

## LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2020

#### **Present**

**Chairman:** The Mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe, MBE

**Councillors:** Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr J. Broom, Cllr K. Ellis, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr R. Smith, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr S. Williams

**Officers:** A. Mullins (support services manager), J. Wright (town clerk)

**Absent:** Cllr L. Howe

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe, read out the protocol for virtual meetings and ensured all participants could hear each other.

#### **19/244/C Public Forum**

##### **J. Yelland**

J. Yelland spoke in support of the application from the 1<sup>st</sup> Lym Valley Scout Group. He said the current pandemic had been disastrous for young people, who had found that not only had their education been limited, but also their ability to grow socially. He said it was a generation whose future prospects had been scarred by something that was not their fault. To improve a generation, he said their confidence needed to be built up, they needed the opportunity to thrive, to have fun and to succeed. J. Yelland said the scout group had been fortunate to be able to give opportunities to young people to live good, productive, happy lives and to provide them with skills. He said they had a track record of supporting young people. He said the grant they had requested was less than in previous years but was no less important. In an attempt to expand the range of activities they could offer, they wanted to purchase archery equipment to cut down the cost of using external providers. J. Yelland said there were a lack of community facilities for sporting means and young people found it difficult to access those facilities. He said having the equipment would allow the scout group to offer something that couldn't be found elsewhere locally, and it could also be offered to other groups locally as a taster session. He said he understood this was a tight time for public finances so the group was putting half the money in itself, adding that the council's grant funding was never taken for granted.

##### **M. Jenkin**

M. Jenkin spoke in support of the application from Lyme Regis Junior Parkrun. He said a recent NHS study said if young people were given the chance to exercise regularly, they wouldn't just be fit and lose weight, they would also have a stronger

heart and muscles, increasing concentration and academic success. He said the focus of junior Parkrun was to encourage the youth of the greater Lyme Regis area to come to the town on a Sunday morning for a 2k run, which would be a weekly, timed, free event. M. Jenkin said the run would start on Gun Cliff and go to the end of the sea wall twice. He said it would be marshalled and very well run. He said £1,700 had already been raised, with a target of £3,000. He said the group's fundraising had been stymied by the lockdown but they had a process in place for raising the remainder, as and when limitations allowed.

### **G. Barr**

G. Barr spoke in support of the application from Turn Lyme Green (Plastic Free Lyme Regis). He said as well as assisting the council with the seafront action plan, the group had persuaded and assisted over 30 businesses to reduce or eliminate single-use plastic. He said they had assisted in installing drinking points on the seafront and the enhancement of seafront recycling facilities. G. Barr said their pre-lockdown request was for £3,000 to extend their reach, with activities including film evenings to engage with the wider community, the continuation of Boomerang Bags, maintaining their website, informative meetings, and beach cleans, but Covid had ended those plans. He said they hoped to start their activities before April 2021 so they would only need part of the funds requested.

### **19/245/C Apologies for Absence**

Cllr R. Doney  
Cllr D. Ruffle – family commitment  
Cllr G. Stammers – family commitment

### **19/246/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr B. Bawden and Cllr R. Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in Turn Lyme Green as they were members.

### **19/247/C Dispensations**

There were none.

### **19/248/C Allocation of Community Grants 2020/21**

The support services manager informed members the application from Lyme Regis Development Trust – Community Workshop had been withdrawn as the project outlined in the application had already been completed and paid for, and community grants could not be used for retrospective funding.

The support services manager said the total cost of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lym Valley Scout Group's project had reduced from £1,059.69 to £1,019.70, although this didn't affect the grant amount requested.

As the total amount of funding requested was less than the amount available, it was agreed each application could be voted on as members progressed through the list.

Members discussed the application from 1<sup>st</sup> Lym Valley Scout Group and agreed support should be given to the organisation as it supported the town in many ways and had done its own fundraising.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, members **RESOLVED** to award 1<sup>st</sup> Lym Valley Scout Group a 2020/21 community grant of £499.

Members discussed the application from bthechange CIC and agreed it should be supported, given the anti-social behavior which had been experienced in Lyme Regis over the summer.

Cllr C. Reynolds said she had queried why the programme would be delivered by Devon and Cornwall Police when Woodroffe School was in Dorset. She was informed by bthechange that the funding was distributed around the wider area but Devon and Cornwall Police was leading, and the Dorset police and crime commissioner would be invited to be involved.

Cllr M. Ellis agreed it was a worthwhile cause but believed Woodroffe School should also be contributing financially.

Cllr M. Ellis proposed to award bthechange CIC a 2020/21 community grant of £500, seconded by Cllr J. Broom.

This motion was not carried.

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members **RESOLVED** to award bthechange CIC a 2020/21 community grant of £1,000.

Members discussed the application from Dorset Youth Association and queried whether the group would be able to operate from The Hub due to Covid restrictions.

Cllr K. Ellis said youth groups were an essential for children's mental health so the funding to Dorset Youth Association was justified. The town clerk added that the youth club was not meeting at The Hub but the development trust was in the process of putting in place youth activities.

The support services manager said officers had to see evidence of funding being spent as per the original application before it was released to the organisation.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to award Dorset Youth Association a 2020/21 community grant of £300.

Members discussed the application from Lyme Regis Junior Parkrun and agreed it supported health and wellbeing and meant local people didn't have to drive so far to participate in a junior Parkrun event.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to award Lyme Regis Junior Parkrun a 2020/21 community grant of £1,000.

Members discussed the application from Lyme Regis Majorettes and were pleased they had come back to the council for a community grant after being turned down for a term grant and had managed to bring the cost of the project down. It was also agreed it was a worthy youth group which contributed a lot to the town.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** to award Lyme Regis Majorettes a 2020/21 community grant of £1,000.

Members discussed the application from Lyme Regis RC Church and agreed it was a prominent and historic building in the town which should be preserved, regardless of religion.

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to award Lyme Regis RC Church a 2020/21 community grant of £1,000.

Members discussed the application from the Town Mill Trust and whether it constituted a business and therefore would not qualify for a community grant. It was acknowledged the trust had a charity number but this didn't mean it wasn't also a business.

The town clerk advised members to be cautious about the principle they could be adopting in approving the funding.

Cllr D. Sarson proposed to award the Town Mill Trust a 2021/21 community grant of £1,000, seconded by Cllr B. Bawden.

This motion was not carried.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members **RESOLVED** to award the Town Mill Trust a 2020/21 community grant of £500.

Members discussed the application from Turn Lyme Green – Plastic Free Lyme Regis and agreed the full amount originally requested was not necessary as many of the planned activities had been cancelled due to Covid.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members **RESOLVED** to award Turn Lyme Regis – Plastic Free Lyme Regis a 2020/21 community grant of £500.

Community grants totalling £5,799 were awarded for 2020/21.

Cllr B. Larcombe said the council may wish to consider the amount it gives in annual grants going forward.

The town clerk said the council would start considering its budget in November 2020, when the level of grants could be reviewed.

*The meeting closed at 7.44pm.*