

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOURISM, COMMUNITY AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 AUGUST 2017

Present

Chairman: Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds

Members: Cllr J. Broom, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis, Cllr D. Hallett, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr J. Scowen, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr S. Williams

Officers: Mr M. Green (deputy town clerk)

17/18/TCP Public Forum

There were no members of the public who wished to speak, although Mr. P Evans and Mr A. Ragbourne were in attendance and the chairman agreed to allow them to participate during the meeting if they so wished.

17/19/TCP Apologies

Cllr R. Doney
Cllr P. Hicks

17/20/TCP Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Mrs. M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2017 were **ADOPTED**.

17/21/TCP Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

17/22/TCP Dispensations

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

17/23/TCP Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 April 2017

Marine Parade Shelters lift

Cllrs Williams and Hallett both raised concerns about the reliability and safety of the lift and noted that there had been ongoing problems with it for many years.

The deputy town clerk referred to the recent meeting with the lift manufacturer and he hoped that the replacement of the door closer mechanisms, together

with more a more frequent regime of inspection and maintenance would address those problems.

17/11/TCP – Grant Agreement Review, LymeArts Community Trust

In response to concerns expressed by several members, Cllr J. Scowen, the council's member representative on the board of trustees, said he had met with the chairman of the trustees the previous day and that the full accounts for the previous financial year were likely to be available in about one week's time. He anticipated that they would show a trading loss.

He urged members to continue to be supportive towards the theatre and explained that the trustees were confident that by April 2019 the overall trading position, including Arts Council funding of £80k, would be such that the need for council funding would be much reduced or removed altogether.

17/13/TCP – Grant Agreement Review, B Sharp

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis read out a statement provided by the organiser of B Sharp which set out in detail the number of children supported, the way in which they were supported and their location. The statement also clarified that no council grant monies were used to pay staff salaries or for work outside of Lyme Regis.

17/14/TCP- Grant Agreement Review, The Hub

Cllr S. Larcombe expressed concern about a number of instances where local organisations, having previously booked The Hub well in advance, had had their bookings cancelled at very short notice because the space was, apparently, no longer available for them to use.

Cllr Mrs. C. Reynolds said she had spoken to Diane Earle and could confirm that a number of problems had occurred affecting the majorettes, the kickboxing group and the toddlers' group. Although she had been told that notice had been given or times rescheduled, this appeared not to have happened, or at least messages had not been received by the groups concerned.

It was strongly felt that priority for use of The Hub should be given to the youth of the town and it was suggested a letter be sent to Lyme Regis Development Trust expressing concern about the situation and requesting clarification of the circumstances which had led to these problems occurring.

17/24/TCP Update Report

Beach wheelchairs

Members agreed a solution to the practical arrangements for dealing with each hirer on site needed to be found urgently.

Signs at the play park

Cllr S. Larcombe asked whether the signs were enforceable.

Members agreed it was sensible to encourage parents and others to refrain from smoking in close proximity to the children's play area.

Gateway Card

Cllr B. Larcombe asked how many cards had been distributed and mentioned that he had not received one.

The deputy town clerk said a card should have been sent to everyone on the register of electors for the town and that spare cards were available for collection in the office.

17/25/TCP Lyme Regis Guide 2018

Cllr B. Larcombe raised a number of issues about the value-for-money represented by the guide, its procurement and its long-term future in an increasingly digital age.

Several other members agreed that the council should continue to regularly question and challenge the worth of a hard copy guide.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the number of town guides produced and printed in 2018 be increased from 20,000 to 25,000, that Carrier Direct Marketing be retained to carry out the design, advertising, sales service and lead generation and fulfilment of the 2018 town guide at a total cost of £28,436 plus VAT, and Blackmore Group be retained for the printing of the 2018 town guide at a cost of £5,553.

17/26/TCP Keeping the Electorate Informed

Cllr J. Scowen said the council needed to be much more proactive in dealing with the press and public and in generating support and engagement from the local community.

Although members generally agreed that the council could and should do more to engage with the press and public, there was no consensus about the best way forward or how any new initiative be delivered and distributed.

Complications arising from the relative infrequency of Full Council meetings and the limited extent of delegation to service committees were also highlighted.

Mr P. Evans said a previous offer he had made to the town council to allow a regular column in the View From newspaper at no cost remained, but this was on the basis that it was officer-led and he pointed out that the council had an experienced and professional journalist on its current staff.

Cllr J. Scowen requested that he be given the opportunity to produce a mock-up of a newsletter for consideration at the next Full Council meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs. M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that Cllr J. Scowen submits a mock-up of a possible newsletter for consideration by the next meeting of Full Council, and the offer of a regular and free council column in the View From newspaper be noted with thanks and supported in principle, together with the possibility of using Lyme Voice to help inform the choice of topics and priorities.

17/27/TCP A New Proposal for Retaining a Public Arts Presence in Lister and Langmoor Gardens

Mr A. Ragbourne said this proposal was an attempt to put some structure into the arrangements and arrive at something which could be self-sustaining for the future and without the need for financial support from the town council.

Members were clear the council could not continue giving an open-ended commitment to financially support a public arts' presence in the gardens. They were, however, prepared to underwrite the cost of the current proposal up to a maximum of £5k for a period of one year, only.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr Mrs. M. Ellis, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the proposal submitted by Adrian Ragbourne for retaining a public arts presence in Lister and Langmoor Gardens be underwritten up to a maximum of £5k for a period of one year, only.

17/28/TCP Managing Consultation Exercises

Members noted the report.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm.