

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2025

Present

Chairman: Cllr P. Evans

Councillors: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr M. Denney, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr D. Holland, Cllr P. May, Cllr A. Wood

Officers: M. Green (deputy town clerk), J. Wright (town clerk)

25/75/C Public Forum

N. Ball

N. Ball said he was concerned about the number of sites put forward for Lyme Regis; he considered it too ambitious and felt that if all the sites were adopted the town would lose its identity. He said he was further concerned about the capacity of the town's drainage system and the impact of an increased population on the town's roads and services, e.g., GP services and schools. He suggested the local plan should consider the need for a supermarket and should be mindful of the next generation.

25/76/C Apologies for Absence

Cllr G. Caddy – holiday
Cllr S. Larcombe – work commitments

25/77/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

25/78/C Dispensations

None.

Cllrs M. Ellis and D. Holland arrived at 7.17pm.

25/79/C Dorset Transport Plan Consultation Response

Members expressed concerns the questions sought responses on a vision and it was difficult to come to any other conclusion than to strongly agree with each question.

Members also felt the questionnaire did not deal with cost and deliverability, and that individual questions did not allow for comment.

The deputy town clerk summarised the council's response and offered general comments at the end of the questionnaire; comments included better connectivity, including a better bus service.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members **RESOLVED** to accept the response and comments to the Dorset Transport Plan Consultation Response suggested by the deputy town clerk.

25/80/C Dorset Local Plan Consultation Response

The deputy town clerk summarised the purpose of Dorset Council's local plan and said his presentation concentrated on Lyme Regis issues to the exclusion of county-wide issues and, in particular, land availability for housing in the town.

The deputy town clerk detailed the proposed Lyme Regis sites in the draft plan; he also referred to their limitations.

He said Strawberry Fields, which the council has a 999-year lease on, had the least limitations. He said preliminary discussions had taken place with the freeholder who had indicated he would not oppose the use of Strawberry Fields for housing.

Members thanked the deputy town clerk for his presentation and raised concerns around the need for smaller homes and affordable homes, the number of second homes and second home purchases of new homes, opportunities to involve the community land trust, the lack of well paid jobs, a poor transport infrastructure, the merits of having a medium-sized supermarket in the town, the lack of demand for places at St Michael's Primary School, and the inadequacies of the power infrastructure to the town.

Members agreed with the observations and comments of the deputy town clerk.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members **RESOLVED** to accept the comments to the Dorset Local Plan Consultation Response as suggested by the deputy town clerk.

The meeting closed at 8.11pm.