

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2018

Present

Chairman: The Mayor, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis

Councillors: Cllr R. Doney, Cllr P. Hicks, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr O. Lovell, Cllr S. Miller, Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, Cllr J. Scowen, Cllr S. Williams

Officers: Mrs A. Mullins (administrative officer), Mr J. Wright (town clerk)

18/103/C Public Forum

Ms R. Pope

Ms R. Pope spoke about the cemetery and chapels. She said at the Town Management and Highways Committee meeting, she had requested ongoing maintenance of the chapels and for a history board in the cemetery. She said a separate discussion at the committee meeting was on the encouragement of wildlife in Langmoor Gardens and the proposal for a nature trail, which she believed was a great idea. Ms Pope said since that meeting, she had suggested that wildlife could also be encouraged at the cemetery and Dorset Wildlife Trust advised on this. She said the operations manager had also made a good suggestion that the history board at the cemetery could also have information on wildlife in the cemetery and she hoped this would be considered.

Ms Pope said at the same committee meeting, she had mentioned two television programmes about plastic and landfill, and a further programme had been aired about the problems of coastal and historic landfill sites. She said she had made the meeting aware of academic information regarding these sites and had provided the electronic links. Ms Pope said the CIRIA report of 2013 was of particular importance, which included the Lyme Regis site as a case study. She said further research was being undertaken which she believed was due to be published through Southampton University. Ms Pope asked how the impact of the tip could be minimised, and how the health and welfare of Lyme Regis residents could be protected. She asked if soil contaminants had been assessed on the allotments but said she had since found it they had not, and she had requested that be done. She also asked if the rubbish should be relocated. Ms Pope asked the council to contact Professor Robert Nicholls at Southampton University for further information, to carry out a risk assessment in line with the work produced by Dr James Brand and Professor Kate Spencer, to take action to limit the detrimental impact of the tip in accordance with CIRIA best practice, to carry out ongoing and regular assessment of water and soil contamination, including the allotments, and to carry out ongoing and regular removal of rubbish from the beach. Ms Pope said the tip needed to be

acknowledged, assessed, monitored and appropriate actions taken. She said she was looking for assurances from the council it would ensure this was done.

Mr P. Crossley

Mr Crossley said he had attended the last Full Council meeting and raised the issue of the hiring out of the shelters for the selling of fossils, minerals and jewellery throughout the summer season. He said he was at this meeting not just on behalf of himself, but all the fossil, mineral and jewellery shops in Lyme Regis as their spokesperson. He asked if the council could confirm that in 2019 more traders had booked the shelters for such purposes.

The town clerk said the council had a policy on the provision and types of stalls that could go in the shelters so it was probable there would be these types of bookings.

Mr P. Crossley said this was not fair to the traders of Lyme Regis. He said people had voted for the members, but none of their pledges had been adhered to. He said the council had allowed people to use the shelters all summer long, making vast amounts of money for £20 a day per trader, with no capital outlay, no tax, insurances, rates, rents, gas or water bills. Mr Crossley said those traders had a captive audience all summer, while the traders in town were struggling. He said this was not the way to encourage businesses in Lyme Regis and to encourage people to live in Lyme Regis. He described the council as odious, vacuous, supercilious, obnoxious and treacherous and believed this was high treason from the council, which had been elected by its people to defend homes, properties and businesses.

Mr C. Gillespie

As a member of the Woodroffe Youth Council, Mr Gillespie said one of their ideas was to set up a youth café to give young people a place to go, particularly at weekends. He said they were aware of a youth café in Bridport and they were going to go there to see how it was run. He said they were aware Lyme Regis was aiming to be plastic-free and the youth council would encourage the school to do the same. Mr Gillespie said the youth council would also like to have more events at the Marine Theatre for young people, such as film and music events. He said they were aware there had been a few issues with events at the Marine Theatre in the past and this was something they would be mindful of.

Mr J. Waplinton

Mr Waplinton said the Woodroffe Youth Council wanted to extend a thank you to the town council for the opportunity to set up a youth council and for the financial support for the project. He said around 10 pupils had set up the youth council, and it was thanks to the teachers and their liaison with Cllr Cheryl Reynolds that it was happening. He said they were all in their first year of A Levels and were excited to get started, to know how the council runs and to take a greater interest in the community.

Cllr D. Turner – Dorset County Council (DCC)

Cllr D. Turner said interviews for the tier two officer appointments had been held and all the appointments had been made. He said all the appointments, except one, were external candidates, and they would be ratified by the Shadow Executive on 13 December 2018. He said the draft constitution for Dorset Council would be ratified at the same meeting.

Cllr D. Turner spoke about the Dorset Local Nature Partnership, which was working closely with health partners and promoting a programme of 'green prescriptions' with doctors.

Cllr D. Turner said the Shadow Executive wanted to stress there would be no change to town and parish councils before the election.

Cllr D. Turner said a further £6.1million had been allocated for highways' work and reminded people if they saw a pothole or defect, to report it on the Dorset For You website.

Cllr D. Turner said a recommendation was made to the Cabinet from the Regulatory Committee to support a puffin crossing in Lyme Regis. He said it would be interesting to know the town council's current position before the Cabinet meeting in January. He said he had a site meeting to look at a number of issues in Broad Street.

Cllr D. Turner – West Dorset District Council

Cllr D. Turner said services were continuing but most of the officers' time was taken up on the new Dorset Council.

Cllr D. Turner said at a recent Turn Lyme Green meeting he had spoken about the old Victorian landfill site. He said WDDC was monitoring the beach and cliff and metals would be removed from the beach shortly. He said he was not aware of monitoring of the allotments, as referred to by Ms R. Pope in the public forum, but he would look into this.

Cllr D. Turner said he was happy to speak to the youth council, especially about adult services and children's services in Dorset.

Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds

Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds said she hadn't been able to attend many WDDC meetings due to eye surgery. However, she said she was pleased to see members of the youth council at the meeting and she had received a lot of help from WDDC members in setting it up. She said the youth council would be a great asset to the council.

Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds said the Army Cadet Force was set up, with the first meeting to be held on 17 December 2018, to be run properly from 7 January 2019.

18/85/C Questions from Councillors

Cllr J. Scowen

Cllr J. Scowen asked if the town council would be reviewing its position on the puffin crossing.

The mayor, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said she would like the council to meet to discuss its position.

Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds said DCC's Regulatory Committee had made two recommendations: to support the puffin crossing and to look into moving the bus stop higher up Broad Street to its previous position to free up parking spaces.

Cllr B. Larcombe

Cllr B. Larcombe asked what sway the Regulatory Committee had over the Cabinet, and whether the Cabinet had the ability to reverse the Regulatory Committee's decision.

Cllr D. Turner said the Cabinet had the ability to reverse the decision or return the issue to the committee, but it would require a major factor to change the decision, such as the town council changing its view.

The town clerk said at the moment, the town council was in support of the crossing, but if it was minded to form an alternative view, it would require another decision to be made. He said he was looking for some instruction on how to proceed and he read out the relevant section of standing orders regarding extraordinary meetings.

The mayor, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis requested an extraordinary meeting.

The town clerk said he would need to check the timescales involved and whether a rescission motion would be required, and he would consult with the mayor to take this forward.

Cllr O. Lovell

Cllr O. Lovell asked if the council was aware of a dog attack to a young boy on the beach. He said the owner called the dog but it failed to respond as it wasn't under control or on a lead. Cllr O. Lovell said the town council was not in favour of WDDC removing some of the dog controls and it was understood the regulations would be reviewed. He asked that the council made sure the regulations were reviewed and he asked the council to pursue a prosecution following this incident, which WDDC should also play a part in.

The mayor, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said this would be taken to a committee for discussion.

Cllr J. Scowen

Cllr J. Scowen asked how long the WDDC dog controls applied.

Cllr D. Turner said if evidence was sent to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee it could be considered, and he was happy to pass this information on.

18/104/C Apologies for Absence

Cllr J. Broom – illness
Cllr D. Hallett – holiday
Cllr P. Ridley – holiday
Cllr G. Turner

18/105/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The mayor, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 17, Woodmead Halls' Lease as she was an employee of the Woodmead Halls. She said she would leave the meeting for this item and the meeting would be chaired by the deputy mayor, Cllr S. Miller.

Cllr O. Lovell declared a pecuniary interest in matters related to View Road access, town guide charges, and website charges, and he would leave the room if they were discussed.

18/106/C Dispensations

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

18/107/C To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 31 October 2018

Cllr R. Doney requested a correction under minute number 18/87/C, Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as he was a shareholder of the Town Mill Brewery, not a director.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr P. Hicks, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 31 October 2018, with the above amendment, were **ADOPTED**.

18/108/C Matters arising from the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 31 October 2018

Town council website

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if one of the web development companies who had been invited to a meeting was a company he had met at a conference.

The town clerk said a meeting had taken place with that company but for reasons he did not wish to disclose publicly, it was decided not to proceed. He agreed to have a discussion about this separately with Cllr B. Larcombe.

Cllr B. Larcombe said the chosen company needed to be able to train staff to maintain the website themselves.

Bowling Club

Cllr S. Larcombe asked if there was any update on the bowling club's preferred option for the car park.

The town clerk said he had now received a written response from the club and the working group would need to consider this in detail. He said it was intended to hold a meeting on 8 January 2019.

The Hub

Cllr S. Williams said the council should have a list of all events taking place at The Hub as he was concerned young people were not getting full use of the building.

The mayor, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis asked Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, the council's representative for The Hub, to get a list of bookings. She added that the café run from the Hub would be a community café, and all funds raised would go back into The Hub or the community.

18/109/C Update Report

There were none.

18/110/C Mayor's Announcements

Members noted the report.

18/111/C Planning Committee

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13 November 2018.

18/112/C Human Resources Committee

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 7 November 2018 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

18/53/HR – Issues Arising from the Extraordinary Full Council on 7 August 2018

RESOLVED: not to pay the finance assistant an additional increment for a qualification obtained before she joined the council.

18/54/HR – Driving Licence Training

RESOLVED: to pay £225 each for the seafront attendant and a gardener to undertake a fast pass intensive driving course, subject to agreed conditions.

18/55/HR – Christmas and New Year Working Arrangements

RESOLVED: to apply 1.5 days of discretionary leave from midday to 5pm on Monday 24 December 2018 and all day on Monday 31 December 2018; to apply statutory leave on Thursday 27 December and Friday 28 December 2018; to agree members of the external works' team provide a full day's cover every day, except Christmas Day; and for members of the external works' team who work over the Christmas and New Year period to be paid overtime and time-off-in-lieu for the day worked.

18/56/HR – Finance Assistant Additional Payment

RESOLVED: to approve an additional payment to the finance assistant of £230 per month, and for a letter to be sent to the employee from the council, thanking her for taking on additional duties.

18/113/C Strategy and Finance Committee

Proposed by Cllr S. Miller and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Strategy and Finance Committee held on 28 November 2018 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

18/66/SF – Filming and Audio Recording of Council Meetings

RESOLVED: to take advice on the costs of audio recording council meetings and reinstate audio recording after costings have been agreed.

18/67/SF – Council Office Accommodation

RESOLVED: not to pursue the opportunities to occupy either the former Lloyds Bank premises or the Three Cups, and to refurbish the existing office, to include expansion into the ground floor currently occupied by the tourist information centre.

Cllr O. Lovell said the mayor's parlour was under-used and this could be used as a meeting room.

18/68/SF – Budget and Precept, 2019/20 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2019-2023

RESOLVED: to:

- approve the 2019/20 budget with the removal of the allocation to underwrite repairs to the parish church tower (£66,770), and with the addition of £5k for rubbish disposal and recycling on the seafront and £1k for new town signage to incorporate plastic-free community status
- to approve a precept of £120,708 for 2019/20

- to approve the following objectives for 2019/20: Marine Parade day huts over a three-year period; roof repairs above the amusement arcade, Swim and antiques centre; new office accommodation; bin store on the seafront; tipper for the lengthsman; and lighting at Langmoor and Lister Gardens offset by £30k s106 monies
- to remove the following objectives: concert bowl/stage (£25k), gym equipment in the gardens (£25k), boules area in the gardens (£3k), and drinking water taps on the seafront (£2k)

18/69/SF – List of Payments

RESOLVED: to approve the schedule of payments for July and August 2018 for the sums of £127,554.95 and £129,709.95, respectively.

18/114/C Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee

Proposed by Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr S. Miller, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee held on 21 November 2018 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

18/53/TCP – Wedding Brochure

RESOLVED: that the proposal from The Marketing Consultancy to produce a printed and digital wedding brochure to advertise the Guildhall as a wedding venue at no cost to the council be accepted.

18/54/TCP – Town-Wide WiFi

RESOLVED: not to support the extension of publicly-accessible WiFi to any other areas of Lyme Regis.

18/55/TCP – Community Minibus

RESOLVED: to thank Richard Clist for his kind offer of a minibus for use by the local community but to decline getting directly involved in either its acquisition or its management, hire and maintenance.

18/115/C Town Management and Highways Committee

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee held on 14 November 2018 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

18/51/TMH – Dorset Police Community Safety Accreditation Scheme

RESOLVED: not to hold any further discussions with Dorset Police regarding the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme.

18/52/TMH – Winter Boat Storage

Cllr S. Williams was concerned the council was not charging enough for WDDC to use this area as there were now 27 boats on the car park, as well as other equipment.

Cllr B. Larcombe agreed and said the council should be charging an additional sum to cover the whole area used for boats and other equipment.

The town clerk said the charge recommended by the committee was already a material increase on the previous two years.

Cllr S. Miller said the committee did ask that the harbourmaster was challenged on the boat racks and other equipment and this needed to be taken up with him.

RESOLVED: to approve the request from West Dorset District Council, on behalf of the harbourmaster, to store boats on the western section of Monmouth Beach car park from 1 October 2018 until 1 April 2019, and to instruct officers to charge West Dorset District Council £5,750 plus VAT.

18/53/TMH – Marine Theatre Sign

RESOLVED: not to approve the request from the Marine Theatre for a new sign on Guildhall Cottage, but to look into additional signage directing people to the theatre from Cobb Gate.

18/54/TMH – Gardens' Ground Monitoring

RESOLVED: to instruct officers to obtain quotations for the topographical and ground movement monitoring surveys of the Langmoor and Lister Gardens, and to ask the local members on West Dorset District Council to try and obtain any monitoring results from the district council.

18/55/TMH – Memorial Benches

RESOLVED: to add 14 memorial benches to Marine Parade as the provision for 2019.

18/56/TMH – Water Points on the Seafront

RESOLVED: not to install water points on Marine Parade.

18/57/TMH – Seagull Control

RESOLVED: to agree to a bird control trial with a falconer during a day in the 2019 Easter holidays between 12pm and 4pm.

18/58/TMH – Langmoor/Lister Woodland Walk Nature Trail

RESOLVED: to approve a proposal by the operations supervisor to create a nature trail in the woodland walk in the Langmoor/Lister Gardens.

18/60/TMH – 9 Monmouth Beach and 42a Western Beach

RESOLVED: to approve the request to replace a static caravan at 9 Monmouth Beach, providing the footprint is no greater than the existing, and to extend a decking area at 42a Western Beach.

18/61/TMH – Emergency Procedure Review

RESOLVED: to approve the updated emergency procedure, with the addition of the mayor and deputy mayor's contact details.

18/63/TMH – Play Parks

In response to a member question, the operations manager said there was still no reply from Eibe regarding the surface at the Anning Road play park.

RESOLVED: to obtain two further quotes for replacement play equipment and resurfacing of the Henry's Way play area.

18/65/TMH – CCTV Project

RESOLVED: to instruct officers to investigate the quote from Central Southern Security further and, subject to satisfactory explanations to officers and the cost remaining as the lowest quote received, engage them to install the new CCTV systems, with final approval being given to officers to accept the quote on this basis.

18/66/TMH – Cart Road Beach Huts

RESOLVED: to accept the quote from Poultons for replacement beach huts for the Cart Road.

18/67/TMH – Parking Enforcement Administration System

RESOLVED: to agree to upgrade the council's parking enforcement system, subject to two further quotes, to delegate authority to officers to choose the preferred provider, and for this information to be reported back to members.

18/68/TMH – Parking Restrictions, South Avenue and Haye Lane

Original motion: not to pursue parking restrictions in South Avenue.

Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds said a petition in favour of parking restrictions had been signed by every resident in South Avenue. She said the residents were aware of the problems parking permits had caused in King's Way and Anning Road since

the system had gone electronic, but they still wanted the permits. She said the car park behind South Avenue had only 10 spaces, due to the access required to garages, and this was also used by Manor Avenue and North Avenue. She asked the council to re-consider the request.

Cllr B. Larcombe said enforcement of the permit system was one of the council's principal objections to the request and this was something that needed to be addressed on a wider basis.

Cllr O. Lovell said the residents living in streets with permits felt the system was being abused because it wasn't enforced. He said the council should be speaking to the new unitary authority about enforcement in the town in general.

The town clerk said a proposal for a unitary parking service was previously put forward but not followed through, although he believed it would be re-visited by the new Dorset Council.

Substantive motion: Proposed by Cllr R. Doney and seconded by Cllr O. Lovell, members **RESOLVED** to hold off making a decision about parking restrictions in South Avenue.

RESOLVED: to pursue parking restrictions in Haye Lane.

18/116/C Budget and Precept, 2019/20 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2019-23

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if officers had any idea of the costs which may arise from the Hydrock traffic study.

The town clerk said this was unknown as the report was still awaited. He said the council could use its reserves for any large projects, particularly as major grants had not been allocated beyond 2019/20.

Proposed by S. Miller and seconded by Cllr R. Doney, members **RESOLVED** to approve the 2019/20 budget; approve a precept of £120,708 for 2019/20; approve the 2019/20 objectives; and note the medium-term financial plan 2019-23.

18/117/C Non-Motorised Watersports' Concession

Cllr B. Larcombe suggested another one-year concession to bring it in line with the other three-year concession periods.

The administrative officer said there were already two separate three-year periods running for the existing concessions.

Cllr O. Lovell asked for it to be written into any agreement with concessionaires that if the council had any concern over water safety, it would reserve the right to end the agreement.

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr R. Doney, members **RESOLVED** to offer a three-year period for the non-motorised watersports' concession.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis left the meeting at 8.29pm in line with her declaration of pecuniary interests.

Cllr S. Miller took the chair.

18/118/C Woodmead Halls' Lease

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to approve the lease between Woodmead Halls and the town council.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis returned to the meeting at 8.30pm.

18/119/C Street Trading in Lyme Regis

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business as it included confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 8 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (see Section 1 and Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985), as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

18/120/C West Dorset District Council Assets and Services

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business as it included confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 8 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (see Section 1 and Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985), as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

18/121/C Debtors' Report

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business as it included confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 8 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (see Section 1 and Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985), as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Information) Act 1985), as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

18/122/C Phone and Pay Parking Service Provider

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business as it included confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 8 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (see Section 1 and Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985), as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

18/123/C Exempt Business

a) Street Trading in Lyme Regis

The town clerk said there was no absolute solution to managing traders who traded on land that belonged to Lyme Regis Town Council, WDDC or DCC. He said officers were not convinced introducing a regime of street trading would address the issue, and it could possibly create wider issues for other traders, concessions and events.

The town clerk said the council had already spent a lot of time and money on this issue, but was no further forwards, and pursuing a regime of street trading would take up more time and money in the future.

Cllr B. Larcombe said when thinking about the implications of a street trading regime, the council would need to be mindful of the space under the Marine Parade Shelters and whether it constituted a 'street', as this would have an impact on events and activities the council allowed in the shelters.

Cllr B. Larcombe said the council needed to be absolutely clear about the situation with al fresco licences on Marine Parade, and then consider designating 'prohibited streets'.

Cllr S. Larcombe said the council needed to consider how much money it was willing to spend pursuing this issue before it decided to take it further and the traders should be allowed to take it further legally, if they wished.

Cllr S. Miller said a 'prohibited street' regime appeared to be the path of least resistance, but he would like a report to come back to the council on the ramifications of pursuing this restriction.

It was proposed by Cllr S. Miller and seconded by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis that a report is brought back to the council on the ramifications of pursuing a 'prohibited street' restriction.

This motion was not voted on.

The town clerk said if the town council introduced street trading restrictions, there was a risk this wouldn't be a priority for WDDC or the unitary council.

Members agreed they had taken all reasonable steps to prevent unauthorised trading on the seafront and they could not justify pursuing this matter any further.

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** that having taken all reasonable steps, explored all options, taken legal advice, and expended a significant amount of time and money to prevent unauthorised trading on the seafront, it was agreed not to pursue this issue any further.

b) West Dorset District Council Assets and Services

Cllr S. Miller said the council should leave the door open to see what is suggested by WDDC regarding zero-value assets, and the council could then consider if it wished to go forward with any of the transfers.

Cllr O. Lovell said the council should do nothing and allow WDDC to make an approach. He believed the approach should be made directly, not through a third party.

The town clerk said an approach had been made by WDDC, via Nick Randle from the Local Government Resource Centre.

Cllr J. Scowen said the council should indicate to WDDC it was interested in these assets and a clear directive should be given to the town clerk to have a conversation with WDDC, specifically about Theatre Square, which he believed was of the greatest value.

It was proposed by Cllr J. Scowen to give the town clerk a directive to pursue the transfer of Theatre Square with West Dorset District Council.

This motion was not seconded.

Cllr R. Doney said the council should at least discuss these transfers as there seemed to be a will from WDDC to pursue them.

The town clerk said a proposal was going to be considered by WDDC on 13 December 2018 which recommended working with parish and town councils on the assets identified in his report. He said if there was potentially some commercial advantage to the council, it should pursue the opportunity.

Cllr J. Scowen requested a recorded vote on the following motion:

Proposed by Cllr O. Lovell and seconded by Cllr S. Williams, members **RESOLVED** to go no further with the transfer of assets and services with West

Dorset District Council and wait to see if West Dorset District Council comes to the town council.

Voted for – Cllr O. Lovell, Cllr S. Williams, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr P. Hicks, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis

Voted against – Cllr R. Doney, Cllr J. Scowen, Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, Cllr S. Miller

Abstentions – None

c) Debtors' Report

Members discussed debts related to the newly-constructed Ware Cliff chalets, site licence fees, and al fresco licences.

Cllr B. Larcombe left the meeting at 9.41pm.

The town clerk said officers hoped most of the debts would be collected by the end of the financial year.

Cllr B. Larcombe returned to the meeting at 9.42pm.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked how the sub-letting of chalets was being monitored.

The town clerk said the onus was on the leaseholders to inform the council if they were sub-letting so it was a matter of honesty.

d) Phone and Pay Parking Service Provider

Proposed by Cllr S. Miller and seconded by Cllr J. Scowen, members **RESOLVED** to change the phone and pay parking service provider from 'Phone and Pay' to 'Just Park' for the council's car parks before 1 April 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.53pm.