

# LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

## STRATEGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2025

#### Present

**Chairman:** Cllr P. May

**Councillors:** Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr M. Denney, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner

**Officers:** N. Cleal (finance manager), S. King (finance assistant), A. Mullins (assistant town clerk), J. Wright (town clerk)

#### 25/19/SF Public Forum

##### S. Fifield

S. Fifield spoke in support of the large capital grant application from East Devon All Stars, a newly-formed majorette troupe which aimed to provide a welcoming space for everyone. She said the group was fully inclusive and focused on supporting mental health. Although based in Devon, many of their members went to school in Lyme Regis. She said a lot of their members suffered with mental health issues so they focused on mental health building, with adults who knew how they felt about the challenges they faced. They saw their members grow in ability to become happy, enthusiastic children who were growing in confidence. She said many parents commented on how their children's self-esteem had built up.

##### J. Shackleford

J. Shackleford also spoke in support of East Devon All Stars, of which she was a co-founder and trainer. She said she set up the troupe with four other women who met at Woodroffe School. They had all come from different majorette troupes and decided to set up their own. She said she strived for all members to be happy, to feel safe and have fun. All five co-founders struggled with their mental health and found the group helped with anxiety and confidence. She wanted other people to feel part of the team, find friends and create social benefits. She was proud to be a role model and loved dancing alongside them. She said there was a sense of achievement when they completed a carnival and she wanted others to experience this and have something which helped them to believe in themselves. They continually fundraised to provide equipment for the troupe and used batons for carnivals, which were sometimes dropped, causing more anxiety. They were therefore asking for funding to buy light-up batons so they could be seen in the carnivals and give the members more confidence.

##### F. Cam

F. Cam, a member of East Devon All Stars, said majorettes was her happy place and she felt free when she was doing it. She said it was where she had fun and she had made lots of new friends.

## **J. Cam**

J. Cam, whose daughter was in East Devon All Stars, said his daughter had been to many different clubs, she had suffered with anxiety, and majorettes was the single biggest thing in her life. He said she performed in front of thousands of people and East Devon All Stars had given her the confidence to do that, which had helped her self-esteem and confidence.

## **S. Norfolk**

S. Norfolk spoke in support of the large capital grant application from Lyme Regis Sea Angling Club on behalf of the juniors' secretary. She said the club consisted of both adults and children with the aim of introducing and developing the fishing skills of children up to 16. This year the committee had increased the number of opportunities to fish and as a result the membership had gone from four to 30 in six months. It was a fully inclusive group with children of all abilities, facing many challenges, aged between four and 16. The members came from different backgrounds, some were disadvantaged, some were struggling socially and some were struggling to make friends. All the adults were DBS checked. She said the kit they were looking to provide would ensure all the members were participating and were on a level playing field, with t-shirts for the summer and hoodies for the winter. She said it would be nice to have them in a uniform so it would give them a sense of belonging and confidence. It would also support safeguarding as it would be easy to lose people in the summer when it is busy. She said the club had done some fundraising itself and would look to purchase the items from local businesses.

## **25/20/SF Apologies for Absence**

Cllr G. Caddy – holiday  
Cllr P. Evans – illness  
Cllr D. Holland – illness  
Cllr A. Wood - illness

## **25/21/SF Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr CG. Stammers, the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2025 were **ADOPTED**.

## **25/22/SF Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were none.

## **25/23/SF Dispensations**

There were none.

## **25/24/SF Matters arising from the minutes of the Strategy and Finance Committee meeting held on 23 July 2025**

### **Beach replenishment**

The town clerk said he had attended the recent Harbour Consultative Group meeting, when it was confirmed Dorset Council (DC) would be going ahead with a pilot of water

injection to undertake harbour dredging in the second week of November. If it didn't work, DC would refer back to the traditional means of dredging. He clarified that this was for harbour dredging, only, not replenishment of the beach.

## **25/25/SF Update Report**

Members noted the report.

*The chairman brought the next item forward on the agenda.*

## **25/26/SF Large Capital Grant Awards**

A member queried whether a grant could be awarded to Sea Change Atlantic as it was fundraising for other organisations.

The assistant town clerk said the large capital grants policy said 'applications will not normally be considered from grant-gifting organisations', which meant applications could be considered if members wished. She said the precedent had been set with the award of a term grant to the Regatta and Carnival Committee, which provided funding to other organisations in the town.

Members had the opportunity to ask questions of the representatives from East Devon All Stars and Lyme Regis Sea Angling Club.

It was proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr G. Turner to award a large capital grant of £2,000 to Sea Change Atlantic Limited.

This motion was not carried.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** not to award a large capital grant to Sea Change Atlantic Limited.

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to award a large capital grant of £2,000 to Lyme Folk Weekend.

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to award a large capital grant of £2,000 to Uplyme and Lyme Regis Cricket Club.

It was proposed by Cllr H. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr M. Denney to award a large capital grant of £3,000 to East Devon All Stars.

This motion was not carried.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to award a large capital grant of £2,000 to East Devon All Stars.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to award a large capital grant of £1,500 to Lyme Regis Sea Angling Club.

**25/27/SF Strategy and Finance Objectives**

Members noted the report.

**25/28/SF The Process for Approving the 2026-27 Budget<sup>1</sup> and Five-Year Financial Plan 2026-31**

Members noted the report.

**25/29/SF Statement of Internal Control, Risk Management Policy and Annual Risk Assessment**

Members discussed the town clerk's assessment that members were still making decisions without thinking through the implications of those decisions. It was suggested that better assessment of projects might help members make better decisions.

The town clerk gave some examples of decisions that had been made in the past. He said updates and reviews of all projects were taken to each committee meeting but officers would also be happy to go through them in more detail outside of committees.

Members were concerned that meetings were not taking place between the mayor, town clerk and the DC ward member. The issues preventing these meetings from taking place and possible solutions were discussed. It was agreed the meetings were important and re-establishing them should be a priority.

A member asked where member relationships and the governance review sat within the council's objectives and how it would be taken forward.

The town clerk said the governance review would start in December but it would look at structural elements, only, and would not pick up behavioural issues.

Proposed by Cllr M. Denney and seconded by Cllr S. Cockerell, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to note the statement of internal control and the associated observations; to approve the risk management policy and the standard annual risk assessment; and to approve the risk register.

**25/30/SF Budget Performance, 1 April – 31 August 2025**

A member asked if the council would be contributing to the Cobb repairs this financial year.

The town clerk said although DC had intimated it would welcome a financial contribution towards the Phase 5 Cobb repairs, there had been no formal request.

A member asked why the overspend on the newsletter enhancement was so significant.

The assistant town clerk said the main reason for the overspend was the problems with distribution of the magazine. However, as it was a new objective, the initial budget was set too low.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2026-27 budget includes the precept.

Members were concerned that the five-year financial plan produced a deficit from 2026-27 onwards and asked how this could be turned around.

The finance manager said the council's ability to increase income was restricted primarily to car parking and the precept. She said officers were proposing to bring a report to a future meeting with some ideas to generate income.

Members discussed the potential new budget headings and there was some concern that a fuller debate was needed on some of the more significant items. It was noted the costs associated with the three staffing posts would increase year-on-year due to increases in salaries.

Members discussed the continuation of the magazine and there was some concern about the costs associated with this, including the retention of a communications officer. It was noted that although the communications officer's previous role had been backfilled, this was already budgeted and would therefore not be an additional expense.

The town clerk said the communications officer worked on other communications so it wasn't just limited to the magazine. He said the council was working hard to change perceptions and the magazine was an important vehicle to do this.

There was a suggestion the potential new budget headings were included for a set period, of five years for example, and could then be further reviewed.

The finance manager said members had previously set objectives for a number of years, whereas if they were included in the budget, especially staffing, they would be more difficult to take out further down the line.

A member was concerned about adding more staffing posts to the organisation and felt it should be fully debated.

The town clerk said there were frequent references to staffing costs and felt it would be beneficial to take a report to the Human Resources Committee on staffing levels and costs and the ratio of income to those costs, compared to other councils.

It was proposed by Cllr P. May that bursaries are funded through the grants' budget.

This motion was not seconded.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr S. Cockerell, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the 2026-27 base budget and assumptions; to agree new budget headings for the magazine, communications officer, seafront attendant and permanent project assistant role; to agree the mini golf event, Lyme in Bloom competition, Sporting Lyme, event sponsorship and hospitality are considered as objectives; and to agree bursaries are funded from the grants' budget.

Having added four new budget headings, the finance manager said this would add £111k of expenditure to the budget, increasing the forecast deficit as follows: 2026-27, £127k; 2027-28, £188k; 2028-29, £206k; 2029-30, £216k; 2030-31, £226k.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the base five-year financial plan.

## **25/32/SF Review of Charges**

### **Precept**

Proposed by Cllr M. Denney and seconded by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to hold the level of precept for 2026-27.

### **Car parking permits and car parking**

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to increase the Woodmead car park three-day ticket to £50 and increase the weekly ticket to £100 for 2026-27.

It was proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe to increase car parking charges at Cabanya/Monmouth Beach and Woodmead car parks by 20p per hour for 2026-27.

This motion was not carried.

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to increase car parking charges at Cabanya/Monmouth Beach and Woodmead car parks by 10p per hour for 2026-27.

It was proposed by Cllr M. Ellis to increase the holiday accommodation permit to £1,500 for 2026-27.

This motion was not seconded.

Proposed by Cllr M. Denney and seconded by Cllr S. Cockerell, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to increase the holiday accommodation permit to £850 for 2026-27.

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to increase the residents' permit to £250 and the non-residents' permit to £500 for 2026-27.

Members discussed the suggestion to standardise the car park charging hours across the year and felt the charging hours could be extended at Cabanya/Monmouth Beach but not Woodmead.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to extend the charging hours at Cabanya/Monmouth Beach car park from 6pm to 9pm.

### **Cart Road beach hut hire**

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to set Cart Road beach hut hire charges for 2027 as follows:

	<b>Daily Rates 2027</b>	<b>Weekly Rates 2027</b>
January– Easter	£8	
Easter Holiday		£80
April – Spring Holiday	£15	
Spring Holiday		£85
June		£85
2 July – 16 July		£125
23 July- August		£200
September	£18	
October	£11	
November- December	£9	
Christmas and New Year		£110
Winter Season Mid Oct- Mid Feb		£220
Summer Season June-Aug		Remove
Annual		£2,200

### **Alfresco licences**

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to hold alfresco licences for 2026-27 at £150 per cover and £20 per single chair.

### **Website advertising**

It was noted the website advertising costs had been kept at the same level for the final year of the contract.

### **Bell Cliff advertising**

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to hold the Bell Cliff advertising charge for 2026-27 at £175.

Members considered officers' suggestion to introduce advertising boards at Monmouth Beach car park to help reduce the waiting list and generate additional income.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to introduce advertising boards at Monmouth Beach car park at £175.

### Marine Parade Shelters

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to hold Marine Parade Shelters' charges for 2027-28 as follows:

#### Charites, Schools and Not-for-Profit Organisations – per area, per day

Categories	2027-28
DT7 postcodes	£20
Within a 10-mile radius of the offices	£25
Outside a 10-mile radius of the offices	£30
National charities (per hour)	£25
Not-for-profit community events and festivals hiring the shelters	At the discretion of the town clerk

#### Commercial or private hire

Area		2027-28
Langmoor Room	Per room, per hour	£15
Market area	Per day	£150
Performance area/ top of shelters (Commercial)	Per day	£200
Hire of Performance Area for Performance	Per Half	£70
Hire of any section on top of the shelters	Per Day	At the discretion of the town clerk

## Amenities

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to set amenities charges for 2026-27 as follows: adult mini golf, £5, child mini golf, £3, table tennis, £3; 50p charge for lost balls.

## Weddings and civil marriages

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to set wedding and civil marriage charges for 2027-28 at £500, Monday to Friday, and £600, weekends and bank holidays.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to remove the £50 wedding deposit.

## Penalty charge

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to hold the penalty charge for 2026-27 at £70, with a reduced charge of £40 if paid within seven working days.

## Cemetery charges

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to hold cemetery charges for 2026-27 as follows:

	Inter still born child or under 2 years	Inter child under 16 years	Inter over 16 years	Inter cremated remains	Exclusive right of burial in earthen grave	Exclusive right of burial of cremated remains	Installation of headstone/footstone/tablet
<b>2026/27</b>	No Charge	No Charge	£250	£75	£500	£300	£100

Installation of vase	Additional inscription on memorial	Scattering ashes on existing graves	Scattering ashes beneath turf of existing graves	Genealogy searches	Certified copy of entry in burial books	Double interment fee
£60/£75	£30	£20	£20	£25	Not Offered	No Extra Charge

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to set the charge for use of the cemetery chapel for 2026-27 at £50.

## Memorial benches

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the price of a memorial bench continues to be governed by the procurement cost.

### **Monmouth Beach Garages**

Proposed by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to increase the charge of Monmouth Beach garages for 2026-27 by RPI.

It was noted some of the garages were vacant and these should be advertised to Lyme Regis residents.

### **25/33/SF Objectives and Projects 2026-27**

The finance manager said an additional objective had come from the Town Management and Highways Committee for a memorial tree with a budget of £25k. This has been added to the priority two list as it also offered potential to generate income.

It was proposed by Cllr P. May that any projects in the priority one list that are related to assets are removed from the list and funded from the sale of the former council offices.

This motion was not seconded.

The town clerk advised against making any decisions that relied on the sale of the former council offices at this point; the council needed to have a more strategic overview about how that capital receipt is spent.

Members felt there was too much to consider at this point in the meeting and suggested the discussion be deferred to the Full Council meeting.

The town clerk agreed and said officers could further scrutinise and prioritise the list, taking into account which projects were essential, which would have the biggest impact and which could generate an income.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to defer discussion on the 2026-27 objectives and projects to the Full Council meeting on 29 October 2025.

### **25/34/SF Investments and Cash Holdings**

Members noted the report.

### **25/35/SF List of Payments**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the schedule of payments in July and August 2025 for the sums of £243,784.84 and £377,882.95, respectively.

### **25/36/SF Debtors' Report**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, 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.

**25/37/SF Exempt Business**

**a) Debtors' Report**

The finance manager said there had been no progress on the debt related to the accreted land. The council's solicitor was taking a delicate approach at the moment but would take a firmer approach if there were no results within the next few weeks.

*The meeting closed at 9.49pm.*