11. River Lim Action Group Report

To receive an update report from the River Lim Action Group

12. Budget Report

To allow members to consider the 2024-25 budget position, which includes sums accrued from 2023-24

13. Dorset Council's Nature Emergency Declaration

To outline Dorset Council's Nature Emergency Declaration

14. Migration to Battery Powered Equipment

To inform members of officer proposals for migration to battery powered equipment

15. Use of Biodiesel/HVO in council vehicles

To inform members about the latest position with the possible use of biodiesel/HVO in the council's three current diesel vehicles.

16. Appointment to Repairs' Café Steering Group

To allow members to consider appointing a member to the Repairs' Café Steering Group

17. Low Carbon Dorset Exhibition

To inform members about the Low Carbon Dorset Exhibition that took place at the Jubilee Pavilion from 23 to 28 September 2024

18. Citizens Advice Energy Advice

To inform members of a Citizens Advice proposal to provide energy advice in Lyme Regis

19. Exempt Business

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2024

Present

Chairman: Cllr S. Cockerell

Members: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr J. Trevena, Cllr D. Ruffle

Other members: Cllr S. Larcombe

Officers: M. Adamson-Drage (operations manager), K. Newman (administrative and community engagement assistant)

Guests: V. Elcoate, G. Roberts (River Lim Action Group), C. Matheson (Little Green Change) J. Leah (Dorset Climate Action Network)

24/01/ENV Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr J. Trevena that Cllr S. Cockerell is chairman of the Environment Committee.

Cllr S. Cockerell was duly **ELECTED** as chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr G. Stammer that Cllr J. Trevena is vice-chairman of the Environment Committee.

Cllr J. Trevena was duly **ELECTED** as vice-chairman.

24/02/ENV Terms of Reference

Members noted the terms of reference.

24/03/ENV Public Forum

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

24/04/ENV Apologies

Cllr P. May – holiday
Cllr C. Prichard – holiday

24/05/ENV Minutes

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr G Turner, the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2024 were **ADOPTED**.

24/06/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

24/07/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

24/08/ENV Matters arising from previous meeting held on 28 February 2024

Members noted the report.

24/09/ENV Update Report

Members noted the report.

24/10/ENV Great Big Dorset Hedge update from Little Green Change

The chairman brought this item forward on the agenda and invited J. Leah from Dorset Climate Action Network (CAN) to speak.

J. Leah said more people were engaging with the project as a whole and that Dorset CAN had found it to be very successful. The project showed good outcomes, with people doing more planting as a result, and it had been an effective pilot project which could now be rolled out across the county.

The chairman invited C. Matheson from Little Green Change to speak and she presented her report on the project.

The operations manager said there would be a move from Dorset Council to declare a nature emergency in the future, which might open doors to additional funding available to the group down the line. He suggested declaring a nature emergency may be something this committee wished to discuss at a future meeting.

24/11/ENV Update on Bathing Water Quality Meeting 5

The operations manager said a further meeting (6) had taken place on 18 June 2024 and the minutes would be brought to the next meeting of this committee.

A member asked if South West Water were still intending to do the upgrades.

The operations manager said the upgrades had been scheduled for 2027, but there were no firm dates or details yet.

24/12/ENV Update from River Lim Action Group

The chairman invited G. Roberts from the River Lim Action Group to speak.

G. Roberts spoke about the ecological report on the river. He urged the council to remove the Himalayan Balsam and Japanese knotweed in the river near the lynch as health and safety issues meant the group had been advised to keep out of that part of the river.

G. Roberts said the group was discussing the clearing of the river with the Environment Agency, which would only clear vegetation that might cause further flooding.

The operations manager said the council could look at the weir to see how it could be addressed but ownership of the lynch was uncertain. It was agreed advice would be taken from the deputy town clerk.

It was agreed further updates would be brought to the next meeting.

24/13/ENV Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation

Members discussed the importance of maintaining the accreditation when new employees and members joined the council.

The operations manager said the accreditation was valid for three years so the council would need to revisit the training with the same frequency to ensure it was up-to-date with any new criteria.

It was noted former town councillor Belinda Bawden had delivered the training previously at no cost to the council, so this would potentially be a cost in the future. It was agreed further discussions would take place with Belinda Bawden about the process for ongoing training and accreditation.

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council publicises its silver level Carbon Literacy accreditation as much as possible on council website and in any other appropriate ways.

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council looks into further carbon literacy training for new members and new employees to keep the silver accreditation up to standard.

It was agreed a report would be brought to the next meeting with further information about meeting the ongoing criteria.

As the carbon literacy logo would now be added to the council website, it was suggested Little Green Change's logo and information also be added.

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council includes Little Green Change's logo and information on the town council website.

24/14/ENV eRIB Round Britain update

Members noted the report.

24/15/ENV Update on Contaminated Land Strategy Consultation

Members discussed the best way to respond to the consultation and it was agreed the operations manager would contact all members to determine who would like to work with him on formulating a response on behalf of the council.

Cllr S. Larcombe indicated that he would like to be involved.

24/80/ENV Lithium Ion Battery Safety of eBikes and eScooters Parliamentary Bill

A member asked why the Bill only included bikes and scooters and not vehicles, as they might be more dangerous because they are kept indoors and at entrances to flats, which posed more risk.

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the town council responds in support of the Lithium Ion Battery Safety of eBikes and eScooters Parliamentary Bill and to query why it only included bikes and scooters and not vehicles.

Meeting closed at 7.46pm.

DRAFT

Committee: Environment

Date: 2 October 2024

Title: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 June 2024

Purpose of Report

To update members on matters arising from the previous meeting that are not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda and to allow members to seek further information on issues raised within the minutes of the previous meeting.

Recommendation

Members note the report and raise any other issues on the minutes of the previous meeting that they require further information on.

Report

24/12/ENV – Update from River Lim Action Group

Discussions are ongoing between the deputy town clerk and Dorset Council's property team about a joint approach to dealing with the condition of the lynch walls and the removal of the vegetation.

The deputy town clerk has suggested a general tidy and repair of the structure and a subsequent white painting of the edge stones along the top of the river side of the pathway.

Something similar was undertaken some years ago led by the Dorset County Council bridge engineering team, but with others contributing to the works. This was done without certainty about ownership and without prejudice to future responsibilities and liabilities.

He has suggested a similar approach might be the best way forward again.

24/13/ENV – Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation

A new page on the website is being put together under the Environment tab to publicise the council's silver level carbon literacy accreditation.

The silver level carbon literacy logo has been added to the signature on staff emails and is displayed in the footer of every page on the website.

The silver level accreditation was publicised as part of the council's display at the Low Carbon Dorset exhibition in the Jubilee Pavilion.

Further advice has been taken from the Carbon Literacy Organisation (CLO) about further training for new members and employees in order to maintain the silver accreditation.

Further training is available via Dorset Climate Action Network (CAN) and there are sessions available in October, November and January. Any staff who are not yet trained have been booked onto this training and emails have been sent to all members to invite them to attend. The training is virtual and consists of two mornings.

In future, carbon literacy training can be delivered in-house. The CLO's Parish, Town and Community Councils course is free for us to access as a town council.

Anyone delivering the carbon literacy training needs to be Carbon Literate themselves and has attended a Delivering Successful CL session. These are free 90-minute workshops which are available monthly. The intention is for at least two officers to attend a workshop to be able to deliver carbon literacy training in future.

Although this training can be delivered for free in future, there is a certificate application fee of £10 per evidence form.

Once learners are certified, there is no need for them to refresh their training as their certificate does not expire.

Information about Little Green Change and their logo is now featured on the website under the 'Partner organisations' page on the Environment tab.

24/15/ENV – Update on Contaminated Land Strategy Consultation

The former operations manager responded to the consultation by the deadline and a copy of the response has been emailed to members.

24/80/ENV – Lithium Ion Battery Safety of eBikes and eScooters Parliamentary Bill

The former operations manager responded with the council's support of the Lithium Ion Battery Safety of eBikes and eScooters Parliamentary Bill. He also questioned why it only included bikes and scooters and not vehicles. The following response was received from the parliamentary advisor to Electrical Safety First and researcher for Lord Foster, who has been campaigning on the issue in the House of Lords:

"We recognize the importance of the issue of car batteries and this could be a future campaign. For now we are restricting it to e-bike and e-scooters as, well, we want to give ourselves the best chance of winning. Also ESF has produced a detailed report on micromobility so can claim to have expert knowledge. I will put your suggestion re cars to our research team."

Adrienne Mullins
Support services manager
September 2024

Committee: Environment

Date: 2 October 2024

Title: Update Report

Purpose of the Report

To inform members about progress on significant environmental developments

Report

Updates from Community Organisations

Members of any local community organisations present at the meeting will be asked if they wish to update the committee on their initiatives. A maximum of three minutes will be allowed for each organisation to present to the committee.

Little Green Change

Below is a poster for Little Green Change's Christmas Give and Take event, which has been sponsored by the council.



Funded by:  **Lyme Regis**
Town Council

Supported by:  **Dorset**
Council

On 25 September 2024, Little Green Change's founder and director Clare Matheson won the BBC Devon Make A Difference Award (Green Award category) for her work founding, running and developing Little Green Change.

More information is in the following news article: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0jwz075v8qo>

Little Green Change has also been named as one of the nation's 100 most impressive small firms by the Small Business Saturday UK campaign. It has been selected as part of this year's SmallBiz100 line-up, which showcases 100 of the most impressive independent businesses from across the nation as part of the countdown to Small Business Saturday on 7 December 2024.

Clare Matheson also attended the Political Purpose Awards at the House of Commons on 3 September 2024. There she spoke to a number of MPs and celebrities including Chris Packham.

Rainwater Harvesting

A comprehensive scheme of rainwater harvesting recycling grey water from the Marine Parade toilets and/or groundwater from the gardens appears technically very challenging and expensive due to area and levels. A much simpler scheme collecting surface water from the gazebo roof as a means of supplying water for the community allotment garden and other areas is being investigated by the operations manager.

PVs on Shelters Roof

As previously reported, free-standing panels in this location will require planning permission and the informal advice is that this would not be supported given the very prominent seafront location.

Electric Supply to Gardens Lighting

Simply changing from the current unmetered supply to a metered supply for the gardens lighting is not permitted by the energy supplier. This appears to be standard industry practice.

This means that the council will get no cost benefit from its significant investment in low energy lighting as part of the replacement of lighting columns and heads throughout the gardens, despite consumption being reduced by about 80%.

The only option is to pay for the installation of a completely new metered supply.

Unmetered supplies are charged at a much higher unit rate and standing charge than metered supplies, the difference varies from time to time, but is normally at least 50%. Given the potential cost savings, a price for a new, metered supply is being sought so the business case for the investment can be properly examined.

PVs on New Amenities Hut and Harbour Store Building

Both of the above buildings have been fitted with PVs on their roofs in line with the council's ambition to reduce its carbon footprint en route to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

On the advice of Low Carbon Dorset, both schemes were slightly downsized from the initial design concept and do not include battery storage facilities. This avoids the need for input from National Grid, which can have significant timescale implications. It also avoids issues with the local grid capacity, which can make any large-scale export of energy back into the local grid infrastructure problematic.

Both schemes should reduce the council's consumption from grid by around 40% over the course of a year and allow for the export of some energy.

The technical specification of the scheme at the amenities hut is attached as **appendix 7A** for information.

Mark Green
Deputy town clerk
September 2024

Committee: Environment

Date: 2 October 2024

Title: 2025-26 Budget Proposals

Purpose of Report

To allow members to consider Environment objectives for 2025-26 ahead of the formal launch of the budget-setting process at the Strategy and Finance Committee on 9 October 2024

Recommendation

Members identify Environment objectives for 2025-26

Background

1. On 8 October 2024, the finance manager and town clerk will provide a members' briefing on the 2025-26 budget and five-year financial plan. The formal process starts on 9 October 2024 with the presentation of budget-related reports to the Strategy and Finance Committee.
2. The budget is taken through two committee cycles and concludes at the Full Council on 11 December 2024.
3. This item has been placed on all committee agendas in the run-up the Strategy and Finance Committee on 9 October 2024.

Report

4. Members are asked to identify Environment objectives that need to be considered alongside other committee objectives during the budget-setting process.
6. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Strategy and Finance Committee on 9 October 2024 and the Full Council on 23 October 2024.

John Wright
Town clerk
September 2024

Committee: Environment

Date: 2 October 2024

Title: Co-option

Purpose of Report

To allow members to consider a process for co-opting members on to the committee

Recommendation

Members note the report, approve a co-option process for non-members as detailed in appendix 9D, thank Grenville Barr, Janet Breeze and Vicki Elcoate for their applications and encourage them to reapply in accordance with the council's co-option procedure

Background

1. The town clerk has received requests from Grenville Barr, **appendix 9A**, Janet Breeze, **appendix 9B**, and Vicki Elcoate, **appendix 9C**, to join this committee.

2. The terms of reference for this committee state in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3:

‘Up to six non-members can sit on the committee, with no more than two people from one organisation¹. Non-members do not have voting rights.’

3. The following rules apply to the co-option of non-members:

Each individual must be co-opted by majority vote of the committee. A CV for the nominated person must be made available to the committee to assist in the selection process.

Each individual co-opted may sit on the committee for the remainder of the council year but must be co-opted again in each council year.

Members may vote non-members off the committee at any time by majority vote.’

4. The terms of reference do not detail the co-option process for non-members to this committee nor do they fully explain other considerations that come with the co-option of non-members.

Report

The process

5. Before any non-member is appointed by this committee, the committee should agree in advance a process; this creates transparency, allows all members of the community an equal opportunity to apply to join the committee, and protects the committee and council from accusations of favouritism.

6. The council already has a procedure for co-opting councillors, and it seems the most appropriate method for appointing non-members. A copy of the procedure is attached, **appendix 9D**.

7. The town clerk is aware his advice is unpopular with at least one member of this committee, so further advice has been sought from Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils

¹¹ Section 102(3) of the 1972 Local Government Act.

(DAPTC). The advice from DAPTC's chief executive concurs with the town clerk's and is detailed below:

'With regard to the appointment – it is best to have something similar to the process for co-opting councillors. A clear unambiguous step by step guide as to what is required and how appointment will be voted upon.'

Other considerations

8. The committee needs to consider the number of non-members it wishes to appoint. Although up to six non-members can be appointed to the committee, the committee should think about the optimum balance of members versus non-members. To some extent this should be informed by the number of councillors on the committee; there are currently seven councillors on this committee.
9. The committee needs to consider how it manages any conflicts of interests that could occur with non-members, e.g., if a non-member represents an organisation that receives funding from the committee or the council.
10. This is particularly important because, 'The power in section 102(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 is drafted very broadly and applies to a council's committee and sub-committees, including joint committees and sub committees other than a committee for regulating and controlling the finance of the local authority or of their area.'²
11. This committee oversees an annual budget of £25,000.
12. The committee must satisfy itself that any non-member is not disqualified from being a member of a local authority. In summary, a non-member cannot sit on a committee if they:
 - 'hold any paid office or employment (other than the office of chair, vice-chair or deputy chair) to which they have been appointed by the council or any committee or sub-committee of the council, or by a paid officer of the council, or by any joint committee on which the council is represented; or
 - are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim bankruptcy order; or
 - have within the five years before the day of the election, or since their election, been convicted in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man of any offence and had passed on him a sentence of imprisonment of at least three months (whether suspended or not) without the option of a fine; or
 - have been found guilty of corrupt or illegal practices or were responsible for incurring unlawful expenditure and the court order their disqualification.
 - are subject to the notification requirements of Part 2 of the Sexual Offences act 2003 (section 81A of the 1972 Act, in England)³
13. The committee needs to be clear that non-members must be excluded from exempt business.

² National Association of Local Councils LTN7 – Non-councillor members of committees, paragraph 4, July 2022.

³ National association of Local Councils LTN 7 – Non-councillor member of committees, para 6a to 6e, July 2022.

14. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 23 October 2024.

John Wright
Town clerk
September 2024

From: grenville barr

Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:05 AM

To: LRTC Cllr Stuart Cockerell <LRTCCllrStuart.Cockerell@lymerregistowncouncil.gov.uk>; Mark Green <Mark.Green@lymerregistowncouncil.gov.uk>; Lyme Regis Town Council Town Clerk <townclerk@lymerregistowncouncil.gov.uk>

Cc: Laura Noel; Vicki Elcoate; Ruth Rose; Janet Breeze

Subject: Environment committee co-option

Dear Cllr Cockerell and Town Clerk

I am writing to ask you to consider me for co-option to the Environment Committee of Lyme Regis Town Council.

I am currently the chair of Plastic Free Lyme Regis and Treasurer for Turn Lyme Green.

I am a fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and have spent 40 years working in and on the built environment. I believe I have various traversable skills which would be of value to the Environment Committee in it's work for the council and citizens.

Thank you for considering my application.

Thanks and Best Wishes

Grenville,

From: JANET BREEZE

Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 9:51 AM

To: LRTC Cllr Stuart Cockerell <LRTCCllrStuart.Cockerell@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk>; Mark Green <Mark.Green@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk>; Lyme Regis Town Council Town Clerk <townclerk@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk>

Cc: Laura Noel

Subject: LRTC Environment Committee

As a Steering Group member of Turn Lyme Green (TLG) I am writing to ask to be considered for cooption onto LRTC's Environment Committee.

My background is in Corporate Social Responsibility / partnerships for development, having worked on sustainability initiatives with local and international NGOs, government, multinational companies, SMEs and multilateral agencies over many years. In Lyme Regis I organise regular litter picks and am a Trustee of the Boat Building Academy and Furniture School. I have also been a volunteer on the anti-waste / poverty initiative, the Seaside Store, since its inception.

If co-opted I would seek to provide a regular communication channel between TLG and LRTC and to identify further opportunities to enhance the already fruitful cooperation between the two.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Yours

Janet Breeze

From: Vicki Elcoate

Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 9:21 PM

To: LRTC Cllr Stuart Cockerell <LRTCCllrStuart.Cockerell@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk>; Lyme Regis Town Council Town Clerk <townclerk@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: LRTC Environment Committee

Dear Cllr Cockerell and Town Clerk

I am writing to ask you to consider me for co-option to the Environment Committee of Lyme Regis Town Council.

I am currently the chair of Dorset Climate Action Network, which commissioned the Great Big Dorset Hedge project in the town, a coordinator and founder member of the River Lim Action group and on the steering committee of Turn Lyme Green.

My background is originally as a journalist (print and TV). I have been the Director of the Council for National Parks and the Director of the UK Environmental Law Association.

If co-opted I have the support of Dorset CAN to represent their interests in climate action and nature recovery.

Thank you for considering my application.

Kind regards

Vicki Elcoate

Policy

Co-option

Purpose

To allow the council to undertake the co-option of a councillor.

Policy and legal context

This policy is applicable if the council does not fill all 14 seats at an ordinary election or if 10 electors fail to call for a by-election following a casual vacancy.

If a casual vacancy occurs within six months of an election, there is no requirement to co-opt a councillor.

The policy seeks to balance openness and sensitivity and give the electorate confidence in the impartiality and objectiveness of the co-option process.

The policy is informed by the Local Government Act 1972⁴, Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration⁵, and a legal topic note from the National Association of Local Councils⁶.

Supporting procedure

The supporting procedure is attached.

Implementation date: 16 December 2021

Review date: December 2024

John Wright
Town clerk
December 2021

⁴ Local Government Act 1972, s 83(4)

⁵ Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration 9th edition, p 51-51, Voting in council on casual vacancies, 6.15. 'A successful candidate must receive an absolute majority vote of those present and voting. It follows that if there are more than two candidates for one vacancy and no one of them at the first count receives a majority over the aggregate votes given to the rest, steps must be taken to strike off the candidate with the least number of votes and the remainder must then be put to the vote again; this process must, if necessary, be repeated again until an absolute majority is obtained. This will mostly be a satisfactory procedure, but if several candidates have obtained the same number of least votes and the aggregate of the others is less than a normal quorum (eg 3:2:2:2) it may be wise not to strike off all those with the least number of votes together but, if negotiations for withdrawals fail, to strike them off one by one, in an order determined by vote.'

⁶ NALC Legal Topic Note (LTN) 8 June 2020. Decisions made by a local council about whether or not to co-opt when vacancies remain unfilled after an ordinary election and who to co-opt when any casual vacancy arises should be transparent. In NALC's view it would be difficult for a local council to argue that there are special reasons which justify excluding the public during a council meeting when it is making decisions about a matter of public interest such as co-option. Decisions about co-option which are made at council meetings when the public have been excluded will not eliminate the need for a council to explain, for example to unsuccessful candidates, the reasons for its decisions. Registration of interests 29.

Procedure

Co-option

1. This procedure must be read in conjunction with the council's co-option policy.
2. Following notification from Dorset Council that there are fewer than 14 candidates for an ordinary election or fewer than 10 electors have called for a by-election following a casual vacancy, the full council will be notified, and the co-option process will start.
3. If a casual vacancy occurs within six months of an election, there is no requirement to co-opt a councillor.
4. Following Full Council notification, a public notice will be issued seeking candidates for co-option. The notice will be published in a local newspaper and posted on the council's website and notice board, and on social media. The public notice will give candidates at least two weeks to submit an application for co-option.
- 5.. Those considering applying for co-option will be given the opportunity to meet with the town clerk.
6. Each candidate's application must be accompanied by a qualifying address, a nominator and seconder, and a 250-word supporting statement.
7. Each candidate must also provide a written declaration to certify they meet the eligibility criteria set out in s79 of the Local Government Act 1972 and are not disqualified under s80 of the 1972 Act.
8. Receipt of applications will be confirmed, and candidates will be given a copy of the co-option policy and procedure to appraise them of the decision-making process.

The decision-making process

9. If there is only one candidate for co-option, the applicant is appointed, automatically.
10. if there is more than one candidate, the co-option appointment must be made by the full council. If appropriate, an extraordinary meeting of the full council can be arranged to consider and approve the co-option of a councillor.
11. Candidates will be invited to meet councillors 45 minutes before the start of the Full Council meeting.
12. At the Full Council meeting, applicants will be given the opportunity to give a five-minute presentation on why they are seeking co-option, and to detail their skills and experience.
13. When the candidates have made their presentations, they will be invited to adjourn to the mayor's parlour.
14. The council will vote on and move into exempt business to allow members to consider the candidates and start the process of voting for their preferred applicant.
15. If there are two candidates, members will consider each application and return to open session to vote on their preferred candidate.

The voting processes

16. If there are three or more candidates, a two-stage voting process will be entered into. At the end of stage one, two candidates will remain.

17. At any time in the process and in line with standing orders, members can request either a signed ballot or a recorded vote.

Stage one

18. Stage one of the process takes place in exempt business. The aim of this stage of the process is to reduce the number of candidates to two.
19. Members cast a single vote for their preferred candidate in one or more rounds of voting. The purpose of each voting round is to eliminate the candidate with the lowest number of votes until two remain.
20. At any stage in the process, if more than one candidate has zero votes, they will all be eliminated.
21. For illustration, if five candidates are being considered and more than one candidate has the lowest number of votes, e.g., in the first round of voting candidate A has 3 votes, candidate B has 3 votes, candidate C has 2 votes, candidate D has 2 votes and candidate E has 2 votes, then candidates A and B will go through to the next round and a further vote will take place between candidates C, D and E to establish who has the lowest number of votes. In this instance up to 12 votes will be divided among three candidates.
22. It is possible that a second vote at this, or any, stage of the elimination process may not produce a candidate for elimination, i.e., two candidates could tie with the lowest number of votes (6:3:3) or the three remaining candidates could receive the same number of votes (4:4:4).
23. In the first instance, the candidate with the highest number of votes would go through to the next stage of the process and a further round of voting would take place between the two remaining candidates. If there was a further tie, (6:6) the mayor would exercise their casting vote in favour of their preferred candidate and the remaining candidate would be eliminated.
24. In the second instance, the mayor would exercise their casting vote in favour of a candidate and a further vote would be held between the remaining two candidates.
25. The process will repeat itself until two candidates are left.

Stage two

26. The council will move back into open session; the candidates will be invited back into the council chamber and they will be informed of the council's decision, i.e., who has been eliminated and the two remaining candidates.
27. A vote is taken on the two remaining candidates and the successful co-option candidate approved by resolution of the council.
28. On request, the town clerk will provide feedback to unsuccessful candidates.

Declaration of acceptance of office

29. The successful candidate will be asked to sign their declaration of acceptance of office.

Implementation date: 16 December 2021

Review date: December 2024

Author: John Wright, town clerk

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, SOUTH WEST WATER/PENNON GROUP, DORSET COUNCIL &
LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL BATHING WATER QUALITY MEETING 6

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 JUNE 2024
AT 12PM IN THE LYME REGIS GUILDHALL

Chairman & Secretary: Matt Adamson-Drage, Lyme Regis Town Council Operations Manager.

Members:

Jim Flory, Environment Agency Area Environment Manager – Hampshire Avon.
Chris Angel, Environment Agency Area Officer.
Alan Burrows, South West Water - Director of Environmental Liaison and Culture.
Jay Harris, South West Water – Regional Operations Manager.
Carolyn Cadman, South West Water – Director of Natural Resources.
Tristan Kelsall-Spurr, South West Water – Senior Environmental Manager.
Cllr Belinda Bawden, Dorset Councillor for Lyme Regis and Charmouth & Lyme Regis Town Councillor.
Cllr Philip May, Lyme Regis Town Council.
Cllr Stuart Cockerell, Lyme Regis Town Council .
Vicki Elcoate, Lyme Regis River Lim Action group.
Liz Davis, Lyme Regis River Lim Action group.
Rob Thomas, River Lim Action group.
Matthew Penny, Service Manager for Flood and Coastal Erosion, Dorset Council.
Adam Steele, Project Engineer, Dorset Council.
Ian Fitz, Project Engineer, Dorset Council.
Blair Turner, Community Highways Officer, Dorset Council.

Apologies:

Carolyn Cadman
Jay Harris
Cllr Belinda Bawden
Cllr Stuart Cockerell
Liz Davis
Matthew Penny
Ian Fitz
Blair Turner

Purpose of Meeting

The meeting was convened from a resolution of the Lyme Regis Town Council's Environment Committee. The purpose was to encourage all relevant parties to work collaboratively and to identify and implement solutions for potential poor bathing water quality on Front beach. The inaugural meeting was held 14 December 2022. This was the sixth meeting. The meetings are held quarterly.

ITEM 1. INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting commenced with introductions around the table for newer members of the meeting.

ITEM 2. MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING / ACTIONS

Matters Arising / Actions from 12 March 2024 meeting:

- a. Gully blockages beach side of the Royal Standard pub/Harbour Inn (work to add a positive outfall).

Adam Steele said he would send out a report from DC's drain survey & testing on Marine Parade. He also said he would contact Michael Hansford about the latest news on the gully blockage outside the beach side of the Royal Standard. DC were allocating a figure for funding in their capital budget, due in September, for the improvements needed at the west end of the seafront to fix pollution problems there. DC would also carry out monitoring at 4 points around the groyne on Front Beach having found bacterial contamination there in January 2024.

Action DC

- b. Drain investigation outside the Boat Building Academy.

SWW had supplied leaflets about what should not be put down a toilet and LRTC had distributed them to the chalets.

SWW had checked the drain outside the Boat Building Academy recently as requested but no odour was present. Matt Adamson-Drage asked if they could come back and check in the height of summer. Alan Burrows suggested that if the problem recurs that the Boat Building Academy should report it directly to SWW. Matt Adamson-Drage agreed to let the Boat Building Academy know to report smells from the drains outside their front door.

Action LRTC

- c. Monmouth Beach possible CSO deterioration and smell

Chris Angell said he had attended recently and seen nothing and stressed that it must be reported when seen. Alan Burrows reiterated that it was important to have timely reports. These should be made as soon as any discharge was seen and not a day or more later.

Action RLA (if able)

- d. Uplyme Sewage Works upgrade.

118 metres of rising main had been repaired/replaced but there was still a section within the treatment works that required relining, which was due in July.

There was no further news on the 2027 upgrade plan. Alan Burrows would update the meeting when there was further news.

- e. Church Cliff Beach - bathing designation.

Vicki Elcoate explained that Church Cliff beach had been designated as a bathing water and information was available on the DEFRA Swim Info website.

Matt Adamson-Drage asked if the EA had any water quality data from the beach yet. Jim Flory explained that although only a few weeks readings had been taken, the samples,

except for one, were suggesting that the water quality was okay so far but that it was early days. DC were responsible for updating the statutory bathing water quality signage at this beach.

Alan Burrows spoke about WaterFit Live and that it was showing the associated CSOs and latest discharges pertinent to that beach.

Rob Thomas asked about pollution risk forecasting and notices. Jim Flory explained.

The discussion turned to the effects on the beach from the river.

Vicki Elcoate asked about how the agencies were reducing pollution and Jim Flory and Chris Angell spoke about walkover surveys of the river where EA staff waded up the river and investigated potential sites of misconnection. Tristan Kelsall-Spurr was keen to collaborate with the EA on what had been checked and cross reference SWW data.

There was some discussion about misconnections at Mill Green and about the Town Mill brewery and their required abstraction licence. Tristan Kelsall-Spurr's team had been investigating misconnections in these areas with inconclusive results. They were also attempting to gain access to some properties to conduct dye testing. Work was ongoing.

What was needed was a big map of all the drains at the bottom of the river.

Action SWW

Tristan Kelsall-Spurr also spoke about a possible consistent pollution source from possible contamination from further upriver above Uplyme sewage treatment works. Further investigation was required.

Vicki Elcoate asked for a map of the drains around Coombe Street/Mill Green for Liz Davis.

Action SWW

RLA were due to finally complete the ecological study of the river and agreed to send the report to all stakeholders as soon as it was available.

Action RLA

Vicki Elcoate mentioned the Sonde near the anchor at Cobb Gate car park and that it may require housing with a kiosk.

Philip May spoke about the valve at the Town Mill. SWW offered help and Tristan Kelsall-Spurr would talk to Networks.

ITEM 4: EA UPDATE

Vicki Elcoate asked if the EA receive more funding now there were more beaches to monitor the water quality at? Jim Flory said sadly not.

Vicki Elcoate said the Wild Trout Trust were coming later in June to look at the fish passage on the river.

The EA would repeat the microbial source tracking this year.

Action EA

Jim Flory was asked about the rubble at the peat bog at Shapwick and the oil spill elsewhere but he hadn't had the details sent to him. The RLA would email the details to him.

Action RLA

In general, Front Beach water quality monitoring results so far this year were looking good and Church Cliff Beach was looking okay, except for one early poor spike.

ITEM 5: SWW UPDATE

Alan Burrows informed the meeting that the OFWAT draft determination was delayed due to the general election. It was now due for publication on the 12th July 2024. A consultation period will follow and SWW will also respond, and the final plan should be issued by the end of the year.

ITEM 6: RLA UPDATE

Rob Thomas asked if the RLA group could have the Sonde data. Alan Burrows said it would be available to the RLA group soon but without further explanation. Alan Burrows also said that a link could be provided to the Sonde results database, for the RLA, so the data could be viewed going forwards.

Action SWW

Vicki Elcoate said that local volunteers had been pulling out Himalayan Balsam up and down the river and also praised the recent SWW roadshow. There was some discussion around responsibilities for tidying up the vegetation along the river. Various owners of land along the riverbank were responsible. The EA in recent years have annually sent a team to reduce the vegetation but this was about reducing the potential for flooding from floodwater, rather than controlling growth along the riverbanks.

ITEM 7: DC UPDATE

None.

ITEM 8: LRTC UPDATE

None.

ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 10: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be scheduled for a date/time in September 2024. An email would be sent to all parties nearer the time to establish a preferred date.

The meeting closed at 1.20pm.

Committee: Environment committee

Date: 2 October 2024

Title: River Lim Action Group Report

Purpose of Report

To receive an update report from the River Lim Action Group

Recommendation

Members note the report from the River Lim Action Group

Report

1. The River Lim Action Group's latest update report is attached at **appendix 11A**.
2. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 23 October 2024.

Adrienne Mullins
Support services manager
September 2024

River Lim Action group update**Environment Committee, Lyme Regis Town Council****Meeting October 2nd 2024**

This is an update report from the River Lim Action group. Much of our work is funded by the Environment Committee, for which we are grateful, and we report on the work we have been carrying out and have planned.

Monitoring

Since Church Beach was designated as a bathing beach the Environment Agency has been carrying out weekly monitoring during the bathing season. This monitoring - for two pollution indicator bacteria - has already been going on at Front Beach.

The good news is that – after our joint meetings on bathing water quality with South West Water, the Environment Agency and Dorset Council (facilitated by the Town Council) – water quality at Front Beach seems to have improved this summer. This is a good example of the members of the joint meetings sharing information and resources. The River Lim Action Group identified repeated problems, South West Water repaired blocked and cracked pipes along Marine Parade, Lyme Regis Town Council carried out work at Swim and Dorset Council is considering a capital investment programme for permanent improvements to the surface water drainage issues on the seafront. There was just a slight rise in one of the indicators during August, but no big pollution spike, as there has been in previous years.

Church Beach is affected by pollution coming down the river. This poor situation was reflected in very high pollution levels when the beach was previously monitored prior to 2015 when it was de-designated. The situation seems to have improved but on occasion is still not satisfactory given it is now a designated bathing beach. We will be raising this matter again with South West Water. As well as considerable sewage discharges from the CSOs in the river, there is also consistent evidence of unidentified sewage leakage towards the mouth of the river and by the bridge in Springhead Road, Uplyme. A spike on 8th August followed failures in the drainage system in Uplyme and subsequent remedial work. River Lim Action has been carrying out water quality testing including laboratory testing for *E.Coli* (kits and lab tests funded by the town council). Our testing has confirmed that while *E.Coli* levels remain high in the river, they are lower than they have been in recent years before the leaks at Woodmead Road (and we hope Mill Green) were identified and addressed. There is still sewage from unidentified sources in the lower river, but we remain positive that the water quality at Church Beach will improve with further effort.

The group has spent many hours trying to correlate pollution levels and discharges with rainfall (as sewage discharges should only happen after exceptional rainfall). We have compared rainfall with all available data from the continuous Sonde monitors in the river, SWW, EA and RLA monitoring results and sewage alerts. It is very complex exercise and we are very grateful to the RLA member who has dedicated time and expertise to this difficult task.

SWW Waterfit Live should enable us to follow in real time the discharges on the river and from the Cobb to provide better information than previously. It should give accurate alerts of poor bathing water quality. However, we have serious concerns about the usefulness and accuracy of some of this information and are following this up with SWW with a view to helping them improve it.

It was so disappointing that the Lyme Splash charity swim had to be cancelled because of fears about water quality. As it happened there was heavy rainfall and the Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works overflow discharged on the evening before the swim and 15 times on the day itself. This is a strong indicator of the need for SWW to press ahead swiftly with an upgrade at the works to reduce spills.

Our aim is to bring together all the available data and produce a report to improve understanding of what is affecting the water quality in the river.

Next bathing water quality meeting

The RLA, Town Council (which is organising the meeting), SWW, EA and Dorset Council are due to meet on October 1st to monitor progress on the clean up so urgently needed. We are happy to help with any briefings needed for this.

Invasive species

Himalayan Balsam

The RLA has organised five official sessions to pull out Himalayan Balsam in the water catchment area, and several ad hoc sessions. They have involved dozens of volunteers and some landowners have been joining in on their own land thanks to the awareness raised. Thanks to the Town Council for funding the equipment needed. Next year we will adopt a different strategy (more intensive work in the peak growing season) and aim to encourage even more volunteers to get involved.

Japanese Knotweed

The contractor has started work on treating this invasive plant in Bumpy Field. It was been found growing in the town which is of concern and this has been brought to the attention of the Town Council. It needs professional treatment and is not something volunteers can deal with.

Future plans

The Town Council has agreed to fund woody debris in the river, to slow down flow and improve habitat for invertebrates. This work will be carried out in the winter by contractors, once we have the agreement of landowners.

The Wild Trout Trust has visited the river and written an encouraging report on the possibility of improving habitat for trout in the river. There are four blockages where fish passes would help, enabling the trout to return to the sea and increase genetic diversity. More detail on this and how the work might be funded can be provided at the meeting.

Events

The RLA led a river walk for World Rivers Day on September 22nd as part of the opening proceedings for a two week exhibition at the Malthouse Gallery about Water.

Two of the members of the Environment Committee have booked places on a tour of the Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works, organised by the RLA, on October 3rd.

We are planning a social event with speakers after Christmas to help raise public awareness and ensure the issues around water quality are kept in the spotlight.

Report by the River Lim Action coordinating team (the RLA is part of Turn Lyme Green)

Committee: Environment

Date: 2 October 2024

Title: Budget Report

Purpose of Report

To allow members to consider the 2024-25 budget position, which includes sums accrued from 2023-24

Recommendation

Members note the report and consider initiatives for 2024-25

Background

1. Following a recommendation by the Strategy and Finance Committee, on 15 December 2021, the Full Council approved a resolution to:

‘commit £75,000 over the remaining life of the council, i.e. £25,000 per year, to carry out a climate action plan.’

2. The funding years are 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25.
3. In 2023-24, the £25,000 budget allocation was not fully spent. Three projects were deferred to 2024-25, and the associated budgets were accrued:

	£
The Great Big Dorset Hedge	1,364
River Lim Action Group	8,036
Baseline biodiversity assessment	1,200

4. In addition, the 2023-24 budget had a projected underspend of £4,496 and following a recommendation from this committee, on 13 March 2024, the Full Council resolved:

‘that the £4,496 left in the 2023-24 environment budget is earmarked to go towards the use of biodiesel in council tractor and other vehicles, in principle.’

Report

5. Spend against the accrued 2023-24 budgets is:

	£
Liver Lim Action Group	1,879
Great Big Dorset Hedge	1,086

6. The baseline biodiversity assessment has been undertaken but the council has not been invoiced.
7. There is a report elsewhere on the agenda on the transition to biodiesel.
8. Projects for spend against the 2024-25 environment budget have not been identified.
9. 2024-25 is the final year of this budget allocation. A request for a further environment budget should be made to the Strategy and Finance Committee on 9 October 2023.

10. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 23 October 2024.

John Wright
Town clerk
September 2024

Committee: Environment

Date: 2 October 2024

Title: Dorset Council's Nature Emergency Declaration

Purpose of Report

To outline Dorset Council's Nature Emergency Declaration

Recommendation

Members consider the development of a local nature emergency with clear objectives and timelines

Report

1. Following on from its climate and ecological emergency declaration in 2019, on 18 July 2024 Dorset Council declared a Nature Emergency.
2. The rationale for the motion is a recognition that nature is in decline and urgent action is required to reverse this.
3. The purpose of the declaration is to help strengthen Dorset Council's ambitions to create a carbon neutral, nature positive and resilient Dorset as outlined in its [Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology strategy](#). Dorset Council recognises the nature crises and climate emergency are intrinsically linked and that the impacts of climate crises drive nature's decline and that restoring nature can help to tackle the climate crises.
4. Dorset Council is already developing a [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) for the county and is working closely with farmers, landowners, businesses, and organisations to identify priorities, opportunities and actions to recover nature in Dorset.
5. Dorset Council's declaration commits to further supporting this work, as well as embedding nature's recovery at the heart of Dorset Council's plans.
6. Other commitments in the council's nature emergency declaration include removing and restricting the use of glyphosate and other chemicals damaging to nature, reducing pressure on wildlife and wildlife corridors, and improving access to nature, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
7. A copy of the motion approved by Dorset Council is attached, **appendix 13A**.
8. The scale and influence Dorset Council has over the natural environment is much greater than Lyme Regis Town Council, nevertheless, the policy position adopted by Dorset Council has some 'read across' and members may wish to consider the development of a local nature emergency with clear objectives and timelines.
9. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 23 October 2024.

John Wright
Town clerk
September 2024

This council:

1. Declares that there is a nature emergency, recognising:
 - a. That nature is in long term decline and urgent action must be taken to reverse this, that the UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries - in the bottom 10% globally and the worst in the G7 - and with only about half its biodiversity left that it is far below the global average;
 - b. That a thriving natural environment underpins a healthy, prosperous society, that it benefits our physical and mental health, feeds us, cleans our air, moderates urban heat, alleviates flooding, absorbs carbon, makes 6 counties like Dorset beautiful and that its survival and diversity is essential to human life;
 - c. That the nature crisis and the climate emergency are intrinsically linked and that the impacts of the climate crisis drive nature's decline, while restoring nature can help to tackle the climate crisis.
2. Notes the positive work already begun and planned by this council including:
 - d. The strategic intent as encapsulated in its Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology strategy, alongside the council's role as responsible authority for the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the county of Dorset.
 - e. The work already undertaken to promote biodiversity in the council's own country parks and greenspaces, farms, highway verges, watercourses, designated areas, woodland, local nature reserves and other natural areas.
 - f. Hosting the Dorset National Landscape Partnership and supporting its nature recovery work with a wide range of stakeholders, including coordinating the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve partnership and the West Dorset Rivers and Coastal Streams catchment, and making significant investments in nature through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.
3. Commits to embed nature's recovery at the heart of all strategic plans, including the forthcoming Dorset local plan, policy areas and decision-making processes, building upon the climate decision-wheel and the Nature Recovery Dorset brand.
4. Having declared a climate emergency in 2019, commits to tackling the climate and nature emergencies together and investing in nature-based solutions to the challenges posed by climate change, including mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to increased climate risk such as flooding and extreme summer heat.
5. Facilitate the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Dorset, working with farmers, landowners, businesses, organisations and NGO's so that there are agreed priorities, opportunities and reportable actions to recover nature across Dorset.
6. Set clear strategic and measurable goals for nature's recovery by 2030 and its contribution towards mitigating carbon emissions and increasing our resilience to climate change, for example:
 - a. Contributing to the national commitment to protect 30% of land for nature by 2030, in line with the UK's international commitment to biodiversity and the Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology strategy and set out in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Dorset.
 - b. Supporting the Dorset and Cranborne Chase National Landscapes to meet/exceed their apportionment of the Environmental Improvement Plan targets
 - c. Making space for nature and the long-term maintenance and expansion of the Nature Recovery Network.
 - d. Improving biodiversity on Dorset Council land including our farms, highway verge, country parks and other greenspace by, for example planting trees and hedgerows, lowering soil fertility on verges and encouraging community orchards and the establishment of allotments.

- e. Working with farmers, landowners, town & parish councils and other external partners to improve biodiversity, increase tree cover and woodland, and green our streets.
- f. Remove the use of glyphosate and chemicals damaging to ecosystems/nature where possible.
- g. Reducing pressure on wildlife and developing wildlife corridors.
- h. Improving doorstep access to nature, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds and those wards already identified as having the worst access to nature.
- i. Supporting communities and businesses to make better decisions and take action to support nature's recovery.
- j. Developing a strategic perspective on natural flood management solutions, working with key partners and stakeholders.

In presenting the motion the Leader of the Council proposed and set out the following amendment and this was also seconded by Cllr C Sutton.

To Delete 6(f)

- f. Remove the use of glyphosate and chemicals damaging to ecosystems/nature where possible.

And replace with

- f. Remove or restrict the use of glyphosate and other chemicals damaging to ecosystems/nature and commit to a glyphosate reduction plan.

And add new paragraph 6(k)

- k. Extend the ban on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on Dorset Council owned land to include new tenancies of our county farm estate.

In accordance with the Procedure Rule 14.3 (a) the Notice of Motion (as amended) was debated and upon being put to the vote the amendment was CARRIED.

Following further debate of the substantive motion, it was proposed by Cllr R Bryan and seconded by Cllr S Flower "that this matter be deferred to a future meeting of Council, until after an all-member webinar had been held and a programme for the proposal had been fully costed."

Upon being put to the vote the motion to defer was LOST.

Committee: Environment

Date: 2 October 2024

Title: Migration to Battery Powered Equipment

Purpose of Report

To inform members of officer proposals for migration to battery powered equipment

Recommendation

Members note the report

Report

1. As part of the council's path to net carbon zero by 2030, the external works' team will migrate from fossil-powered to battery-powered equipment. The equipment includes strimmers, hedge cutters, blowers and mowers
2. The timing of the migration is informed by the estimated life left in equipment, the ability of battery-powered equipment to undertake the tasks required, and the cost of the transition.

Strimmers

3. The council owns six strimmers which are coming to the end of their useful lives. The cost of a battery-powered strimmer, including the battery and charger is c.£2,000; the cost of a comparable fossil-fuelled strimmer is c.£1,000.
4. Officers propose six lithium battery-powered strimmer kits are purchased in 2025-26 at a cost of c.£12,000.

Hedge cutters

5. The council owns two long-arm and two short-arm hedge cutters which are coming towards the end of their useful lives. The respective cost of battery-powered hedge cutters are c.£600 and c.£800, including batteries and chargers. These costs are c.100% greater than comparable fossil-fuelled hedge cutters.
6. Officers propose two battery-powered hedge cutters are purchased in 2025-26 at a cost of £1,400 and two battery-powered hedge cutters are purchased in 2026-27 at a cost of £1,400.

Blowers

7. The council owns two backpack blowers and two handheld blowers; each blower retains useful life. The respective cost of battery-powered blowers, including batteries and charger is £2,000 and £1,200 per unit. These costs are approximately four times greater than comparable fossil-fuelled blowers.
8. Because of the useful life left in each unit and the cost of migration to battery-powered blowers, officers propose they are replaced in 2028-29 at a total cost of £6,400.

Mowers

9. The council owns one ride-on mower and eight self-propelled/push mowers (two rough cut mowers, three mulching mowers and three mowers); all mowers have several years of useful life.

10. The respective costs of electric-powered mowers are estimated at c.£7,300 and c.£1,700. This is only c.20-30% greater than the cost of equivalent fossil-fuelled mowers.
11. However, the major issue with battery-powered mowers is their operating times, typically 40 minutes to one hour. The ride-on mower is charged like an electric car and its charging time, typically four hours, means it will be non-operational for most of the day.
12. Consequently, officers are proposing replacement is deferred and reviewed closer to 2029-30. The development of carbon-battery technology may provide a solution to this problem.
13. The council will set its 2025-26 budget and draft five-year financial plan between 9 October and 11 December 2024, and this committee could submit proposals on the transition to battery-powered equipment to the Strategy and Finance Committee on 9 October for consideration.
14. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 23 October 2024.

John Wright
Town clerk
September 2024

Committee: Environment

Date: 2 October 2024

Title: Use of Biodiesel/HVO in council vehicles

Purpose of Report

To inform members about the latest position with the possible use of biodiesel/HVO in the council's three current diesel vehicles.

Recommendation

Members consider the latest position with the possible use of biodiesel/HVO in the council's three current diesel vehicles and instruct officers how to proceed.

Background

1. Members have previously considered reports about the possible use of biodiesel/HVO in its three current diesel vehicles, including the relatively recently acquired tractor.
2. After noting the various pros and cons involved with the use of the fuel, there was general support for the use of the fuel as a measure to help towards the council's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. However, it was noted that more detailed information was required about a range of issues, including, vehicle compatibility, price and availability.

Report

3. Since the last meeting of this committee, the further information has been obtained from Crown Fuels, one of the largest national suppliers of biodiesel/HVO. That information is attached in **appendices 15A** and **B**.
4. From this information, it would appear that the council's three current diesel vehicles, including the tractor, can run safely on 100% biodiesel/HVO. It is also clear that the price per litre is almost identical to 'normal' diesel, even at relatively small quantities.
5. Based on the supplier's calculations, running all three vehicles on biodiesel/HVO would result in a reduction of CO² emissions from about 7,500 kgs p.a. to about 750 kgs. Fuel consumption would remain very similar with a possible small improvement.
6. The fuel would be delivered by tanker to site and the thinking is that the tank could best be accommodated adjacent to the new harbour store in a secure area. The council's vehicles could then be filled from that location. The tractor will be stored at this site in future, as will the beach rake, so having the ability to refuel there would also reduce overall road miles, achieving further benefits in that regard.
7. The council would not require a large tank, probably 2,500 ltrs total at most. The cost for a suitable double walled tank of this size is anything between £2-4k. To that would need to be added some modest pump and hose related costs. An overall cost of not more than £5k should be achievable. This is the figure previously suggested to members.

8. The size of the tank needs to be kept to a sensible minimum and the fuel supply refreshed at least quarterly to avoid potential deterioration of the fuel which can occur after extended storage periods.
9. Although the council is looking to move away from diesel as part of its programme of vehicle renewals, about 60% of fuel consumption and about 70% of CO² emissions relate to the tractor. Given this is the council's most recent vehicle and is unlikely to be replaced for at least another 7/8 years, the officer view is that the change to a 'greener' fuel and the investment involved still makes sense in the short-medium term.
10. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 23 October 2024.

Mark Green
Deputy town clerk
September 2024

Hi Mark,

Thank you for the information, so I've spoken with our technical director and he has shed a lot of light on the matter.

So good news is that it is warranted by New Holland, this may be a little long winded but I'll get there so please follow with me:

CNH (owners of New Holland) use FPT Industrial Engines (the ones that are in your tractors – FPT have approved HVO (attached)

New Holland themselves have also approved HVO in their Tractors – I have attached a brochure from 2021 for their T7's. I know that that's the newer model however the engines ultimately are the same.

Ultimately it's the engine manufacturers themselves that hold the warranty on the vehicles – so it's ultimately FPT that would warrant the engine or not. We also did a third party trial ourselves with New Holland Tractors 4 years ago and everything was fine.

Ford & Mitsubishi have definitely warranted the use of HVO so I wouldn't worry about them. In terms of the consumption, HVO is similar to diesel, we won't rant and rave about the consumption benefits (as users do see a slight increase especially in short stop-start scenarios like yours are doing) but it's negligible so we can guarantee it won't be any worse but you should see a little improvement.

Just to give you an idea on what can be achieved, if you're CO2 emissions are 7500kg at the moment, switching to HVO will reduce that down to just 754kg believe it or not.

Let me know if this helps you with the approval side of things?

Thankyou

Jack Harkin

HVO Renewable and Sustainability Fuel Specialist

j.harkin@crownoil.co.uk

www.crownoil.co.uk

t: [0330 123 1444](tel:03301231444)

The Oil Centre, Bury BL9 7HY

No probs Mark,

Let me know if any unanswerable questions crop up at the meeting that I can assist with.

In terms of pricing to give you some rough indication (obviously it still changes with the fuel market) You're talking between **130 – 140ppl** for the fuel depending on the volumes that you actually get delivered (larger volumes = lower price)

With the tanks a rough price for a 5,300L tank is around £4-5k depending on the exact spec that you want.

Hope this helps and as I said – anything you need drop me a call.

Kind regards,

Jack Harkin

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The Oil Centre, Bury BL9 7HY

Committee: Environment

Date: 2 October 2024

Title: Appointment to Repairs' Café Steering Group

Purpose of Report

To allow members to consider appointing a member to the Repairs' Café Steering Group

Recommendation

Members consider appointing a member to the Repairs' Café Steering Group

Background

1. One of the council's objectives for 2023-24 was to support the setting up of a repairs' café. The project has been deferred to 2024-25 and regular updates are provided to the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee as one of its objectives.

Report

2. Plans to set up a repairs' café are now well underway and are being led by the Boat Building Academy (BBA), where the café would be hosted on a Saturday morning every month.
3. The council has a budget of £15k to support the introduction of a repairs' café and from then on, it will be run entirely by the BBA and its team of volunteers. It is likely they will require small amounts of ongoing funding and this could be the subject of community grants in future.
4. The BBA has set up a steering group to take the idea forward and has asked if a member of the Environment Committee would like to sit on the group
5. Although supporting the introduction of a repairs' café is a Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee objective, the aims of a repairs café to prevent waste, reduce carbon emissions and encourage people to reduce, reuse and recycle (as well as saving money) sit well with this committee.
6. Further information has been requested about how often the steering group meets, when and where it meets and what it aims to do. This will be reported verbally at the meeting.
7. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 23 October 2024.

Adrienne Mullins
Support services manager
September 2024

Committee: Environment

Date: 2 October 2024

Title: Low Carbon Dorset Exhibition

Purpose of Report

To inform members about the Low Carbon Dorset Exhibition that took place at the Jubilee Pavilion from 23 to 28 September 2024

Recommendation

Members note the report

Report

1. From 23 to 28 September 2024, Low Carbon Dorset hosted an exhibition at the Jubilee Pavilion.
2. The exhibition involved a combination of photographic and textual displays provided by Low Carbon Dorset, on behalf of Dorset Council, Western Area Transport Action Group, Little Green Change, Dorset Climate Action Network, Turn Lyme Green, River Lim Action Group, The Big Bike Revival, and Lyme Regis Town Council.
3. In addition, the exhibition hosted a waste and recycling event on 24 September and a sustainable transport event on 26 September 2024.
4. The town council's display featured our journey to net zero and credited those organisations we work in partnership with. The town council's display posters are attached, **appendix 17A**.
5. The organisers of the event are recording c.50 visitors a day and estimate the total number of visitors will be in the region of 300.
6. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 23 October 2024.

John Wright
Town clerk
September 2024

Committee: Environment

Date: 2 October 2024

Title: Citizens Advice Energy Advice

Purpose of Report

To inform members of a Citizens Advice proposal to provide energy advice in Lyme Regis.

Recommendation

Members note the report

Report

1. The Citizens Advice energy bus was launched in Weymouth on Tuesday 10 September 2024.
2. Discussions between Citizens Advice and Lyme Regis Development Trust are ongoing about the delivery of an energy advice surgery at The Hub on the morning of the first Thursday of each month; the surgery coincides with the cafe at The Hub. This is Citizens Advice's preferred method of delivery and utilises employees from its energy bus.
3. When the decision is finalised, the town council will advertise these surgeries on its website and social media platforms and in its newsletter.
4. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 23 October 2024.

John Wright
Town clerk
September 2024