

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

STRATEGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2018

Present

Chairman: Cllr S. Miller

Councillors: Cllr J. Broom, Cllr R. Doney, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis, Cllr D. Hallett, Cllr P. Hicks, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr O. Lovell, Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, Cllr P. Ridley, Cllr J. Scowen, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr S. Williams

Officers: Mrs A. Mullins (administrative officer), Mr J. Wright (town clerk)

18/25/SF Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

18/26/SF Apologies for Absence

There were none.

Cllr O. Lovell arrived at the meeting at 7.01pm.

18/27/SF Minutes

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2018 were **ADOPTED**.

18/28/SF Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

18/29/SF Dispensations

There was no grant of dispensations made by the town clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.

18/30/SF Matters arising from the minutes of the Strategy and Finance Committee meeting held on 27 June 2018

Bowling club car park

It was confirmed a report by Cllr B. Larcombe and Cllr G. Turner would be considered by the Assets on-and-around Monmouth Beach car park working group on 12 September 2018 and any recommendations would go straight to the Full Council on 19 September 2018.

St Michael's Parish Church tower

Cllr R. Doney said he had done some research and found there were at least five bodies which provided grants for Grade I Listed buildings; this information had been passed on to the church.

18/31/SF Update Report

Members noted the report.

18/32/SF Minutes of the Section 106 Funding working group meeting held on 5 June 2018

The minutes of the working group meeting held on 5 June 2018 were **RECEIVED**.

18/33/SF Review of Standing Orders

Cllr O. Lovell suggested a paragraph was added to standing order 7 – Previous Resolutions, to allow members to reverse a decision without requiring a rescission motion if they had been given misleading or inaccurate information.

Members agreed with this principle but didn't feel it was necessary to include it in standing orders. Cllr B. Larcombe reminded members that standing orders could also be suspended to deal with this issue.

Proposed by Cllr R. Doney and seconded by Cllr J. Scowen, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the proposed standing orders, based on the model published by the National Association of Local Councils, effective from 19 September 2018.

18/34/SF LEADER Programme Application

Cllr D. Hallett said he was concerned about the costs associated with this project and believed only the repair of the roof should be carried out.

Cllr B. Larcombe said he supported the principle of pursuing grant funding to enhance the roof area, but he was concerned with some of the costings, such as those for engraved glass panels and for professional fees.

Cllr J. Broom said they were budget figures, only, which had been used as part of the grant application.

There was general agreement that patch repairs were no longer sufficient and the replacement of the roof was essential.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said as the council needed to pay for the replacement of the roof regardless, if it was possible to obtain grant funding to make further enhancements to the area, this should be pursued. Members generally agreed with this.

The town clerk said the council would have to go out to tender as this was a requirement of financial regulations and the LEADER funding, and the concepts and designs would be brought to the council for approval.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to:

- approve a budget of up to £200,000 from the council's reserve to support its application to the Dorset LEADER Programme for the renewal and enhancement of the roof area above The Swim, the antique centre and amusement arcade
- confirm the appointment of John Stark and Crickmay Partnership to undertake the initial design and 'up to tender' work for the renewal and enhancement of the roof area above The Swim, the antique centre and amusement arcade
- approve the internal programme for submitting an application to the Dorset LEADER Programme by 6 December 2018

18/35/SF Debtors' Report

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, 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 information relating to the financial or business affairs of a 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.

18/36/SF Exempt Business

(a) Debtors' Report

The town clerk updated members on the total debt as at 5 September 2018. He said a significant proportion of the debt related to three areas: site licence fees, the newly-constructed Ware Cliff chalets, and al fresco licences.

The town clerk told members how officers intended on dealing with these debts, in consultation with the council's solicitors.

Some members were concerned about the amount of time officers had to commit to pursuing these debts and agreed a firmer stance should be taken with site licences in future.

Several members were concerned some tables and chairs on Marine Parade, which were the subject of the al fresco licences, were being placed beyond the studs in the ground. It was agreed the enforcement officers should clamp down on this.

Cllr O. Lovell suggested an audit committee was set up consisting of up to three members, which would look in detail at some of these major issues to determine if the process was cost-effective and efficient.

Cllr S. Miller agreed there was a need for an audit and a review of current issues at the chalet and caravan site. He asked that a report was brought to the next meeting to allow members to formally consider: a breakdown and detail of the debts related to the site licences, the newly-constructed Ware Cliff chalets and the al fresco licences;

what is owed; what the outcomes of the solicitors' actions were; what further action will be taken; all costs associated with the pursuance of these debts; and details of the number of properties paying a levy for commercial rentals. Members agreed with this.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis also requested the chalet/caravan/beach hut numbers and related debts were provided to members.

The meeting closed at 8.11pm.