

## LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH 2023

#### Present

**Chairman:** The Mayor, Cllr M. Ellis

**Councillors:** Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr R. Doney, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr P. May, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner

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

#### 22/118/C Public Forum

##### J. Yelland – 1<sup>st</sup> Lym Valley Scouts

J. Yelland said it was great to be back after another outstanding year for the 1<sup>st</sup> Lym Valley Scouts. They had started a second scout group due to soaring demand, they had been to Paris to help extend young people's horizons and see the world, and they continued to deliver experiences which helped shape young people's lives for the better. He said he was here to talk about the scout's watersports provision as they had a long history of getting young people out on the water, whether that be rafting in Lyme Regis, taking young people overseas to experience watersports in other countries, or teaming up with local organisations to expand opportunities for young people to make use of Lyme's best asset, the sea. J. Yelland said while progress had been made by many organisations locally to widen participation in watersports in recent years, sadly there was much more to do to make it accessible for all young people. He said there remained barriers for entry, with the cost of learning being one of the biggest. He said as there were no paddle sports clubs in Lyme Regis, young people had to turn to businesses to learn to paddleboard, which could cost £30 per hour per person for tuition on how to use a paddleboard safely and well. J. Yelland said these numbers therefore told the scouts what they needed to do. He said they were asking for the council's support in purchasing mega paddleboards and associated equipment. He said these paddleboards were like normal ones only larger and they could accommodate eight young people at a time and an adult giving tuition. He said this gave them the ability to get multiple young people out on the water safely in a way that was fun and offered them a chance to learn something. J. Yelland said they had received support from the Scout Association who were helping leaders become paddleboard instructors and they had also received funding from Candles on the Cobb and Regatta and Carnival, as they recognised the value of these activities to young people. He said they hoped to be out on the water this summer to teach skills for life and give even more young people the chance to take part in the activity.

### **E. Holt – Lyme Regis Town Band**

E. Holt said last year with the council's grant the town band organised a workshop with 50 external players coming to the Lyme Regis area from 10 brass bands in four counties, as well as three members of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. He said this year they were holding the workshop in a bigger venue because they outgrew the venue within year one, they were getting nationally recognised professional tutors and they were hoping to extend the number of places available. E. Holt said the band had looked at their costs from last year and managed to secure a free venue, reducing their costs considerably, but the tutors came at a higher cost. He said the band applied for £1,000 last year but only spent £500 so they were applying for £500 again this year to support the workshop, to make it bigger and better and get more locals from Lyme Regis to go to the free concert they would be putting on at the end.

### **M. Dixon – Lyme Regis Gig Club**

M. Dixon said Lyme Regis Gig Club was a charity set up in 2007 to enable people to participate in the healthy sport of sea rowing in pilot gigs and sea skiffs, with a membership of over 100 and a junior section. He said they were keen to enable more people to participate in the sport and this was driving their plans to commission the building of a new Cornish pilot gig in June. He said the club had been doing their own fundraising, including jumble sales, they had been supported by the Regatta and Carnival Committee and other organisations, and it would be terrific if the town council would also be willing to support the project. M. Dixon said they had three Cornish pilot gigs, with the last one being built in 2012, and currently two of them were in the Isles of Scilly waiting for the World Pilot Gig Championships to represent Lyme Regis. He said outside Cornwall, he would like to think the club was one of the better competitive teams and recently the first race of the season at Saltash saw the men's A team come 19<sup>th</sup> out of 50 teams. He said the new wooden gig would be built by the Boat Building Academy so it would be there for everyone to see while it was being built, it would be used for racing and would give greater capacity to bring in more young people. He said the club was working with Woodroffe School, Colyton Grammar School and Axe Valley Academy to run indoor rowing programmes.

### **O. Brazier-Pethick – Powder Monkeys Explorer Sea Scout Unit**

O. Brazier-Pethick said the unit was happy to welcome members last year to one of their meetings and they knew members particularly enjoyed the challenge of putting up one of the tents the council had funded. He said the unit continued to grow faster than they could have imagined, now with nearly 30 Explorer Sea Scouts, which was amazing given the unit only started three years ago. He said they had had an amazing year, including going to Paris with the 1<sup>st</sup> Lym Valley Scouts, going to Cirencester and beating 380 teams from the UK to win strategy, they had supported Candles on the Cobb, sold cakes at Belmont open days and much more. O. Brazier-Pethick said as much as the unit was about being on the water, they did a lot on dry land. He said nothing quite matched the experience of spending time with friends camping out under the stars, a very special moment which sadly they missed out on during the pandemic. He said the nights away experience would help them develop skills for life, help them grow and get the most out of Explorers. He said having more

tents would allow them to do more; given how quickly the unit had grown, they still needed to borrow tents from the 1<sup>st</sup> Lym Valley Scouts. He said as they continued to develop, this could cause major issues when both groups wanted to camp at the same time. O. Brazier-Pethick said having more of their own tents meant they could go on their own adventures not constrained by what others were doing. He said this year the unit leader got her nights away permit, which meant they wouldn't have to borrow leaders from other groups to go on trips. He said the tents they would like were more specialist than an average family tent and were expedition tents used in the toughest conditions. He said they were robust, which meant they would last so it was a solid investment for the unit and not something to be thrown away, something that sat well with them given the focus on sustainability. O. Brazier-Pethick said the tents would help them achieve top awards, build life skills and help them make memories for the future. He said they believed it was the right thing to ask for money for.

### **P. Rex (Town Mill Trust)**

P. Rex thanked the council for ring-fencing funding for community grants as organisations were under budgetary pressures, so it was good for local organisations to have the opportunity to apply. She said they ran a complex site at the Town Mill and managed a delicate heritage building. She said they were supported small local businesses as a landlord, many of whom provided artisan craftsmanship, they supported arts in the community, and supported the production of green power through a hydro plant. She said they were reviewing what they did and felt there was a need for greater engagement with the local community, something which had potentially dropped away over recent years but had now been highlighted as a priority. P. Rex said they had the opportunity to do this with an under-utilised space, which wasn't fit-for-purpose but could be a tremendous asset with some modifications. She said Lyme Regis Development Trust ran a monthly meeting which was designed to address social isolation and this group was oversubscribed with a waiting list. She said they would love to be able to work collaboratively by providing a space for that service. She said if there were any opportunities to work collaboratively, they would be keen to reignite those connections. P. Rex said they wanted to provide some basic kitchen facilities and make the Bakehouse studio a good community space.

### **S. Williams (Lyme Regis Boat Building Academy)**

S. Williams said since becoming a charity in 2020, the Boat Building Academy had very much broadened its remit in the wider community of Dorset, particularly with the council, Dorset Community Fund and the Local Enterprise Partnership. He said in order to broaden its student cohort, it was looking to bring in more disadvantaged young people and they had launched a major campaign nationally, applying to charitable trusts across the country to try and get the funds to do this. He said linked to this was their proposal to run taster days for students from Woodroffe School, where the academy director went earlier this year to talk to the students, and 25 of them expressed an interest in having a day at the Boat Building Academy. S. Williams said they were working with the school to establish dates for this, which would extend into the next academic year. He said they would need several taster days to accommodate everyone and the students would have some presentations, a tour of

the workshop, they would get a real feel for what went on in the boat building and furniture making courses and have a go in the workshop with the wood and other materials to develop a project in just one afternoon. S. Williams said they had some separate funding to run one-week starter courses, so if any students who came out of the taster day were keen and committed they could develop further and some could get a bursary to do either the 40-week boat building course or the 12-week furniture making course. He said it was important to note the students didn't have to be skilled wood workers to start with, that was what the tutoring was about. S. Williams said they were asking for the town council's support to take the taster days forward, not just for a few months but extending forward. He said they believed it was a very positive initiative to engage with local young people, particularly those who wouldn't normally be able to afford to do these courses, to be able to benefit in the longer term and potentially have a life-changing and successful career in the boat building, furniture making or restoration industries.

### **K. Vernon – Axminster and Lyme Cancer Support**

K. Vernon thanked the council for its ongoing support, especially the mayor, as well as the wider community. She said they had been running for five years and had had some tremendous support. She said in the NHS there had been figures of cancer diagnoses going up and sadly they were seeing the impact of that in the local community; they had over 100 new clients in the last nine months, which was huge for such a small area. She said they offered clients a mix of talk, touch and activity, so this would be counselling, hands on therapy and creative or physical activities. K. Vernon said it was up to the clients what they wanted to do and how much or little they wanted to do, at no cost to them. She said their number one request was for counselling so they were asking the council for £900 to cover the cost of a professional counsellor for four people in Lyme Regis. She said each of the clients would get six sessions with a professional, insured therapist from the community so the funding would go full circle.

### **R. Waspe (Lyme Regis Sea School)**

R. Waspe said the sea school was a Royal Yachting Association accredited organisation to teach children and adults through an accredited system where they gained certificates from levels one to four in sailing, open to all the local schools and the community. He said the organisation was run by volunteers, with four trustees, and their aim was to get people out on the water, teaching them skills they probably wouldn't otherwise learn if they were using the water without any training. R. Waspe said they were running sessions for 10 weeks in the summer and weekends and evening sessions. He said last year they were pleased to welcome some members to one evening session to watch the boats go out, which the council had helped fund. He said this year they were requesting funding to replace 20-year-old boats with reasonably new boats to maintain the standard of teaching and maintain their safety for the children. He said they were holding an open day on 5 April 2023 when it would be £5 to sail. R. Waspe said they were working with Woodroffe School and the Axe Valley Academy to give them a taster, as well as running a community week which the Powder Monkeys and 1<sup>st</sup> Lym valley Scouts would be attending. He said they were also doing more work with the gig club to integrate with the community. He said they also offered bursaries if it was unaffordable to some families.

### **G. Barr – Turn Lyme Green/Plastic Free Lyme**

G. Barr said they were asking for a grant of £500 out of anticipated expenditure of £2,000 and said the council had been very generous in the past and paid for the survey on the River Lim. He said the grant would allow them to provide an extended subscription to MailChimp to email the 500 addresses who received their newsletter on a monthly basis and regular newsflashes. He said it would also help to modernise and improve the website, which was over 12 years old. G. Barr said the money would be for community outreach to reach residents and visitors with news about the environment in and around Lyme Regis. He said as in previous years, they intended to be represented at all the community events in Lyme Regis and Uplyme.

### **C. Reynolds – Lyme Regis Community Support**

C. Reynolds said the group was still helping people in the town but had started off at the beginning of Covid doing shopping, collecting prescriptions, signposting and lots of other jobs. She said they wanted to continue helping people and needed more volunteers for a badly needed car service to take people to hospital and other appointments. She said they would have liked to have asked for £1,000 but they would have to match fund this amount and simply didn't know how much it would cost. C. Reynolds said it could be well over £2,000 because it would take a lot of time and effort to get something like this running. She hoped if they needed further help in the future, with the council's new community engagement plan, it would look favourably on them at a later date. She said people had real issues getting to places like Dorchester and Poole. She said they were looking for volunteers to help run the service and asked anyone interested to get in touch with her.

### **P. Magrane – Lyme Crime Literary Festival**

P. Magrane said the aim of the event was to bring literary crime novel writers to the town and some of the figures behind the stories. He said it was launched in 2020 and like so many other cultural events it took place online but with a full programme of events. He said they finally hosted a full Lyme Regis festival in 2022 with a great roster of authors. He said the next festival would be in June 2023 and they were asking for support from the council for one talk by an Old Bailey judge who would be talking about why people committed murder and shining a light on the psychology and the legal profession. P. Magrane said it would be of huge interest to any young person who was thinking of working in the legal profession or crime prevention.

### **M. Ellis – Curtain up Theatre Company**

M. Ellis said the organisation had been raising funds through cake stalls and bingos to buy a backstage curtain for shows to enhance the audience's outlook on the stage.

## **22/119/C Apologies for Absence**

Cllr C. Aldridge – holiday  
Cllr R. Smith – work commitments  
Cllr T. Webb – illness

## **22/120/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr R. Doney declared a non-pecuniary interest in Lyme Regis Community Support as he was chairman of the organisation.

Cllr D. Sarson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Lyme Regis Bowling Club as he was a member of the club.

Cllr C. Reynolds declared a non-pecuniary interest in Lyme Regis Community Support as she was the lead co-ordinator of the organisation.

Cllr P. May declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Town Mill Trust as he was a trustee.

Cllr B. Bawden declared a non-pecuniary interest in Turn Lyme Green/Plastic Free Lyme as she was a member of the organisation.

Cllr M. Ellis declared a non-pecuniary interest in Lyme Regis Community Support as she was a co-ordinator in the organisation and in the Curtain Up Theatre Company as she was the stage manager.

## **22/121/C Dispensations**

There were none.

## **22/122/C Allocation of Community Grants 2023-24**

As the total amount requested was less than the amount of funding available, members discussed how the applications should be considered. It was agreed each application should be considered and voted on separately to demonstrate due diligence.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Lym Valley Scouts**

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £499 to the 1<sup>st</sup> Lym Valley Scouts.

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

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £900 to the Axminster and Lyme Cancer Support.

### **Curtain up Theatre Company**

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £499 to Curtain Up Theatre Company.

### **Lyme Crime Literary Festival**

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £416 to Lyme Crime Literary Festival.

### **Lyme Heartbeat**

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £500 to Lyme Heartbeat.

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

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £1,000 to Lyme Regis Boat Building Academy.

### **Lyme Regis Bowling Club**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £500 to Lyme Regis Bowling Club.

### **Lyme Regis Community Support**

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £500 to Lyme Regis Community Support.

### **Lyme Regis Gig Club**

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £1,000 to Lyme Regis Gig Club.

### **Lyme Regis Pantomime Society**

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £800 to Lyme Regis Pantomime Society.

### **Lyme Regis Sea School**

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £1,000 to Lyme Regis Sea School.

### **Lyme Regis Town Band**

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £500 to Lyme Regis Town Band.

### **Lyme Regis Youth Football**

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £509.48 to Lyme Regis Youth Football.

### **Powder Monkeys Explorer Sea Scout Unit**

Proposed by Cllr D. Ruffle and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £499 to Powder Monkeys Explorer Sea Scout Unit.

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

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £500 to The Parish of the Most Holy Trinity.

### **Town Mill Trust**

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £1,000 to the Town Mill Trust.

### **Turn Lyme Green/Plastic Free Lyme**

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £500 to Turn Lyme Green/Plastic Free Lyme.

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

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £1,000 to Uplyme and Lyme Regis Cricket Club.

### **Uplyme Preschool**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to award a 2023-24 community grant of £500 to Uplyme Preschool.

*The meeting closed at 8.04pm.*