

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST 2026

Present

Chairman: Cllr P. Evans

Councillors: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr G. Caddy, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr M. Denney, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr P. May, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr A. Wood

Officers: A. Mullins (assistant town clerk), M. Green (deputy town clerk)

Absent: Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold, Cllr G. Stammers

26/39/C Apologies for absence

Cllr C. Reynolds – illness

26/40/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

26/41/C Dispensations

There were none.

26/42/C Appointment of a Town Clerk

Proposed by Cllr P. May 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 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.

26/43/C Sale of Former Offices

Proposed by Cllr P. May 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 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.

26/44/C Exempt Business

The deputy town clerk left the meeting at 7.02pm.

a) Appointment of a Town Clerk

Members were updated on how the interviews went and that the panel's recommendation was that the current deputy town clerk is appointed as town clerk.

It was noted the deputy town clerk would like to take up office as soon as possible, although the current arrangement was for the town clerk to leave on 31 December 2026. However, discussions had taken place with the town clerk about leaving early, but to continue to be paid until 31 December 2026.

Members were informed the new town clerk would like to start building a new management team as soon as possible, with the new deputy town clerk to have experience in one or more disciplines. It was noted the new town clerk felt once a deputy was appointed, he could create a balanced management team at a cost no greater than the current staffing costs, and perhaps there could be savings, although he felt managers should be paid more to reflect market conditions and ensure retention.

It was noted there would be an extraordinary Full Council meeting on 12 August 2026 to allow the new town clerk to start the recruitment process for a deputy immediately.

It was suggested that as the council's new governance structure would take effect after the Full Council meeting on 9 September 2026, the current town clerk be allowed to leave from this date, on mutually agreeable terms.

Members discussed the suggestion for the town clerk to leave early, which would be garden leave, and asked if his contract and the Green Book would allow this.

The assistant town clerk confirmed the contract allowed for garden leave and members noted the importance of having any agreement in writing.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr P. May, members **RESOLVED** to appoint Mark Green as the council's new town clerk, subject to the negotiation of final contract conditions.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr D. Holland, members **RESOLVED** that the new town clerk takes up the post on 10 September 2026 and is paid the negotiated rate from that date.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to require the town clerk to go on garden leave during his notice period between 10 September and 31 December 2026.

The deputy town clerk returned to the meeting at 7.21pm.

b) Sale of Former Offices

The deputy town clerk updated members on the latest position with the marketing and disposal of the former council offices.

Members noted a meeting was taking place on 13 August 2026 between the council's architect and the conservation officer to further discuss proposed access works at the Guildhall.

The deputy town clerk advised members to allow that meeting to go ahead as the council would then be in a better position to consider all options.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to allow the meeting on 13 August 2026 to discuss proposed access works at the Guildhall to take place, and to authorise the town clerk, in consultation with the mayor and chairman of the Town Management and Highways Committee, to accept the second offer made for the former council offices in the event the first offer is withdrawn or amended by the initial buyer.

The deputy town clerk said he would provide members with a confidential briefing note after the 13 August 2026 meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.59pm.