

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 MAY 2019

Present

Chairman: The Mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe

Councillors: Cllr Ms B. Bawden, Cllr J. Broom, Cllr R. Doney, Cllr Miss K. Ellis, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis, Cllr L. Howe, Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr J. Scowen, Cllr Ms G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr S. Williams

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

19/18/C Public Forum

Mr K. Gollop

Mr K. Gollop asked if there was an update on the traffic survey and when the public would be consulted. He also asked for an update on the fee paid to the council for the recent filming in the town.

The town clerk said a deadline of 7 June 2019 had been set for the receipt of the traffic survey.

The town clerk said a draft press release had been sent to the film company but a response was awaited. He said when the press release was approved, the fee would be made public.

Mr S. West

Mr S. West said he was calling on the council to declare a 'climate emergency'. He said people had been hearing for years the world was heating up and if people didn't change their ways, the world would be heading for trouble. He said the full extent of the problem had been better understood recently and there had been a rise in groups such as Extinction Rebellion and people like Greta Thunberg and David Attenborough telling us the world is heading for disaster on an unprecedented scale. Mr S. West said the United Nations IPCC had warned there was now less than 12 years to halt irreversible climate change. He said organisations across the world, including Dorset, Devon and Somerset councils, Bridport and Chard town councils, and the UK government had declared a climate emergency, and Lyme Regis Town Council needed to do so too. Mr S. West said it had become clear a climate disaster could only be pulled back from the brink if every individual, business and organisation took environmental responsibility for everything they did. He said this should include switching to renewable energy, reducing the number of flights taken, drastically curbing rampant consumerism, and reducing the amount of animal agriculture that was decimating tropical rainforests to feed the rich, developed world. He said in Lyme Regis the council needed to

declare a climate emergency and make a plan to change. Mr S. West said the council needed to carry out an immediate climate impact audit of all areas of its work and its influence and establish a plan to change its activities to low or zero greenhouse gas emission before the danger date of 2020. He said Chard Town Council had set a date of 2028 and there was no reason Lyme Regis Town Council couldn't achieve the same or better. Mr S. West said the council could easily offset its level of greenhouse gas emissions as a temporary measure until its actions were completely environmentally friendly. He said a large number of tourists were encouraged to visit Lyme Regis and if they travelled an average of 100 miles in an ordinary family car, they would emit 16kg of carbon dioxide, which would cost the council 16p to offset from car parking charges. Mr S. West said the council could cover half of the 800m² roof above the Swim with solar panels to generate energy and an income. He called on the council to declare a climate emergency and make a plan to do its part.

The town clerk said he would bring a report to a committee in the next cycle of meetings to allow members to begin to think through the council's approach.

Ms J. Sheppard

As organiser of Jazz Jurassica, Ms J. Sheppard said it was a wonderful weekend and wanted to thank the town council in person. She said she couldn't have done it without the council, but she wasn't referring to the council's grant, but the 'soft' support provided. She said it was difficult to put on a festival across the town, particularly on the seafront, but the council staff had been amazing. Ms J. Sheppard said the operations manager was helpful beforehand, but on the day, she couldn't have asked for more from the two enforcement officers and the seafront attendant. She said she was also pleased the deputy mayor, Cllr J. Scowen, had met with their Norwegian visitors.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe said it was noted how well the event was run and it was a credit.

Mr N. Ball

Mr N. Ball said it was good to see the council had started on a positive note and he felt there was now a council which had started to understand already how people felt.

With regards to climate change, Mr N. Ball said he had mentioned previously about the town bus service and how there was often only a few people on it. He wanted the council to look at opening the service to everyone in the town, to get people shopping in the town and helping small businesses. He also said plants were very good for the environment and he would be happy to help the council with advice on horticulture and he had lots of ideas. He said he couldn't be a councillor as he had his own business but he was willing to help.

The town clerk said the issue of re-planting had been discussed and the council was beginning to cost it out. Regarding the bus service, he said several members

had raised this too and they would be meeting in June to draw ideas together to form an outline plan, which would then go out to public consultation.

Cllr D. Turner – Dorset Council (DC)

Cllr D. Turner said as it was still early days, he had done little else apart from training. However, he had looked at the Cabinet's forward plan, which made no mention of devolution of powers to town and parish councils, so he had asked the leader of DC to make sure it went onto the agenda.

Regarding climate change, Cllr D. Turner said he had put a motion to DC the previous week and he would send this to the town clerk for distribution to members to give them an idea of what he had asked for and the timescales.

Cllr D. Turner said four cubicles in the Broad Street toilets had been out-of-order that day but three were now back in use.

19/19/C Questions from Councillors

Cllr S. Williams

Cllr S. Williams asked what control the town council would have in Lyme Regis following the formation of Dorset Council. He made specific reference to an application from Swim to extend its licence to sell alcohol from the former ice-cream kiosk until 2am, which the town council had not been consulted on.

Cllr D. Turner said he had put information about the application on social media a month ago to give people the chance to respond, but the consultation period was now closed. He said he had licensing training in Dorchester the following day so he may have the opportunity to speak to officers, although there were no formal objections.

The town clerk said he and the mayor would be meeting with the owners of Swim the following week and they would be expressing the council's concerns.

Cllr J. Broom

Cllr J. Broom said when he attended the Rogation Sunday ceremony he was appalled to see a large fence along the edge of the council's property. He asked if Dorset Council had permission to do this as it leased the land from the town council, and if so, who gave permission.

Cllr J. Broom also asked if Dorset Council had paid for winter boat storage yet.

The town clerk said he understood Cllr J. Broom was referring to the accreted land on the foreshore and confirmed consent had not been given by this council for any structure on the land. He said he intended to arrange another working group meeting in early-June to allow members to discuss their intentions for that land.

The town clerk said payment had not been received for winter boat storage as it was disputed by Dorset Council. He said he had asked the area property surveyor to put together all the information available on usage and costs to allow the town council to determine if the amount it charged was reasonable. He said he had not yet had a response to this request and he would chase this up.

19/20/C Apologies for Absence

There were none.

19/21/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 13, List of Payments, which included payments to Woodmead Halls, of which she was an employee.

19/22/C Dispensations

The town clerk said he had granted Cllr Mrs M. Ellis an ongoing dispensation to vote on the List of Payments on the basis she had no controlling influence over Woodmead Halls' management.

19/23/C To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15 May 2019

Cllr Ms B. Bawden said an amendment was required to minute 19/01/C to show Cllr Ms G. Stammers had voted in favour of the motion the subject of a recorded vote.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15 May 2019, with the above amendment, were **ADOPTED**.

19/24/C Matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15 May 2019

Seafront café

Cllr S. Williams asked for an update on when the café would be available to let as the council was losing income while it was closed.

The town clerk said there was an issue with water ingress which required the coping stones to be removed to explore the problem. He said this issue had to be resolved before it was let on a long lease.

Location filming request

Cllr S. Williams asked if there was any update on how the money which had been paid to the council would be spent.

The town clerk said once the press release was approved by the film company and the figure had been made public, a report would come to the council to decide how it should be spent.

Council committees

It was confirmed the email inviting members to form a group to review the council's committees had been sent that day, instead of on 24 June 2019.

19/25/C Update Report

There were none.

19/26/C Compliance with Financial Regulations

The town clerk said it was right and proper to report to the council the decision he took, which did not comply with financial regulations, so there was a formal record of this and an audit trail.

19/27/C Appointments to External Bodies 2019/20

Cllr R. Doney said in the previous year, members had been asked to be either a participating or liaison representative for the council. He also said the council had two places on the wider LymeForward membership, but the articles of association gave one place for a councillor on the steering group.

The town clerk explained the difference between participating and liaison; a liaison representative would be the organisation's link to the council and the person they would go to if there was an issue, and participating representatives had a much more active role in the organisation's activities.

Cllr Ms G. Stammer said Diane Earle from The Hub had indicated she would be happy for members to have a tour of the building.

The town clerk advised members that when they were in the council chamber, they were considering business from a council perspective, not through the lens of the organisation they were appointed to. He strongly suggested if members were involved with an organisation, they should declare it at a meeting, even though it was not a pecuniary interest.

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr Miss K. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to appoint members to external bodies, as follows:

Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring and Ride Service – Cllr S. Williams (participating)

B Sharp – Cllr J. Scowen (participating)

Bridport and District Citizens' Advice Bureau – Cllr S. Williams (participating)

Charmouth Road Allotments Association – Cllr D. Sarson (participating)

Lyme Regis, Charmouth and Uplyme Coastal Communities Team – Cllr J. Broom and Cllr Ms B. Bawden (participating)

DAPTC (Western Area Committee and Larger Councils) – Cllr J. Broom and Cllr Ms B. Bawden (participating)

The Hub Strategic Group – Cllr Miss K. Ellis (liaison)

LymeArts Community Trust – Cllr J. Scowen (participating)
LymeForward – Cllr S. Williams and Cllr Ms B. Bawden (participating)
LymeForward Steering Group – Cllr B. Larcombe (participating)
Lyme Regis/Barfleur Twinning Association – Cllr R. Doney (liaison)
Lyme Regis Charities – Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and Cllr Miss K. Ellis (participating)
Lyme Regis Development Trust – Cllr Ms B. Bawden (participating)
Lyme Regis Football Club – Cllr R. Doney (liaison)
Lyme Regis Fossil Festival – Cllr L. Howe (liaison)
Lyme Regis/St George’s Twinning Association – Cllr B. Larcombe (participating)
Plastic-Free Lyme Steering Group – Cllr R. Doney (liaison)
Regatta and Carnival Committee – Cllr Miss K. Ellis (participating)
RNLI Lifeboat Guild – Cllr Mrs M. Ellis (liaison)
St Michael’s Business Centre Management – Cllr S. Williams (participating)
Woodmead Halls Management Committee – Cllr J. Scowen (participating)
Youth Council – Cllr Miss K. Ellis and Cllr P. Howe (participating)

Cllr D. Ruffle said he was also interested in working with LymeArts Community Trust but as one member and one officer had been co-opted onto the board, it was agreed to maintain this arrangement but Cllr J. Scowen would keep Cllr D. Ruffle updated on an informal basis.

19/28/C Review of the Council’s and/or Employees’ Memberships of Other Bodies

Cllr J. Broom asked if the council was now a member of South West Councils as it was not included in the list.

The town clerk confirmed the council was a member but it was not on the list as the council would take advice from the organisation in the same way it as the geotechnical engineer, for example.

However, it was agreed to include South West Councils on the list for approval.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis asked why it was proposed to pay for each of the three macebearers to be a member of the Guild of Macebearers as the council had only paid for one in the past.

The town clerk said there was interest from the three macebearers to be members of the guild, and this was deemed to be appropriate given the time they committed to civic events.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** to approve the annual membership subscriptions for the council and/or employees to the following bodies: Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils, Ancient and Honourable Guild of Mace Bearers x3, Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management, Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (VAT Ref manual), Local Councils Update Communicorp, Open Spaces Society, Society of Local Council Clerks, Local Government Association, and South West Councils.

19/29/C By-Election

The town clerk said if 10 or more electors requested a by-election by 14 June 2019, he anticipated it would be held six to eight weeks after that date, a process driven by Dorset Council's electoral services team.

The town clerk recommended the council chose to have polling cards, at a cost of around £1,200, to help increase the turnout and demonstrate the council's support of the democratic process.

The town clerk said if an election was not held, members were asked to approve the co-option process based on an interview structure.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr Ms G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to approve the use of polling cards for the by-election.

Proposed by Cllr D. Ruffle and seconded by Cllr R. Doney, members **RESOLVED** to approve a co-option process if fewer than 10 Lyme Regis electors call for an election.

19/30/C List of Payments

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis asked that members were provided with a list of payments for October 2018 showing the revised total.

The town clerk said this would be circulated with the members' briefing.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments for April 2019 for the sum of £141,459.83, and approve a revised total for October 2018 from £68,238.75 to £112,396.43.

19/31/C Sculptures on the Beach

Some members were broadly in favour of the principle of the sculptures as a way of deterring people from littering, but there were concerns about the size of the structures and where they would be located as space was limited on the sandy beach.

Some members were not sure if the sculptures were appropriate for Lyme Regis as they felt the message was not clear and there wasn't a particular problem with littering.

Some members felt it would help highlight the issue of littering in general, not just on the beach but any other public place, as well as creating a talking point and good publicity.

Cllr J. Scowen said the sculptures would only be in place for eight weeks and suggested the council went to at least the first stage of approving the project in principle, with the option of not progressing if a suitable site couldn't be agreed, as suggested in the report.

Members agreed the sculptures should not go on the sandy beach and Cllr J. Broom suggested the pebble beach close to Cobb Gate.

The town clerk said officers needed to have further discussions with the artist about what was proposed and possible locations, with the council having the ultimate say on whether the project went ahead.

It was proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr Ms G. Stammers that officers discuss possible locations for the proposed temporary sculptures on the front beach to highlight littering.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said this would delay the process as the issue would have to be brought back to council once locations had been discussed.

The motion was not voted on.

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr Ms G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to agree in principle to allow temporary structures to be erected on the front beach from 22 July to 4 September 2019 to highlight to beach users about not littering the beach, subject to a suitable location being agreed.

19/32/C Seagull Control

Cllr Miss K. Ellis asked who enforced the feeding of seagulls.

The town clerk said the council's enforcement officers could issue fixed penalties but it was not a priority due to the reaction they got. He said the birds of prey would support the message not to feed seagulls.

Cllr R. Doney said he didn't believe it was good value for money as it wouldn't have much impact on what the seagulls did.

Cllr D. Ruffle said when the seagulls realised the birds of prey were not a real threat, they would resort to old habits, so it was only a temporary solution.

It was proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr L. Howe to approve the employment of Xtreme Falconry on six occasions between 28 July and 26 August 2019.

This motion was not carried.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm.