

## LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 APRIL 2021

#### Present

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

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

**Officers:** M. Green (deputy town clerk) A. Mullins (support services manager)

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

#### 19/378/C Public Forum

##### M. Kahn

M. Kahn spoke in support of the application from Axminster and Lyme Cancer Support. She said she founded the group in 2018 and they were applying for a grant to be able to provide workshops for people affected by cancer in creative writing, flower arranging, card writing and art, using local artists and businesses. She said the group had been inundated in the last year and had 15 people registered with them receiving support. She said 18 people had been bereaved in the last year, 21 people living alone and four single parents. M. Kahn said for many living with and beyond cancer in the last year, there had been many operations cancelled, diagnoses delayed, treatment delayed or stopped and for some this was life-limiting. She said national cancer charities were predicting a tsunami of late cancer diagnoses because many people had not been to GPs, but they would continue to support anyone with cancer. She said the creative writing workshop which they had provided and would continue to provide had allowed people to feel connected, have peer-to-peer support and not feel isolated. It was helping people to overcome their anxiety about seeing people face-to-face. M. Kahn said they had conducted 15 workshops in the last year over Zoom, including a spring flower workshop and the delivering of boxes of flowers to people's doorsteps.

In answer to members' questions, M. Kahn said there was an even split of clients from Lyme Regis and Axminster, but they also had clients from Charmouth, Seaton and Bridport as they didn't turn anyone away. She said she wasn't aware of any funding available from Charmouth Parish Council but they were applying to Axminster Town Council and had applied to national organisations, with grants already provided by the National Lottery and South West Water. M. Kahn explained the format of the sessions and said materials from local businesses and the services of the professionals were given at a reduced rate.

## **D. Wood**

D. Wood spoke in support of the application from Lyme Regis Development Trust – Community Workshop. She said the workshop operated from behind the Hub and had taken two years to get off the ground, from fundraising, to buying the shed and getting planning permission and permission from the church to put the shed there. She said it opened in September 2020 and they had been thrilled with the feedback from people wanting to take part in woodturning and basic carpentry. Being a former design and technology teacher, D. Wood said she was nervous about health and safety but she advertised for volunteers and four former design and technology teachers had come forward. She said they were not only very experienced teachers but they also had an understanding of health and safety and the legislation involved in teaching people using potentially dangerous machinery. She said all sessions were supervised by these people, who were competent, capable and well-organised. D. Wood said since opening last September, the workshop had been closed twice because of the lockdowns but they did have 12 weeks with 18 students. She said five of them did six-week courses and the rest did either a day or half-day workshop. She said one of the volunteers was an engineer who was keen to impart his knowledge, so he paid for CNC machinery himself and wants to offer instruction to anyone who wanted to learn. She said this could provide business opportunities to those who were unemployed, the retired or those who wanted to learn new skills. D. Wood said two other supervisors were due to start and they hoped to offer basic woodworking courses in future. She said the positive attributes of working with wood were well-documented and they aimed to offer financially accessible courses to people who might not be able to afford sessions at the Boat Building Academy or Axminster Power Tools. She said they had been gifted £3,500 worth of power tools so they had top quality machinery and a high calibre of instruction. Having run for a limited time, D. Wood said it was clear they needed some storage facilities to store wood at the right conditions, materials and equipment, and keep people's work safe in between sessions. She said the workshops were a new development for the people of Lyme Regis and it promised to be used by many individuals, including lots of women.

In answer to members' questions, D. Wood said Lyme Regis Development Trust had not provided funding for the workshop but under the auspices of the trust they had applied for funding to buy the building, and the trust also provided administrative and marketing support. The trust was also providing the electricity and had helped with planning permission.

## **M. Dixon**

M. Dixon spoke in support of the application from Lyme Regis Gig Club. He said the club was a charity established in 2007 to give people of all ages the opportunity to participate in the healthy sport of sea rowing. He said the club had grown over the years but had been put on ice over the last year during Covid-19 and it was only now emerging from that. He said they could see a lot of the negative effects of Covid-19 including isolation and people not being able to get out and participate in team sports, so they were keen to be able to open the club rapidly and give people the opportunity to get fit and receive the health and wellbeing benefits that came from being outdoors and on the sea. M. Dixon said for some time the club had been

looking at developing in other ways. He said Cornish pilot gigs were not only rowing boats but also sailing boats, and the club wanted to develop its two fibreglass boats to be able to sail. He said before Covid the club had carried out its own fundraising and had applied to Dorset Council's Leisure Development Fund and had raised enough to buy the spars. He said the sails themselves were still required so they were applying to the council for a grant to commission the making of a set of sails for one of the fibreglass gigs. M. Dixon said in the World Championships in the Scilly Isles there was a rowing and sailing event and they wanted to train crews to compete, rowing into the wind and sailing back. He said the club believed it would give the members a whole new set of experiences, knowledge and know-how. He said they were also developing the youth section of the club and looking at using the Hub for indoor rowing.

In answer to members' questions, M. Dixon said 70% of the club's members came from the DT7 and DT6 areas, with the rest from east Devon and further afield. He said they kept membership fees as low as possible, they had 168 members, 40 youth members and a waiting list to join. He said they were also in talks with Woodroffe School about offering gig rowing as part of the school's sports' programme.

#### **G. Barr**

G. Barr spoke in support of the application from Turn Lyme Green (Plastic Free Lyme Regis). He said the group was applying for £500, less than they had asked for in the past because their activities would be restricted by Covid-19 and because there was less money to go around this year. He said the money would support activities seeking to highlight how people could reduce unnecessary single use plastic, appealing to businesses, residents and visitors of all ages and ethnicities. G. Barr said they wanted to assist the council and event organisers in reducing unnecessary use of plastic by raising awareness with visitors, working with the accommodation sector and being present at as many Lyme Regis events as possible. He said the group intended to maintain its Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) accreditation, being the 24<sup>th</sup> community in the UK to get plastic-free status.

In answer to members' questions, G. Barr said the grant would pay for banners, displays and materials for art projects, help maintain the plastic-free website, and to possibly procure some films about the story of plastic. He said they fundraised by having collection tins at events, they asked people to make a donation at each meeting, and encouraged people to become members and pay a subscription.

#### **19/379/C Apologies for Absence**

There were none.

#### **19/380/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were none.

## **19/381/C Dispensations**

There were none.

## **19/282/C Allocation of Community Grants 2021/22**

Cllr B. Larcombe reminded members that just because there was £15,000 available, it didn't mean it had to be spent; the applications should be considered on their individual merit and they shouldn't be comparing them with each other.

### **Axminster and Lyme Cancer Support**

The support services manager confirmed the group had received funding from the council in relation to the filming of 'Ammonite', which had been used to provide a beach hut on the seafront for those suffering with cancer.

Members agreed the group was providing essential support and activities to its clients and their families.

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2021/22 community grant of £1,000 to Axminster and Lyme Regis Cancer Support.

### **Dorset Youth Association**

The support services manager clarified that although the association worked all over Dorset, the £300 requested was specifically to deliver services to young people at the Hub in Lyme Regis.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2021/22 community grant of £300 to Dorset Youth Association.

### **Hope Corner Farm**

Members agreed as this organisation was not based in or near Lyme Regis, and there was already a community garden in the town, it should not receive funding.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to refuse the request for a 2021/22 community grant from Hope Corner Farm.

### **Jazz Jurassica**

The support services manager said the organiser of Jazz Jurassica had asked for it to be clarified that they had received a grant from the Arts Council to stage a socially distanced festival, which is why it could proceed at the end of May. She said the Arts Council funding covered the ticketed events and enabled them to go ahead even though audience numbers would be halved, but it did not cover the free, community-facing events for which they were applying for a council grant.

Members agreed the event would be of benefit to the town due to people's struggling mental health, providing it was held safely with the restrictions in place.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2021/22 community grant of £450 to Jazz Jurassica.

### **Landance**

The deputy town clerk gave more details about the format of the event, which was dependent on Arts Council funding. He said although Landance had held events in other seaside towns, the event would be bespoke for Lyme Regis. He said it would take place along the seafront, starting under the Marine Theatre and proceeding along the seafront to the beach.

Members were concerned there wasn't enough detail in the application to explain how local people would be involved, how the 40 young people would be chosen and what exactly could be expected from the event.

However, it was recognised it would be an opportunity for young people to learn from professionals and be involved in something new and different.

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to refuse the request from Landance for a 2021/22 community grant.

### **Lyme Morris**

Cllr M. Ellis said the council had always turned down applications from organisations who gave to other charities so she didn't think the council could support this application.

It was proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr G. Turner to award a 2021/22 community grant of £500 to Lyme Morris.

The support services manager confirmed the council's community grants' policy stated applications would not be considered from grant-gifting bodies and apologised that this had not been recognised before the meeting. As such, she said the council had no choice but to refuse the application.

Cllr J. Broom withdrew his proposition, with the permission of Cllr G. Turner as seconder.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr S. Williams, members **RESOLVED** to refuse the request from Lyme Morris for a 2021/22 community grant because it is a grant-gifting organisation.

### **Lyme Regis Boat Building Academy**

Members were concerned the academy was not engaging with the local community and was installing a mezzanine level for its own gains, which went against the ethos of why the council awarded grants.

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, members **RESOLVED** to refuse the request from Lyme Regis Boat Building Academy for a 2021/22 grant.

### **Lyme Regis Community Support**

Cllr C. Reynolds confirmed she would not vote on this application as she was the coordinator of the group.

Members felt laptops and tablets would be of great benefit to older people because of the increased dependency on internet services in the last year and with many elderly people not having the equipment or the confidence to use any equipment they had, they were becoming disenfranchised. Members acknowledged what a great job the group had done in supporting the community during Covid-19 and felt this project was taking it to the next level.

Cllr B. Bawden declared an interest as she was a volunteer with the group.

Cllr R. Doney said he would not vote as he was a trustee on the prospective community interest company.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2021/22 community grant of £1,000 to Lyme Regis Community Support.

### **Lyme Regis Development Trust – Community Workshop**

Members recognised the wide-ranging benefits to the community and the mental health, social interaction and learning benefits of the project. There was some concern the whole project cost was being requested, as the council liked to see evidence of self-funding, but it was also recognised they had secured resources to help with the project.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr K. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2021/22 community grant of £999 to Lyme Regis Development Trust – Community Workshop.

### **Lyme Regis Gig Club**

Members were pleased to see the club had done a lot of its own fundraising and recognised the health and wellbeing benefits of the club, which was also a good advert for the town.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2021/22 community grant of £985 to Lyme Regis Gig Club.

### **Lyme Regis Majorettes**

Members recognised how much the group did for the town, representing it well at events and in other towns.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2021/22 community grant of £1,000 to Lyme Regis Majorettes.

### **Lyme Regis Pantomime Society**

Members agreed the society worked hard to put on excellent performances and a running cloth was needed because the shows were now at the Woodmead Halls.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2021/22 community grant of £999.99 to Lyme Regis Pantomime Society.

### **The Arts Development Company**

Members felt they couldn't support this application as the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee had already awarded £2,500 to the sculpture trail.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to refuse the request from The Arts Development Company for a 2021/22 community grant.

### **The Parish of the Most Holy Trinity**

Members felt a modest sum had been requested in comparison with the total project cost and that the church building was a significant part of Lyme's heritage and legacy.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2021/22 community grant of £1,000 to the Parish of the Most Holy Trinity.

### **Turn Lyme Green (Plastic Free Lyme Regis)**

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2021/22 community grant of £500 to Turn Lyme Green (Plastic Free Lyme Regis).

### **Uplyme and Lyme Regis Cricket Club**

Members recognised the health and wellbeing benefits of the sport and that although based in Uplyme, it was the club for both Lyme Regis and Uplyme.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr S. Williams, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2021/22 community grant of £1,000 to Uplyme and Lyme Regis Cricket Club.

Community grants totalling £9,233.99 were awarded for 2021/22.

*The meeting closed at 8.47pm.*