LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

STRATEGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 JULY 2025

Present

Chairman: Cllr P. May

Councillors: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr G. Caddy, Cllr M. Denney, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr P. Evans, Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold, Cllr D. Holland, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr A. Wood

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

25/01/SF Election of Chairman and Vice-chairman

It was proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis that Cllr P. May is chairman of the Strategy and Finance Committee.

Cllr P. May was duly **ELECTED** as chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr D. Holland that Cllr M. Ellis is vice-chairman of the Strategy and Finance Committee.

Cllr M. Ellis was duly **ELECTED** as vice-chairman.

25/02/SF Terms of Reference

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, the terms of reference were **RECEIVED**.

25/03/SF Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

25/04/SF Apologies for Absence

Cllr S. Cockerell – holiday
Cllr S. Larcombe – work commitments

25/05/SF Minutes

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2025 were **ADOPTED**.

25/06/SF Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

25/07/SF Dispensations

There were none.

25/08/SF Matters arising from the minutes of the Strategy and Finance Committee meeting held on 19 March 2025

Beach replenishment

The town clerk said it was still unsure if Dorset Council (DC) would carry out the replenishment, although there was a chance it would happen in the autumn. DC was proposing to use a pressurised system of dredging the harbour, with the beach replenishment as a separate process. This method was cheaper but could disturb marine life and affect water quality.

25/09/SF Update Report

Members noted the report.

25/10/SF Strategy and Finance Objectives

Members noted the report.

25/11/SF The Annual Review of the Communications/PR Policy and Procedure

A member asked for clarification over the arrangements for the council magazine, Lyme Living, as the policy and procedure, which now included a reference to the magazine, wouldn't be reviewed until August 2026, but it wasn't yet agreed if the magazine would continue beyond March 2026.

It was confirmed that if the magazine did not continue, the relevant section could be removed from the policy at the next review.

Proposed by Cllr M. Denney and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the amended Communications/PR Policy and Procedure.

25/12/SF Information Policy

Proposed by Cllr A. Wood and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the Information Policy.

25/13/SF Budget Performance, 1 April – 30 June 2025

The finance manager said this report was a review of the first quarter and the forecast position at the end of the financial year; so far, the position was positive, with forecasted income up £60k on budget. There had been £15k of unbudgeted expenditure so far, which was something for members to consider when moving into objective-setting.

It was noted the majority of the unbudgeted expenditure was due to a recommendation from the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee to approve set-up costs for the post office at the Waffle House.

Cllr G. Stammers declared a pecuniary interest as she worked at another post office branch.

A member asked where the budget for Party in the Park was listed.

The finance manager said as this was part of the council's normal expenses, not an objective, it did not appear as a separate budget line.

Another member had asked for a breakdown of the expenditure for Party in the Park to be provided to the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee so members could decide if it was value for money.

The town clerk said staff timesheets were now in for July so the final costings could be provided.

25/14/SF Flowbird Update

The finance manager said following IPS's offer to borrow a Flowbird machine to develop the technology, IPS were willing to verbally accept full financial and legal liability for claims but they were not willing to put this in writing. As such, she would not recommend accepting this offer.

Members agreed the offer should not be accepted and indicated they would like the replacement of the Monmouth Beach machines from Flowbird to IPS to be an objective for 2026-27.

The finance manager said there had been no issues with the IPS machines at Woodmead car park, there had been no customer complaints and no discrepancies.

25/15/SF Investments and Cash Holdings

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Caddy, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to note the cash position at the end of June 2025 and to close the NS&I Wilkinson's investment account.

25/16/SF List of Payments

A member asked that the utilities bills were listed by the area or building they related to in future.

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the schedule of payments in April, May and June 2025 for the sums of £246,191.87, £355,697.70 and £254,406.16, respectively.

25/17/SF Debtors

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, 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.

25/18/SF Exempt Business

a) Debtors

The finance manager said since writing the report, agreement had been reached with Dorset Council on payment for the accreted land, which was expected soon.

A member asked if the debt related to parking permits was being resolved.

The finance manager said it was not resolved and officers would enter into discussions with the council's solicitor, with the possibility of taking it to the small claims court.

The meeting closed at 7.28pm.