

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2021

Present

Chairman: The Mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe, MBE

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

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

Absent: Cllr T. Webb

The Rev. Chris Martin sent his apologies and the mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe read out the town prayer.

21/71/C Public Forum

L. Noel

As chairman of Turn Lyme Green (TLG), L. Noel referred to a discussion which took place at the last Environment Committee meeting about water quality in the River Lim and the recommendation on this agenda for the council to make a small contribution to a project TLG had in mind. She said concerns about water quality were first raised by the Dorset Council (DC) ward member Cllr Daryl Turner who noticed pollution by Woodmead bridge. As a result, she said the Environment Agency (EA) and South West Water (SWW) had put up warning signs, which were temporary at first and had now become permanent. She said this was worrying because it implied the water quality was going to be permanently downgraded. L. Noel said TLG was worried about pollution coming down the river and onto the beach where people bathed. She said TLG felt it would be a good idea to consider a monitoring project to complement the one already being done by SWW. She said they had asked SWW and the EA to comment on the water quality but they didn't say anything helpful, so felt they needed to find out more information. L. Noel said Vicki Elcoate, a member of TLG, was also looking into the Citizen Science project run by the Westcountry Rivers Trust. She said the idea was to buy six testing kits to allow TLG to test two sites for a year, which would cost £150, of which the Environment Committee was recommending the council paid £75. She said she felt it was a real opportunity for the town council to show its support for issues around river pollution and the use of the river by residents and tourists. L. Noel said it wasn't good for the image of the town and would put people off if there was a suggestion there was pollution coming down the river. She said people had been commenting in particular this year about pollution at Back Beach. She said she understood Cllr Turner had had confirmation from SWW that the pollution had been resolved but they hadn't said what the pollution was or what they had done to fix it, so TLG was not confident it had really been sorted. L. Noel produced a briefing note written by TLG about the issue and left copies for members.

She said the objectives of monitoring water quality were: to produce data that could be used to target work and identify degrading water bodies; to spot pollution events which could be dealt with as quickly as possible; to educate and engage people with the river and its water catchment; and to secure safe access to bathing water. She said she thought it was a good idea for the council to support the local community and improve water quality for animals and humans.

M. Dixon

As chairman of Lyme Regis Gig Club, M. Dixon spoke in relation to agenda item 19, Application to use the Jubilee Pavilion. He spoke about a project called Sea the Benefits to move the club into a whole new arena. He said the club had established itself over 15 years as a successful sea rowing club with 170 members and a thriving junior section. He said sea rowing was water dependent so the club wanted to take the sport forward and offer indoor rowing to local people, as it could be done all-year-round and would be accessible to a greater number of people. M. Dixon said the club had been joined by Gary Sutherland as a fitness coach and they had been thinking for some time about how they could get more people involved and indoor rowing seemed a natural step. He said the club also had the idea of creating a sea sports centre to offer advice, guidance and ways for people to keep fit. He said he was aware the Jubilee Pavilion had been standing empty for some time while the council was considering its future use, so he had made contact to ask if the gig club could use it while the council was making plans. M. Dixon said he had had discussions with the town clerk and worked up an idea that the club used the Jubilee Pavilion for three months to put rowing machines and screens in. However, he later felt three months wasn't long enough to develop the project in the way they would like because although it would allow them to offer indoor rowing to the existing membership, they would also like to engage with young people. M. Dixon said they wanted to create a centre for young people to get involved with rowing on the seafront as a shop window. He said there was a lack of provision in the town with the Woodroffe School gym closed and no local authority owned leisure centre, so they were looking to plug the gap by providing a low-cost, pay-as-you-go, effective fitness programme. He said it could be opened up to other sporting organisations, such as the football club and cricket club, whose members wanted to keep fit during the off-season. M. Dixon said they wanted the council to consider allowing the gig club to use the Jubilee Pavilion for two years, rent-free, with a three-month break clause, with the club paying for the building's running costs. He said this would enable them to build a sea sports centre and if at the end of the two years the council wanted to use the building for something else, they would have a working model they could take to another place in the town as a going concern.

G. Sutherland

G. Sutherland also spoke in relation to agenda item 19, Application to use the Jubilee Pavilion. He said during his career he had done a lot of sport, one of which was indoor rowing which he had been successful in for 22 years. He said he had competed at national, European and world championships and had been fortunate to coach individuals and teams and take them to championships. He said when he moved to the area, he decided he should learn to row on the water but quickly realised he would perhaps be better serving the community in a better way. He said there was a great

opportunity to replicate in Lyme Regis what he had done with the Foreign Office, the Army and the Ministry of Defence. G. Sutherland said he firmly believed he could turn Lyme Regis into the rowing Mecca with the council's help. He said he had taught people who had never rowed, coached them and persuaded them they could do it, took them to championships and they were now national champions. He said the template was built and all those people he managed to convert to rowing had never been on the water. He said he believed he could do this in Lyme Regis and he particularly wanted to engage the youth of the town and surrounding areas, and he was looking for the council's support on this.

C. Humphreys (read out by the chairman)

C. Humphreys said she had been reading with great interest about the Green Dog Walkers Scheme that was adopted by the town council but never implemented. She said it had proved to be an excellent way to prevent and reduce the dog waste that was occasionally found in many other towns so it appeared to be a win-win situation. She asked why it had not actually been implemented in Lyme, when the council has gone as far as issuing a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) against dogs using the main beaches due to, she assumed, the waste and damage it had witnessed and recorded. C. Humphreys said surely working with local and visiting dog owners and families to implement this scheme would be a win-win and remove the need for the PSPO, which she had also read was driving people away from Lyme Regis, which in these economic times was not helpful to local businesses or environmentally friendly. She said it was interesting to notice Lyme Regis was full of signs advising of rules against dogs running freely on open spaces, however there were none, or very little, notices or effort made against littering, which was a huge problem through the town and continued to be, with no obvious rules made to prevent or reduce it. C. Humphreys asked how people could work together with the council to achieve both dogs being able to run freely on all beaches and reducing the amount of waste and litter throughout the town.

D. Conibere (read out by the chairman)

D. Conibere asked with regards to the winter dog restrictions PSPO, what could the dogs owners do to work with the council to get the restrictions of dogs on leads changed back to dogs off leads during the cold wet winter months to keep dog owning residents and visitors of all ages, family groups and abilities safe from the hazards of the alternative beaches and help bring trade back to the local businesses. She said there was now daily photo and video evidence from 1 January 2021 that showed the proactive dog owners who cared for their dogs, undertook daily litter picks and were anti fouling were no longer able to use the only safe and accessible Lyme Regis sandy beach due to the on-lead restrictions which went against the animal welfare act. D. Conibere said this had meant the dog community had disbanded, with dog owners forced to face dangerous beaches with huge rocks, uneven ground, graffiti, broken glass partly buried in the sand and unattended bonfires on the remote Monmouth Beach or tidal beaches with slippery rocks and steep access steps, or driven away to neighbouring beach towns.

21/72/C Dorset Council Matters

Cllr D. Turner sent his apologies and circulated a report prior to the meeting.

The support services manager summarised the report as follows:

- DC had agreed its members may be appointed to parish and town councils to ensure they were quorate.
- Cllr D. Turner was meeting with highways to discuss traffic concerns in Broad Street, particularly the lower half. The investigation into the recent road fatality had been awaited before this could move forward.
- DC was continuing with virtual meetings until equipment to support hybrid meetings was in place as members were not satisfied County Hall was a suitable venue due to poor ventilation in committee rooms. Cllr D. Turner said he had also asked about the policy for allowing those not vaccinated to attend.
- Covid-19 cases were rising in Dorset, with a case rate of 515 per 100,000 in the DC area and 408 in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area. The number of people in hospital in Dorset with Covid-19 had increased by over a third in the past week to 53.
- DC had launched a consultation on the future of the library service.
- The former council offices at South Walks House would be used temporarily as rapid access clinics to tackle NHS waiting lists. The clinic would operate out of the ground floor for the next six months, opening in a few weeks.
- The foul water discharge issues into the River Lim appeared to have been resolved but it would be helpful if SWW could confirm they had found and fixed the problem.

21/73/C Questions from Councillors

Cllr R. Doney

Cllr R. Doney asked if the mayor's announcements could be reinstated on the Full Council agenda so members could have a handle on what the mayor was doing and saying on the council's behalf. He said it would be useful if something could be put together to go in the briefing note.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe confirmed he would do this for future agendas and suggested all members let each other know what they were doing in their councillor roles.

Cllr B. Bawden

Cllr B. Bawden asked why, given the LymeForward director had been blocked by DC as an unreasonable complainant, she was still allowed to come to town council meetings and repeat the allegations the monitoring officer had deemed to be completely false and without any evidence to support an investigation. She said not only was the LymeForward director allowed to keep repeating the allegations against her, but other members were doing the same, even though both complaints had been completely lacking in evidence.

Cllr R. Smith

Cllr R. Smith asked if there was any change to the position to hold face-to-face meetings with Covid-19 cases rising and DC also not holding physical meetings.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe said the legislation which allowed the council to meet virtually had expired. He said DC had held virtual meetings irrespective of this.

The town clerk confirmed the council was following the legislation but if there was any change in the guidance or members felt nervous about attending meetings, the situation could be reviewed. He said the council could move to a hybrid situation or revert to virtual meetings but it would be in contravention of the legislation and could be subject to challenge. The town clerk added that if there was a public announcement that affected meetings, the council would respond immediately.

21/74/C Apologies for Absence

Cllr D. Ruffle – unwell
Cllr S. Williams – unwell

21/75/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr B. Bawden declared an interest in minute 21/67/C – Lyme Arts Community Trust Grant Agreement as she worked for the Marine Theatre occasionally.

21/76/C Dispensations

There were none.

21/77/C To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 8 September 2021

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 8 September 2021 were **ADOPTED**.

21/78/C Matters arising from the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 28 July 2021

Members noted the report.

21/79/C Update Report

There were no updates.

21/80/C Planning Committee

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the decisions made under the chairman's delegated powers following the cancellation of the meeting scheduled to take place on 7 September 2021.

21/81/C Environment Committee

Proposed by Cllr B. Bawden and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Environment Committee held on 6 October 2021 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

21/22/ENV – Environment Information for the Town Council Website

RESOLVED: to use option 3 to add an environment tab to the town council website and to change the wording on the tab to Environment and not Environmental.

21/23/ENV – Food Waste to Living Soil Project

RESOLVED: that the operations manager speaks to Cliff Powley to enquire if Strawberry Fields was a suitable site for the Food Waste to Living Soil Project and if so, approach Grovlab to get more explicit and costed details, to understand the visual impact and ask them to commence the fundraising.

21/24/ENV – Water Quality on the River Lym

RESOLVED: that the council writes to South West Water to express its concerns about water quality in the River Lym.

RESOLVED: to match fund the cost of water quality monitoring packs up to £75.

21/82/C Human Resources Committee

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 15 September 2021 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

21/26/HR – Homeworking

RESOLVED: to approve the homeworking policy, with the addition of a three-month termination clause for either party and an annual review of any homeworking arrangement.

RESOLVED: to approve a homeworking request from Mark Green, deputy town clerk, to work from home on up to two days per week.

21/83/C Strategy and Finance Committee

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr R. Doney, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Strategy and Finance Committee held on 13 October 2021 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

21/25/SF – Statement of Internal Control, Risk Management Policy and Annual Risk Assessment

Cllr C. Reynolds said she didn't attend the Strategy and Finance Committee meeting and wanted to comment on the town clerk's statement of internal control, which no members commented on at the meeting. She said his report said the behaviour of some members was adversely affecting members and officers and she believed this was because nothing was ever discussed properly. She said she had suggested members discussed their problems in exempt business but this hadn't been implemented.

Regarding the town clerk's comments about members acting as advocates of outside organisations, Cllr C. Reynolds said she was elected to represent the people of the town, many of whom served on the town's organisations and she would continue to represent people as best she could.

The town clerk said there wasn't any debate on his statement of internal control at the committee meeting but he felt the report was understood and everyone understood what the issues were.

RESOLVED: to approve the risk management policy and the 2021-22 annual risk assessment.

RESOLVED: to approve the 2021-22 risk register.

21/26/SF – Budget Performance, 1 April – 31 August 2021

RESOLVED: to formally approve the following projects to be carried out and to aim to pay off the loan from Dorset Council by the end of the financial year:

- Guildhall/office c.£100k
- Railings c.£86k (less DC contribution, c.£19k)
- Beach hut replacement c.£32k
- Chipper c.£15k
- EV points c.£14k (less grant contribution, c.£10k)
- Roof glass replacement c.£2.6k
- Other legal costs c.£5k
- CCTV c.£10k (assuming £40k grant towards this)
- Car park machines c.£30k

21/27/SF – Budget and Precept 2022-23 and Five-Year Financial Plan 2022-27

RESOLVED: to approve the 2022-23 base budget and assumptions and to approve the base five-year financial plan and assumption.

21/28/SF – Review of Precept and Charges

Cllr R. Doney asked for clarification that if the minutes of the Strategy and Finance Committee were adopted, whether members would be able to vary charges in the next cycle of meetings.

The town clerk said the first cycle of meetings allowed members to think about charges to allow officers to model up the budget and members would then have a chance in the next cycle to see how the budget looks and make any changes.

RESOLVED: not to increase the precept in 2022/23.

RESOLVED: to hold Cart Road beach hut charges for 2023 as follows but to increase the discount for Gateway Card holders to 50%:

	Daily Rates 2023	Weekly Rates 2023
January– Easter	£4	
Easter Holiday		£55
April– Spring Holiday	£10	
Spring Holiday		£60
June		£55
July (before summer hol)		£80
July (start of summer hol)- August		£140
September	£12	
October	£7	
November- December	£5	
Christmas & New Year		£80 (2-week booking)
Winter Season	£170	
Summer Season	£1,100	
Annual	£1,700	

RESOLVED: to hold alfresco licence charges for 2022-23, as follows:

	Price 2021/22
Covers	£130
Single Chairs	£12

RESOLVED: to hold Bell Cliff advertising charges for 2022-23 at £120 inclusive of VAT.

RESOLVED: to hold charges for 2023-24 for the Marine Parade Shelters for charities, schools and not-for-profit organisations, to hold charges for commercial or private hire of the Langmoor Room, to hold charges for the performance area for a performance, and to increase charges for private and commercial letting of the market and performance areas, as follows:

Charites, Schools and Not-for-Profit Organisations – per area, per day

Categories	2023-24
DT7 postcodes	£15
Within a 10-mile radius of the offices	£20
Outside a 10-mile radius of the offices	£25
National charities (per hour)	£20
Not-for-profit community events and festivals hiring the shelters	At the discretion of the town clerk

Commercial or private hire

Area		2023-24
Langmoor Room	Per room, per hour	£15
Market area	Per day	£250
Performance area/ top of shelters (Commercial)	Per day	£300
Hire of Performance Area for Performance	Per Half	£60
Hire of any section on top of the shelters	Per Day	To be set as part of roof management plan

RESOLVED: to hold amenities' charges for 2022-23 at: adult mini-golf, £4 and putting, £3; child mini-golf, £2 and putting, £1.50; table tennis, £2 per person, and to increase the discount for Gateway Card holders to 50%.

RESOLVED: to increase charges for weddings and civil marriages in 2023-24 to £400 for Mondays to Fridays and £500 for weekends.

RESOLVED: to hold car parking permit charges for 2022-23 as follows:

	2022/23
Residents	£175
Non-residents	£400
Holiday accommodation	£700

RESOLVED: to increase car parking charges for 2022-23 as follows:

	2022/23
Cabanya	1.50 per hour
Monmouth Beach	1.50 per hour
Woodmead	1.10 per hour
Woodmead three-day ticket	£30
Woodmead weekly ticket	£60

RESOLVED: to hold the car parking penalty charge for 2022-23 at £60, with a reduced fee of £40 if paid within seven working days.

RESOLVED: to hold the cemetery charges for 2022-23, as follows, with double fees applying to non-parishioners:

Inter still born child or under 2 years	Inter child under 16 years	Inter over 16 years	Inter cremated remains	Exclusive right of burial in earthen grave	Exclusive right of burial of cremated remains	Installation of headstone/footstone/tablet
No Charge	No Charge	£225.00	£50.00	£455.00	£276.00	£90.00

Installation of vase	Additional inscription on memorial	Scattering ashes on existing graves	Scattering ashes beneath turf of existing graves	Genealogy searches	Certified copy of entry in burial books	Double interment fee
£45/£60	£30.00	£20.00	£20.00	£25.00	Not Offered	No Extra Charge

RESOLVED: that the charge for memorial benches for 2022-23 is based on the procurement cost at the time.

RESOLVED: to increase the charge for Monmouth Beach garages for 2022-23 to £1,250.

21/29/SF – Objectives

RESOLVED: that:

- the council's objectives for 2022-23 should focus on asset maintenance and should include: lighting columns renewal, asset management review, replacement cadet hut, replacement amenities' hut, chapel roof repairs, and an enhanced town bus service
- light public consultation is carried out on these objectives before the next Strategy and Finance Committee meeting on 1 December 2021

- it may be necessary to replace a council vehicle in 2022-23 but the approach is to run vehicles into the ground until the market for electric vehicles is more favourable
- a budget of £50,000 is approved to undertake repairs to address water ingress at the Jubilee Pavilion
- a budget of £10,000 is approved to employ a part-time officer to undertake community engagement work
- an additional budget of £12,000 is approved to fund the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June 2022, i.e. a total of £20,000
- an investment plan is formulated during 2022 and is subject to comprehensive public engagement before the 2023-24 budget-setting process.

21/31/SF – List of Payments

RESOLVED: to approve the schedule of payments for August and September 2021 for the sums of £184,821.95 and £141,759.96, respectively.

21/84/C Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee held on 29 September 2021 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

21/21/TCP – LymeForward Grant Agreement

Cllr B. Bawden said she wanted to propose an amendment to the recommendation so as a condition of the grant, the council would like open and transparent access to LymeForward's accounts.

The town clerk said he had always resisted calls to scrutinise organisations' accounts as it was only necessary for the council to carry out the required checks on them. He said when he talked to organisations as part of the grant review process, he asked them questions about their finances but if the council wanted more scrutiny on an organisation, he would only do so if the council instructed him.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe said the council didn't want to micromanage organisations; the point of the grant agreements was to ensure organisations were not putting public money at risk and they delivered what they said they would in their application.

Cllr M. Ellis said there had been no conditions put on other organisations in their grant agreements and doing so would put more onus on the town clerk. She said questions about finances were asked at the grant review meetings already.

It was proposed by Cllr B. Bawden that:

- LymeForward's grant agreement includes an objective to work with the town council to deliver its community engagement strategy
- As a condition of the grant, the council would like open and transparent access to LymeForward's accounts

- If LymeForward's articles of association are changed, the town council reserves the right to review the grant agreement to check it is working to the same objectives
- The town council continues to pay the grant on this basis.

The motion was not seconded so the recommendation was approved as follows:

RESOLVED: that:

- LymeForward's grant agreement includes an objective to work with the town council to deliver its community engagement strategy
- If LymeForward's articles of association are changed, the town council reserves the right to review the grant agreement to check it is working to the same objectives
- The town council continues to pay the grant on this basis.

21/22/TCP – Community Engagement Strategy

RESOLVED: to instruct officers to bring a draft community engagement strategy to the next Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee.

21/23/TCP – Publicity Group

RESOLVED: to appoint Cllrs. B. Bawden and B. Larcombe to the Publicity Group.

21/24/TCP – Seasonal Concessions

RESOLVED: to agree the existing concessions continue and defer discussions concerning new concessions until the next meeting.

21/25/TCP – Visitor information

RESOLVED: to purchase an iPad and secure stand and sign up to the TIC pop up service to provide information leaflets on the local area for visitors.

21/26/TCP – Seagull Control

RESOLVED: not to use a falconer to deter seagulls, but to instruct officers to investigate all options of seagull deterrent including bleep boxes and to make sure children are not affected by any possible deterrent.

21/27/TCP – Jubilee Pavilion Christmas Event

RESOLVED: to approve the use of the Jubilee Pavilion for a Christmas event at no cost, to award a donation of £1,000 for the event, and to allow use of other areas of the shelters if required.

21/85/C Town Management and Highways Committee

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee held on 22 September 2021 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

21/22/TMH – Car Park Ticket Machines

RESOLVED: to instruct officers to obtain quotations for car park ticket machines that can withstand a marine environment, three of which can accept cash and two of which are card only.

21/23/TMH – Lyme Regis CCTV connection to the pan-Dorset CCTV Control Room

RESOLVED: to instruct officers to seek quotes for the proposed CCTV system, to look into options for including the deployable CCTV camera in the gardens within the new system, and to apply for 80% grant funding from the office of the Dorset police and crime commissioner (OPCC).

21/25/TMH – 5b Bridge Street – Impact Protection Request

RESOLVED: to support a request from the owner of 5b Bridge Street to request impact protection to protect the overhanging windows (opposite the Guildhall).

21/26/TMH – Cart Road Day Huts' Condition

RESOLVED: to write to owners of Cart Road beach huts in an unacceptable condition that they must bring their hut up to standard by 1 January 2022 or their licence will be revoked, the council will remove the hut and charge for its removal.

21/30/TMH – Roof Balustrading

Cllr R. Doney asked what would happen regarding the balustrading, following the consultant's report.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe said the consultant's report effectively said it was the appropriate glass and the potential for it to break was something the council had to manage.

Cllr J. Broom said although the balustrading complied with British standards and was the correct glass for the situation, the problem was people breaking the glass on purpose.

The town clerk said the council had a CCTV image of the people who broke the glass recently and the image was with the police.

21/86/C Selection of Deputy Mayor

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr J. Broom as the deputy mayor for the remainder of the 2021-22 council year.

21/87/C By-Election

The town clerk said when the report was drafted, it wasn't yet known if there would be the requisite number of requests for a by-election. Since then, he said DC had confirmed it had not received the requisite 10 requests so the town council needed to move to co-option and the report had been drafted to allow for this as a contingency.

The town clerk said he was suggesting the same process as the 2018 co-option, which was similar to an interview process. He suggested a closing date for applications of 15 November 2021 and an extraordinary Full Council meeting on 23 November 2021 to discuss the applications.

Cllr M. Ellis said young people were under-represented on the council and their views needed to be heard in the chamber. Members agreed young people should be encouraged to come forward.

Cllr R. Doney asked if the candidates would be able to see how members voted, as in 2018 the candidates were out of the room when voting took place. He said voting was done in private at the polling stations.

The town clerk said all the guidance about co-option said the process should be as transparent as possible. He was therefore suggesting candidates made a presentation to the meeting, left the room while members considered the presentations, and returned for the vote.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, members **RESOLVED** to approve a co-option process as fewer than 10 Lyme Regis residents called for an election.

21/88/C Annual Governance and Accountability Return and the external auditor's certificate for the year ended 31 March 2021

The town clerk said the council had been given a clean bill of health from the external auditor and congratulated the finance team for helping the council to achieve this. He said considering where the council was two years ago with its finances, the situation had been turned around and this had been echoed by the external auditor.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to approve and accept the certified Annual Governance and Accountability Return and the external auditor's certificate (Notice of Conclusion of Audit) for the year ended 31 March 2021, and to note the actions required at the conclusion of the review have been undertaken.

21/89/C Application to use the Jubilee Pavilion

The town clerk said the council had already said it wanted to look at commercial uses of the Jubilee Pavilion and a significant return could be gained. He said the council had no use of the building, other than a Christmas event, and he fully supported the gig club using it until the end of March. However, he said the council had a plan for the building beyond that date and had also agreed to spend £50,000 to resolve water ingress issues.

Cllr M. Ellis said other organisations used the pavilion and the council was looking at commercial use, so she wouldn't be in favour of granting two years.

Cllr R. Smith asked if the Langmoor or Lister Rooms would be suitable for the gig club.

The town clerk said the council was also looking at alternative uses for the Lister Room.

Cllr C. Reynolds asked how long it would take to resolve the water ingress issues.

The town clerk said the work could be commissioned to start in April 2022 and would take around eight to 10 weeks.

Cllr C. Reynolds suggested that as the pavilion couldn't be used during this time or when the Christmas event was taking place, the council could allow the gig club to use it for one year. She said this would also give the council time to consider its future use.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe said the council had to consider if the Jubilee Pavilion was a money-making asset or something for community benefit. He agreed allowing the gig club to use it for a year would give them chance to see if they could make it work and finding a commercial tenant would take time anyway.

Mr M. Dixon was invited to speak. He said the club was looking to use the Jubilee Pavilion to build a social enterprise that could be re-located elsewhere; they were not looking to use it as a permanent base. He said they had funding in place for rowing machines if the council gave permission to use the pavilion.

Mr M. Dixon said although his original request was for three months, he felt it wouldn't give them long enough to prove the model. He said it would require a lot of capital investment and they wanted to develop an offer for all local people, which would require a longer period.

The town clerk said there may be other organisations in the town who would like an opportunity to use the pavilion.

Cllr R. Smith asked when a commercial tenant could reasonably take occupancy.

The town clerk said a tenant could be in by June or July 2022.

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe asked what organisations who used the Jubilee Pavilion, such as the Regatta and Carnival and RNLI Guild, would do if it was in use.

Mr M. Dixon said the kit could be removed.

Several members felt three months would be preferable as the opportunity to occupy the pavilion for longer should be offered more widely.

The town clerk reminded members there was also a commitment to carry out a comprehensive review of the shelters.

Cllr C. Reynolds said the council had no idea if any other organisations would be interested in using it and allowing the gig club to use it for a year would show the council could engage with the community and perhaps generate interest from other organisations to use it.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to allow Lyme Regis Gig Club to use the Jubilee Pavilion for three months until 31 March 2022, excluding the period when it will be used for a Christmas event.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm.