

## LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

### TOWN MANAGEMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 JULY 2018

##### Present

**Chairman:** Cllr J. Broom

**Members:** Cllr Mrs M. Ellis, Cllr D. Hallett, Cllr P. Hicks, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr S. Miller, Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, Cllr J. Scowen, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr S. Williams

**Officers:** Mr M. Adamson-Drage (operations manager), Mr M. Green (deputy town clerk), Mrs A. Mullins (administrative officer)

18/16/TMH

##### Public Forum

###### Mr P. Evans

Mr Evans spoke in relation to agenda item 9, Teen Shelter at Anning Road Playing Field. He said he was grateful the council was considering this issue and was particularly grateful to Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds for trying to resolve the matter in an amicable and friendly way. He said it was not a question of noise anymore, as nearby residents now believed there was great danger to young children. Mr Evans said his neighbour's 10-year-old child was now frightened to go to the playing field. He said although the police had claimed they regularly patrolled the area, none of the residents could remember seeing them, and claims the police had not received any complaints were untrue but they couldn't understand why the complaints had not been recorded. Mr Evans said there was a huge amount of drug-taking, but not by younger children using the field, who the residents had no issues with. He said there was underage drinking and incidents of simulated sex in front of young children, which they should not be exposed to. Mr Evans said it appeared a drug pusher was regularly going there and he didn't want to think of the consequences if someone took a particularly dangerous batch of drugs. He said he believed it was a problem the council had to try and find a solution to, although he appreciated this was very difficult. He said the only solution may be to move the shelter but he didn't know where it could be re-located.

###### Mr V. Turner

Mr Turner spoke in relation to the same agenda item. He said he was assaulted by someone at the teen shelter recently and had reported this to the police. He said he refuted police claims there had been no reports of anti-social behaviour in the area as two of his neighbours had made complaints and were given crime numbers. Mr Turner said the previous weekend he had picked up three empty canisters of 'happy gas'. He said the residents had no problem with younger children using the shelter, but the recent problems had been with a group of older people, who were waking people up in the middle of the night. He said these people were arriving in vehicles and parking them behind their houses, and bringing with them loud sound systems and lights. He agreed with Mr Evans that there was also drug-taking.

### **Mr J. Kendrick**

Mr Kendrick spoke in relation to the same agenda item. He said on the previous weekend, a group of people were drinking alcohol at the shelter at 4pm, tearing up the cans and throwing them on the ground where children played, as well as bottles. Mr Kendrick said someone had to be to blame and if someone was injured, he was sure they would look to the council. He said he understood there was a covenant on the field restricting its use to under 16s, but it was obvious this group was well above that age and shouldn't be in there. However, he understood it would be difficult for the council to enforce this. Mr Kendrick said the residents didn't mind children playing there, but this was an older group who were taking drugs, the smell of which came through their windows. He said he had reported these issues to the police and had two crime numbers. Mr Kendrick said the gate behind Anning Road should be locked to stop these people parking their vehicles there, but he didn't believe this would stop them going into the playing field as they would park in Anning Road on the double yellow lines. He said he didn't believe they were local people.

### **Ms K. Crossley**

Ms Crossley spoke in relation to the same agenda item. She confirmed she had made to complaints to the police. She described three particularly bad incidents: the first was when a large bottle was thrown into her garden, just missing a nine-month-old baby; the second was then her son witnessed two people in the shelter performing sexual acts; and the third was when a girl who was drunk was asked to leave and started swearing in front of children. Ms Crossley said her son was nervous to play in an area that was meant for children to play in and she felt it was now becoming a big problem.

### **18/17/TMH Apologies**

Cllr R. Doney – family commitments  
Cllr G. Turner

### **18/18/TMH Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr P. Hicks, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 June 2018 were **ADOPTED**.

### **18/19/TMH Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 12, View Road Parking and Access Arrangements as she lived in View Road. She said she would leave the room for this item but wished to make a statement before she left.

### **18/20/TMH Dispensations**

There was no grant of dispensations made by the town clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.

18/21/TMH

**Matters arising from the minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting held on 13 June 2018**

**HGV signs**

Cllr B. Larcombe said size restriction signs were needed, as well as weight restriction signs, warning drivers the streets were not suitable for their vehicles.

The deputy town clerk said although the response from Highways England had not been favourable, any roads other than the A35 were the responsibility of Dorset County Council (DCC). He said the council would now have to go back to DCC to try and get signs put up in appropriate locations, but this would require the support of the police, as they needed to be committed to enforcing the instructions on the signs. However, if the signs were only advisory, no enforcement would be necessary.

Cllr J. Broom suggested the council put its own signs up on private land.

**Beach replenishment**

Cllr S. Williams said the council needed to have copies of the beach profile so it could take action if it went below the required levels.

The deputy town clerk said the council already had detailed technical drawings which showed the required profile. It was agreed Cllr J. Broom would look at the drawings to be able to reassure members further that the profile was within the required range.

**Sidmouth Road park and ride**

Cllr S. Williams asked when signs would be put up at the site directing vehicles to the Charmouth Road park and ride.

The deputy town clerk said the process of approving the signs was complex and permission had to be given by the Highways Agency and it was hoped approval would be given in the next seven to 10 days. However, he said there were already numerous signs pointing to the Charmouth Road park and ride when vehicles got off the A35, although it was noted these were only on the east of the town.

Cllr B. Larcombe suggested the council put its own signs up on private property near Hunter's Lodge.

18/22/TMH

**Update Report**

**Marine Parade toilets**

In response to a member question, the operations manager said the toilets were now being cleaned eight times a day and more toilet roll dispensers had been ordered.

**Puffin crossing**

Members encouraged the public to take part in the public consultation.

## **Cracks in paths in Langmoor and Lister Gardens**

The operations manager said he intended to obtain quotes to tarmac the cracks.

### **18/23/TMH Beach Hut Replacement**

Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of wooden huts versus composite huts, or a mixture of both.

Members also discussed whether any replacement should be done in one go or on a three-year rolling plan, but noted the approved budget of £15,000pa would need to be increased either way.

It was proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr S. Williams to replace the Cart Road beach huts with a new specification in a composite product, with all 34 huts to be replaced in one go in the 2018/19 autumn/winter season.

A substantive motion was made and voted on, as follows:

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to replace the Cart Road beach huts with the standard 2006 specification in wood.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr J. Scowen, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to replace all 34 Cart Road beach huts in one go in the 2018/19 autumn/winter season.

Members discussed whether the new huts should have flat or pitched roofs and how the private huts would be brought into line if the new huts had pitched roofs.

The deputy town clerk said although the new licences included a section on maintenance of day huts, but there was nothing that would allow the council to make private owners replace their huts.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the new Cart Road beach huts have pitched roofs.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis suggested writing to the private owners to inform them the council would be replacing their huts with pitched roofs and they could benefit from a discount if they purchased a hut at the same time. There was general agreement for this.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to write a new specification for the replacement of the Cart Road beach huts to include pitched roofs, and commence the tender process for replacement.

### **18/24/TMH Teen Shelter at Anning Road Playing Field**

Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds believed moving the shelter would only move the problem elsewhere.

Members agreed the issues mentioned by residents in the public forum could only be dealt with by the police, but agreed there was not enough police presence in Lyme Regis.

Cllr B. Larcombe said the council had already warned it would consider taking the shelter away if anti-social behaviour continued, and as there had been no improvement, it should be taken away.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis believed it was unfair on other children to take the shelter away due to the actions of a small group.

Cllr J. Scowen suggested installing CCTV in the area to deter anti-social behaviour.

Cllr S. Miller said removing the shelter had to be the ultimate response, but he suggested trying other methods before taking this action. He suggested discussing with the police whether they would be prepared to undertake a targeted response to the issue.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr J. Scowen, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to remove the teen shelter at Anning Road playing field.

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to investigate the possibility of installing CCTV at Anning Road playing field.

#### **18/25/TMH Candles on the Cobb Pavilion Toilets' Refurbishment**

Cllr D. Hallett asked if the external works' team could fit the new doors.

The operations manager said the price quoted was for supply and fitting, but he could ask for a price for supply, only.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr J. Scowen, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve up to £6,000 plus VAT to refurbish the Candles on the Cobb Pavilion toilets.

#### **18/26/TMH Chalet 18 Monmouth Beach**

Members were concerned about the increased ridge height and agreed it should not be higher than that of the previous chalet, nor should it obstruct the view of chalets above.

Proposed by Cllr S. Williams and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the drawings for the replacement of chalet 18 Monmouth Beach, provided the ridge is not higher than that of the previous chalet.

#### **18/27/TMH View Road Parking and Access Arrangements**

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis made a comment before leaving the meeting. She said residents' parking in View Road would have a wider impact, as residents from other streets, such as Coombe, Silver and Broad Streets also parked there. She said those unable to park in View Road would then try to park in Woodmead and Hill Roads. She said there were also problems with residents' parking on the main residential estate.

*Cllr Mrs M. Ellis left the meeting at 8.20pm in line with her declaration of pecuniary interests.*

Cllr B. Larcombe said View Road couldn't be considered in isolation as surrounding roads contributed to the problem and there would be a knock-on effect in other roads.

Members discussed the problems experienced with the residents' parking scheme in King's Way and Anning Road and surrounding roads, which was now being dealt with by a private company. It was noted there was also an issue with local accommodation providers giving visitors permits to park in these roads.

Members agreed this should be the subject of a report to a future meeting.

Proposed by Cllr S. Miller and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** not to pursue the request for residents' parking in View Road.

*Cllr Mrs M. Ellis returned to the meeting at 8.23pm.*

#### **18/28/TMH Complaints and Incidents Summary**

Members noted the report.

*The meeting closed at 8.30pm.*