

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 2025

Present:

Chairman: Cllr S. Cockerell

Members: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr P. May, Cllr M. Denney, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner

Other members: V. Elcoate, G. Barr

Officers: K. Newman (administrative and community engagement assistant), P. Williams (acting operations manager), J. Wright (town clerk)

24/59/ENV Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

24/60/ENV Apologies

Cllr A. Wood
Cllr S. Larcombe
J. Breeze

24/61/ENV Minutes

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2025, were **ADOPTED**.

24/62/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

24/63/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

24/64/ENV Matters Arising

Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation

A member asked how the rate for Speak Carbon Collective compared to the previous rates paid to the Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN) and where the funding was coming from.

The town clerk said he would circulate information on DCAN costs. He said the funds would come from the training budget.

Use of Biodiesel/HVO in council vehicles

A member asked if the biodiesel tank had been delivered yet.

The acting operations manager said it was due for delivery within the week.

24/65/ENV

Update Reports

Electric Supply to Gardens Lighting

A member said this had been ongoing for months and asked if the deputy town clerk could prioritise it.

The town clerk said he would bring an update to the next meeting, together with a costing report based on consumption and estimated works' costs.

24/66/ENV

To receive the minutes of the Bathing Water Quality meeting on 14 January 2025

Members discussed the draft Environment Agency plan on cleaning up Church Cliff Beach, which had been welcomed by the River Lim Action Group as it required South West Water to improve water quality.

It was noted an excessive amount of sewage had spilled in January and February 2025 and was ongoing for 12 days. Some of the spills carried on for more than 24 hours and 48 hours after it had stopped raining and were outside of the definition of a 'legally allowed spill'. The Environment Agency would monitor this weekly during the bathing water season.

It was noted cleansing works were due to take place at Gun Cliff the following week.

Concerning the overall management of bathing water quality meetings, the town clerk said there needed to be an agreement about organisations' roles and responsibilities.

Proposed by Cllr S. Cockerell and seconded by Cllr P. May, the minutes of the bathing water quality meeting on 14 January 2025 were **RECEIVED**.

24/67/ENV

Review of Environment Policy

Proposed Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to amend the Environment Policy to add a clause to the introduction at 1.2 as follows: 'Lyme Regis Town Council would also seek to enhance biodiversity and promote nature recovery on land managed and/owned by the town council'.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to amend clause 7.2 of the Environment Policy to include 'internet (e.g. Teams)'.

A member asked when council's performance against its environment policy was last reviewed and by whom.

Cllr S. Cockerell said he would investigate this and report back at the next meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. P May and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the review period of the council's environment policy be amended from one year to three years.

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr P. May, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the environment policy is amended to add 'business community' in paragraph 1.1.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to ask officers to look up a more accurate description of 'scope 3 emissions' and correct it in the environment policy so it was better clarified.

24/68/ENV

The establishment of a working group for the achievement of net zero carbon emissions by 2030

The town clerk said if the working group was formed, the committee needed to decide if non-members would be allowed to vote at those meetings. He said the working group wouldn't be making direct recommendations to Full Council and felt non-members should be allowed to vote.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that non-members are allowed to vote at working group meetings.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the Environment Committee establishes a working group aiming to help Lyme Regis Town Council establish net zero emissions by 2030 and beyond and that the town council adopts the terms of reference, with all members being able to vote.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** Cllr P. May, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr C. Aldridge, V. Elcoate, and J. Breeze be appointed to the working group for the achievement of net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

24/69/ENV

Climate Action Plan

The town clerk said the plan hadn't been fully populated but it would be populated with actions for the next meeting.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council adopts the draft Climate Action Plan and the activities proposed within it, and to instruct the newly created working

group to continue to develop this plan and to ensure the council achieves net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and beyond.

It was requested that comments on the climate action plan are sent to the acting operations manager to be discussed at the next working group meeting.

24/70/ENV River Lim Action Group Report

It was requested that someone from the town council attended the group's invitation only event on 21 March 2025.

24/71/ENV Biodiversity Assessment Report

The acting operations manager said he was satisfied with the recommendations for introducing biodiversity into the town's green spaces.

There were concerns the report didn't give a clear picture of what the baseline data was and, therefore, how actions could be measured. Members agreed the report wasn't a proper biodiversity baseline assessment, and that one was still needed.

It was proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Turner that the town council commissions a biodiversity baseline assessment of the town council's gardens, parks and green spaces and wider operations funded from the £5k budgeted for biodiversity improvements from 2025/26 budget.

The motion was not voted on.

The operations manager said a more in-depth ecological survey could be carried out if members felt it was necessary, but this would be expensive.

Members asked that officers obtained more information about carrying out a biodiversity baseline assessment of town council land, including scope and costs so members could make an informed decision.

The town clerk suggested putting this forward as an objective for 2026-27.

It was noted Great Big Dorset Hedge did free hedgerow surveys and could do one for the town council.

The acting operations manager said the council could make a start and order 10 bat boxes and 10 bird boxes and create a small nature pond, using funds from the £5k budget for 2025-26. He said the already established woodland walk area would be a good place to implement some of the recommendations from the report.

A member suggested planting more wildflowers in the scrub and grassland areas as well as the night scented plants area.

The acting operations manager said the council needed to consider how it wanted the gardens to look throughout the year because wildflowers looked good for a short time but then went on to look untidy. He said that the night scented plants area could

be enhanced with minimal effort and the signage and QR codes in the gardens were already planned for 2025-26.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the town council should pick up on the words from the conclusion of the biodiversity assessment to determine its priorities and research the costs and methodology that would result in a more comprehensive biodiversity survey across the council's assets.

24/72/ENV

Solar Roofs Project

It was suggested this project now needed to move towards organising a public session and inviting residents and solar roofing contractors, but resources were needed to be able to do so.

The town clerk said office staff would be able to assist with the design of leaflets.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council supports the solar roof scheme initiative led by DCAN and commits to use the town council's communication channels to help with its promotion and publicity.

The town clerk said the first edition of the resident's magazine would likely be released in May and that a write-up of the event could be included to promote the solar roof scheme to residents.

The meeting ended 8:09pm.