

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 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. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr S. Williams

Officers: M. Adamson-Drage (operations manager), M. Green (deputy town clerk), A. Mullins (support services manager), M. Russell (finance 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.

A prayer was given by the Rev. Chris Martin.

19/272/C Public Forum

B. Milner Simonds

B. Milner Simonds spoke in relation to agenda item 21, Eat Festival. She said they took on board members' feedback at the last meeting and had been canvassing further views from local business owners, retailers and hospitality businesses in the town. She said they hadn't done that before the last meeting as they were seeking the council's approval first. Due to Covid-19, she said they had circulated surveys electronically and visited businesses before the second lockdown. B. Milner-Simonds said although it seemed like a long way off to be planning for next year, to deliver a safe event they needed to start now to feel comfortable in Lyme Regis and be part of the safe re-opening of the town. She said they agreed the event should be held out of season but they were not comfortable with holding it from September onwards due to a potential clash with Food Rocks. They were therefore proposing 24 April 2021. She said they would try and work with traders within a 30-mile radius of the town to find new local customers and suppliers close to their business. She said those food and drink businesses would take part in the event and signpost to their suppliers so people could buy from them more regularly. B. Milner-Simonds said the survey showed 96% of respondents would visit local businesses if they came to a food and drink market in Lyme Regis. They also asked traders through the survey how they would like to engage with the event and although there wasn't a great take-up to trade at the event, they were keen to engage via the supplier chain, helping to publicise and getting involved in the shoppers' map. She said non-food retailers were also generally supportive. B. Milner-Simonds said they were

conscious about the location of events and how that affected businesses and through the feedback they found there was a perception events always took place on the seafront. As such, they had approached Dorset Council (DC) and the Marine Theatre about using Theatre Square and Gun Cliff walk so the event would stretch and engage with businesses in the Bridge Street, Coombe Street and Town Mill areas.

S. Milner Simonds

S. Milner Simonds also spoke in relation to agenda item 21. She said she hoped they had responded to some of members' concerns and they would like to keep in touch with the council as the event plan developed. She said they proposed to use the area around SWiM and the performance area, as well as Theatre Square and Gun Cliff walk to ensure there would be enough room for social distancing and to include as many businesses in the town as possible.

N. Ball

N. Ball spoke in relation to agenda item 13, Financial Resilience and said he felt very strongly about the proposed £650k loan agreement. He felt it was not needed and having it in place would give the council a false buffer. He said with the loan in place, the council would have approximately half a million pounds by the time all expenditure had been made by March 2021. N. Ball said if the council concentrated on getting debts in and invoices out, it would have a lot more money. He believed the loan was trying to protect staff wages and the council, but in running a business, the council shouldn't be looking to borrow its way out of trouble or build up reserves by building up interest. He said having a loan in place would look good on paper but it was still borrowed money. N. Ball said this was not the officers' money, it was the town's money.

N. Ball also spoke in relation to agenda item 21, Eat Festival. He said he didn't think the event would be able to take place on Gun Cliff walk because he had been informed by DC it was prohibited. He also suggested no vehicles should be allowed on the new roof after spending £650k on resurfacing it.

N. Ball also spoke in relation to agenda item 26, Debtors' Report. He said the council needed to get its debts in and he asked whether there was a hidden agenda. He asked how much in total was owed to the council.

J. Raymond (read out by an officer)

J. Raymond said council staff had worked exceptionally hard all 2020 and particularly this summer, both those in the office, those working from home and out on the ground. She said she had witnessed the abuse and problems the car parking staff had to deal with and the rubbish the garden department had been faced with daily, as well as incredibly difficult members of the public. She said the toilet attendant did a superb job on the Marine Parade with queues 40 deep. J. Raymond said she could only imagine the overload the staff had been faced with while working from home, they had always been exceptionally polite and helpful and did their best at all times. She said a bonus for staff at Christmas was the very least

the town council could offer in the light of their working above and beyond the call of duty.

19/273/C Dorset Council Matters

Cllr D. Turner said the consultation period on DC's climate and environmental emergency strategy had been extended to 21 January 2021.

Cllr D. Turner said DC would continue with virtual meetings until March 2021, at the earliest. He said the council would be looking at a return to work policy in light of Covid-19 and the climate change agenda.

Cllr D. Turner said the puffin crossing was still on schedule to be up and running by 7 December 2020.

Regarding the use of Theatre Square and the Eat Festival, Cllr D. Turner said it was owned by the Crown Estate and leased to DC, which then sub-let to South West Water. He said the lease from the Crown contained restrictions on the use of Theatre Square, which needed to be taken into account with any licence agreements.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe asked if there was an update on the proposed Dorset National Park. He asked where DC was with this issue, what its position was and when it would be consulting with town and parish councils.

Cllr D. Turner said this issue wasn't high on DC's agenda currently but he was aware the group working to establish a national park were still very active. He said DC's current priority was the new local plan because of the new planning regulations coming through from the government.

Cllr B. Bawden said she was aware the next tranche of Active Travel funding totalling £220 million was now being made available. She said Lyme Regis was in a good position with the information currently being collated by the Royal College of Arts and she asked what funding would be made available through DC.

Cllr D. Turner said when split nationally, not a huge amount of the £220 million would come to DC and a lot of that money would go to the east of the county where there would be more value for money. However, when the funding was released, town and parish councils would have the opportunity to bid for a share.

19/274/C Questions from Councillors

Cllr M. Ellis

Cllr M. Ellis said she had received a request from Alan Vian and Rev. Chris Martin to hold a socially-distanced in-car carol service at Woodmead car park. She asked if members would agree in principle to this event taking place, with further liaison with officers.

Members indicated their support for the event and the town clerk said further details would be provided in the briefing.

Cllr B. Larcombe

Cllr B. Larcombe said he understood a planning application had been made to DC for the Guildhall window. Given the time it had taken to get this far and in order to take advantage of carrying out the work out-of-season, he asked if officers could give an assurance everything would be ready for work to start as soon as planning permission was granted.

The town clerk said officers were obtaining quotes for the work but the process was reliant on when DC responded to the planning application.

19/275/C Apologies for Absence

Cllr R. Doney
Cllr D. Ruffle – illness

19/276/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr M. Ellis declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 25, List of Payments as it included a payment to the Woodmead Halls, of which she was an employee.

19/277/C Dispensations

There were none.

19/278/C To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 21 October 2020

Cllr B. Bawden requested several amendments to the minutes as she felt some items were not fairly reflected but these were not agreed.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, the minutes of the extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 21 October 2020 were **ADOPTED**.

19/279/C Matters arising from the minutes of the extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 21 October 2020

Cllr J. Broom asked how long the council was tied into the lift servicing contract as members had expressed concerns at the previous meeting about the high cost.

The operations manager said it was only a one-year contract so it would be reviewed at the end of this period.

19/280/C Update Report

Members noted the report.

19/281/C Planning Committee

It was noted the meeting scheduled to take place on 28 October 2020 did not take place due to IT failure and instead, the views of committee members were sought by email and sent to Dorset Council using the chairman's delegated powers.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members **RESOLVED** to endorse the recommendations relating to planning applications which could not be considered at the Planning Committee meeting scheduled for 28 October 2020 due to IT failure.

19/282/C Health and Safety Committee

Cllr M. Ellis pointed out the minutes of the meeting on 13 August 2020 showed the senior administrative assistant as being present and having sent apologies, but this hadn't been corrected at the next meeting on 29 October 2020.

Cllr M. Ellis was also concerned the meeting had taken place in the Guildhall when all other council meetings were taking place virtually due to Covid-19. As the restrictions at that time allowed six people to meet indoors, a meeting with potentially eight people attending went against the guidelines.

The operations manager said the August meeting took place on Zoom and the October meeting was socially distanced with only five people attending. He added the guidelines allowed more people to meet if at work.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, the minutes of the Health and Safety Committee meetings held on 13 August and 29 October 2020 were **RECEIVED**.

19/283/C Calendar of Meetings

The support services manager said there was an additional date to add into the proposed calendar; the mayor-making ceremony would be held on 19 May 2021.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to approve the calendar of meetings for January to May 2021, with the addition of mayor-making on 19 May 2021.

19/284/C Financial Resilience

The town clerk said officers had confirmed with the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) that if a loan of £650k was approved, the council would not be obligated to take out the full amount. He emphasised there was no intention of taking the loan out at this point, but it would be available for up to 12 months for the sum identified.

The finance manager said although the loan could be repaid early if required, PWLB would not be drawn on the costs of early repayment.

Several members noted the forecast reserve at the end of the financial year was much higher than the figure forecast several months ago, and therefore questioned the need for a loan when the finances were improving. There were also concerns about the loan being too high and over such a long period.

Cllr D. Sarson said he would prefer the council to wait until next year before considering taking out a loan and in the meantime investigate smaller loans with a shorter pay-back period from PWLB, once the financial position was more certain.

Cllr S. Williams felt the council shouldn't be considering a loan when there were debts outstanding relating to Monmouth Beach boat storage and chalets and caravans.

The deputy town clerk said the final decision with any loan from PWLB was made by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, which would do a check on affordability. As such, it was much better for the council to request a loan when it could afford it, rather than leaving it until there were financial difficulties.

The town clerk said members should not confuse debts with the ability to borrow money and emphasised that the council was currently in a good position to borrow. He said it was a probability the council wouldn't need to take out the loan but there was still a possibility and putting the loan in place at this point would not incur any costs. He added there was nothing to lose in having the loan in place.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe felt the proposed loan amount of £650k was too high, especially as there was a million pounds in the bank, which would see the council through a year even without any other income. He said if savings were also made, the gap would close considerably and as such, he felt taking out a loan was presumptuous and sent out the wrong signal.

The town clerk said the current level of reserve would not be the reserve at the end of the financial year; the current forecast was £500k, as most of the income came at the end of the year but expenditure ran throughout the year. He said putting a loan in place did not show poor financial management, it showed prudent financial management in putting a facility in place in case the worst happened.

The town clerk said if there was a cost involved in putting the loan in place, he could understand the reluctance, but he emphasised there would be no costs incurred.

Cllr M. Ellis said members should be listening to officers' advice, especially as there was no obligation to take out the loan or to take the full amount requested.

Cllr B. Bawden requested a recorded vote on the following motion:

It was proposed by Cllr B. Bawden and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers to approve entering into a deferred loan agreement with the Public Works Loan Board for a sum of £650,000.

Voted for – Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr R. Smith, Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr K. Ellis

Voted against – Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr S. Williams, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr J. Broom, Cllr C. Reynolds
Abstentions – None

The motion was not carried.

19/285/C Member IT and Support

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe said the costs were higher than he expected, at around £800 a year per person, which seemed high in comparison to the cost for office IT.

The town clerk said DC viewed this arrangement as 14 remote locations that required support, which increased the cost.

The deputy town clerk said the proposal included some options; if members were happy with a 15" laptop and would not require a separate screen and keyboard, this would reduce the cost by around £1,000.

Cllr R. Smith asked if it was possible to save money by only making the equipment and support available to members who requested it, as some members already had sufficient IT. In terms of GDPR, he said those members could sign a code of practice not to save files to their own hard drive.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe felt all members should be provided with the equipment regardless, so there was a level playing field with common equipment and access.

The deputy town clerk said there were previously issues with members' gov.uk email addresses due to the equipment they were using and security settings, and this was one of the reasons for suggesting everyone works on the DC system.

Cllr G. Stammers was concerned it might be cumbersome for members to have laptops at meetings when physical meetings resumed. However, Cllr C. Reynolds said from her experience at the former West Dorset District Council, it had been very easy to use a laptop at meetings.

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to approve the offer from Dorset Council of IT, training and IT support for members at a maximum annual cost of up to £11,200, subject to any negotiated amendments to the precise specification of equipment.

19/286/C Covid-19 Restrictions – Lockdown 2

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe asked for clarification on the play parks remaining open in light of advice to close skateparks, given the high frequency of touching of equipment in play parks.

The town clerk said the government advice was playgrounds could remain open, which encompassed areas of play equipment. He said more attention was being paid to cleaning the equipment due to Covid-19.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to endorse the actions taken regarding council services and facilities during the national lockdown.

19/287/C Emergency Procedure Review

Cllr J. Broom said Treetops Residential Home had closed so this needed to be removed from the procedure.

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members **RESOLVED** to agree the revised Emergency Procedure, with the deletion of Treetops Residential Home.

19/288/C Christmas and New Year Working Arrangements

Cllr J. Broom asked if the external works' team would be on call or working.

The town clerk said they would be working on a rota basis. He said the rota would be confirmed in early-December and members could be notified of the arrangements as soon as they were made.

Cllr J. Broom was concerned about the impact on the enforcement officers, who felt they should also receive any discretionary days given to other staff.

The town clerk said when the council worked out the enforcement officers' remuneration package, working during the Christmas period was factored in as their working requirements were based on annualised hours and 365 days a year. He added this could be changed but it would result in an element of double payment.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe asked if the town clerk could discuss this with the enforcement officers and come back to members with the possibility of adding them into the provision.

The town clerk advised members to make a decision now as it was clear what the enforcement officers' position would be.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** to apply 1.5 days' discretionary leave from 12noon to 5pm on Thursday 24 December and Tuesday 29 December 2020; to apply statutory days on Wednesday 30 December and Thursday 31 December 2020; to agree members of the external works' team provide a full day's cover every day, except Christmas Day; for members of the external works' team who provide cover to be paid overtime and time-off-in-lieu for the day worked; and to extend the 1.5 discretionary days to the enforcement officers.

19/289/C Post Holder 106, Change in Working Hours Request

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, 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 matters relating to relating to an individual 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.

19/290/C Wedding Stewards – Rate of Pay

The town clerk said the current rate of pay was above the Real Living Wage and the National Minimum Wage and was broadly in line with employees working on the reception desk.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe requested a breakdown of the costs of wedding ceremonies. It was agreed this would be provided in the members' briefing.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to approve a pay increase for the wedding stewards at a fixed rate of £25 per ceremony.

19/291/C Renewal of Lease for Power Boat Club, Monmouth Beach

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, 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 matters relating to the financial or business affairs of any 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.

19/292/C Eat Festival

Cllr C. Reynolds asked if there were any other major events taking place on or around the proposed date of 24 April 2021.

The support services manager confirmed there were no other major events planned for the proposed date, with the nearest events being the Easter Monday duck race on 5 April and the Fossil Festival on 1 and 2 May.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe said he was concerned about the extensive area of the town the organisers were proposing to use, and also the use of the roof area given the recent incident with a glass panel. He said he would prefer not to see the roof used for this event and the shelters was still a large enough area to host the event.

Cllr M. Ellis said she had no objection to the roof being used but felt no vehicles should be allowed, only gazebos. Several members agreed with this.

The operations manager confirmed the organisers would prefer to have gazebos at the back of the roof area, so they would be away from the glass panels.

Cllr C. Reynolds referred to Cllr D. Turner's comments earlier in the meeting regarding the use of Theatre Square and asked if this would impact on the ability to host the event.

Cllr G. Turner said he didn't want the roof area to be used as he was concerned the surface could be damaged.

Cllr J. Broom said the finish on the roof was often used in multi-storey car parks so there would be no problem with putting gazebos on it, especially if they were at the back of the roof as proposed.

The town clerk said at the last meeting, members asked the organisers to go away and do some more work on the proposal, which they had done. He said if members agreed to the event taking place, the details would be dealt with by the events' review group, which included the chairmen of the Town Management and Highways Committee and Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee.

The town clerk said when the council embarked on the roof project, one of the objectives was to use it for events and although there had been an incident with a glass panel shattering, this shouldn't influence the future use of the roof. He added events could take place on Theatre Square with the consent of DC.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe asked how much the council would charge the event for use of its land and said he would like to know the amount before agreeing to it.

The town clerk said it was usually delegated to the town clerk to agree an appropriate amount.

It was noted there was no direct comparable with other food and drink events, as Food Rocks was run for charitable purposes and the Dorset Street Food Festival had taken place over several days and used different areas. The deputy town clerk said the council needed to strike a balance between what it felt was reasonable for use of its assets and what was viable for the event.

Cllr K. Ellis said members should trust officers to agree a price in consultation with the two relevant committee chairmen.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr K. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to the request to hold the Eat Festival on 24 April 2021, and to delegate authority to officers and the chairmen of the Town Management and Highways Committee and Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee to agree the details, including the fee charged for use of council-owned land.

The meeting adjourned for a break at 9.07pm.

The meeting resumed at 9.15pm.

19/293/C Kitchen Garden

Members were supportive of the idea and of the involvement of Lyme Garden Growers.

The operations manager said a bed hadn't been chosen yet but it was likely to be the eastern end of Langmoor Gardens and he would confirm this with members once agreed. He reassured members it wouldn't be a messy allotment plot, but more of a kitchen garden with attractive flowers as well as vegetables.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe asked how the area would be secured because it contained food.

Cllr B. Bawden said the whole ethos of Lyme Garden Growers was the sharing of food, so it was expected people would take the food. She said it was also aimed at engaging with the community and encouraging children to be involved in growing and understanding nature.

Proposed by Cllr B. Bawden and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members **RESOLVED** to approve the proposal to include a kitchen garden area in Langmoor Gardens.

19/294/C Consultation on Dorset Council's Climate Emergency and Action Plan

Cllr B. Bawden said since writing the report, DC had extended the deadline of the consultation to 20 January 2021. She felt it was important the town council had an input in the consultation but it was not as urgent as originally thought and she would be happy to be part of a working group to formulate a response to bring back to the next meeting.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe asked that any response was the council's view and not echoing the views of bigger pressure groups.

Cllr B. Bawden said the feedback she was getting from other members was the council would broadly welcome the action plan but there were some issues it would want to have a view on.

Cllr R. Smith felt the consultation was very guided and gave little opportunity to give ideas. He asked if the council would be completing the online survey and providing written feedback in another form.

Members agreed both forms of response should be given.

Proposed by Cllr B. Bawden and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members **RESOLVED** Cllrs B. Bawden and R. Smith would formulate a response to Dorset Council's Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan on behalf of the town council, to be brought back to the Full Council meeting on 16 December 2020 for approval.

19/295/C Twinning Request

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe said he had made it clear to Mr Marsh, the resident who had suggested the twinning with Gibraltar, the onus wasn't on the council to make it work; it had to have the support of residents who wanted to be part of a twinning group. He said there were already two twinning groups in Lyme Regis and a straw poll among existing twinning members showed there was no support for a third.

Cllr J. Broom suggested the council could hold a public meeting when Covid-19 restrictions allowed or use Lyme Voice to gauge public opinion.

Cllr C. Reynolds said the council had previously been asked to twin with a town in Australia due to geological links but this was not pursued. She questioned what connections Lyme Regis had with Gibraltar to justify a twinning.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe agreed and said for a twinning to work, there needed to be something which bound the interests of both communities.

Cllr S. Williams said any twinning with Gibraltar needed to involve young people and the schools may be able to link up, but he agreed the public needed to take the lead.

The town clerk confirmed a twinning arrangement was not driven or facilitated by a council, although it would usually fulfil its civic role. He said the request had been made by one person but it needed to be demonstrated there was a community want to be twinned with Gibraltar, including a body to manage the process and a plan for taking it forward.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr K. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to contact Nigel Marsh to ask him to come back to the council when there is a fully developed idea for the twinning of Lyme Regis with Gibraltar, which demonstrates community engagement and a body is in place to administer the process.

19/296/C List of Payments

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if the list could show a total for each category of payments, such as utilities and grants, and if a payment was monthly, quarterly or annual. He also asked if the report could indicate if there were any issues with payments which needed to be brought to members' attention.

Cllr R. Smith asked if the list could be provided to members as a spreadsheet.

The town clerk reminded members the list of payments were not management accounts, which would break down the payments into categories.

The finance manager confirmed a total for each category could be included in future lists.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr S. Williams, members **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments for October 2020 for the sum of £160,480.15 and in future, officers will bring to members' attention any issues with payments.

Cllr K. Ellis left the meeting at 9.58pm.

19/297/C Debtors Report

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, 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 matters relating to the financial or business affairs of any 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.

19/298/C Exempt Business

a) Post Holder 106, Change in Working Hours Request

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to approve the request from post holder 106 to reduce their working week from five days to four days per week.

Cllr C. Reynolds left the meeting at 10pm.

b) Renewal of Lease for Power Boat Club, Monmouth Beach

The deputy town clerk advised members to accept the value agreed by the two sets of valuers and by the Power Boat Club as he believed it was unlikely the court would grant a further extension for negotiation.

The deputy town clerk said the term of the new lease would remain the same as the current one and there would be rent reviews every three years.

The deputy town clerk said the club and its valuer were willing to agree the proposed value on the condition boats could be stored on the car park in the winter. He said this would be a change in the terms of the current lease.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** to agree the terms for the renewal of the lease for the Power Boat Club, Monmouth Beach now agreed in principal between the respective valuers and by the club and enter into a new lease on this basis.

c) Debtors' Report

The deputy town clerk said around half of the debt relating to the chalet and caravan park were related to two sites, both of which officers were pursuing and were hopeful would be paid by the end of the financial year.

However, the deputy town clerk said a handful of owners still had outstanding issues but officers were now meeting regularly and putting a lot of effort into resolving them.

Cllr B. Bawden thanked officers for the effort put into pursuing the debts.

The meeting closed at 10.13pm.