

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOURISM, COMMUNITY AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2021

Present

Chairman: Cllr C. Reynolds

Members: Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr R. Smith, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr M. Ellis

Officers: J. Wright (town clerk), A. Mullins (support services manager), K. Weekley (administrative assistant)

21/29/TCP Election of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr B. Bawden and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis members that Cllr R. Smith is vice-Chairman of the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee.

21/30/TCP There being no other nominations, Cllr R. Smith was duly ELECTED. Public Forum

C. Salter

C. Salter, a member of the Secular Society, spoke in relation to agenda item 10, Seafront and Beach Concessions. He said he was asking the council to grant him some quality space on the sand beach this summer at the same time as United Beach Missions. He said his intention was to teach children the theory of evolution dressed as Charles Darwin, with the help of someone else dressed as Mary Anning and using fossils. C Salter said he was make sure any helpers were vetted to interact with children and they would have public liability insurance to safeguard children while in their care. He said to the best of his knowledge United Beach Missions had been coming to Lyme Regis for 50 years and he thought it was time there was a change.

21/31/TCP Apologies

Cllr D. Ruffle – holiday
Cllr S. Williams – illness
Cllr J. Broom – holiday
Cllr G Stammers – holiday
Cllr T Webb – illness

21/32/TCP Minutes

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2021, were **ADOPTED**.

21/33/TCP Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

21/34/TCP Dispensations

There were none.

21/35/TCP Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 September 2021

LymeForward grant agreement

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if the grant agreement had been signed

The town clerk said the officers had not yet sent the grant agreement to LymeForward but aimed to do this within the next week.

Seagull deterrents

Cllr D. Sarson asked if seagull deterrents had been looked into.

Cllr C. Reynolds said she had spoken to the operations manager who was currently looking into many different options and would bring a report to the next meeting.

21/36/TCP Update Report

Members noted the report.

21/37/TCP Community Engagement Strategy

Cllr B. Larcombe felt some of the wording on the proposed strategy could imply the council was not currently engaging and he wouldn't want people to think the council wasn't being a socially responsible organisation.

The town clerk said he felt everyone realised the council needed to do more community engagement and it had an obligation to do that, but with it came a degree of social responsibility and accountability.

Cllr B Bawden suggested 'socially responsible' was changed to 'socially responsive' and there was general agreement for this.

Several members felt the council wasn't engaging enough with the community and although the council had representatives on many

organisations, there were many more that didn't have representatives and many people who were isolated and were not members of any groups.

Cllr B. Larcombe suggestion 'to develop a greater community understanding of what the council does' was amended to 'to provide a raised awareness of what the town council does and what the unitary authority does' as people needed to understand the respective responsibilities of the two organisations.

Cllr C. Reynolds agreed and said it would be helpful to have a leaflet so the public could see which council did what. She added the council needed to understand the public as much as the public needed to understand the council.

The town clerk said this was the town council's community engagement strategy so it was about the town council and what it wanted to do. He said the council did a lot in terms of talking to the community but it didn't have a clear structure and a plan for doing it within.

Members felt the council should not only tell people what it does but also listen to the community, hear the community and take action on what it hears.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Turner members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the community engagement strategy, but to amend 'socially responsible' to 'socially responsive' and amend 'to develop a greater community understanding of what the council does' to 'to provide a raised awareness of what the town council does and what the unitary authority does'.

21/38/TCP Seafront and Beach Concessions

Cllr C. Reynolds said that the council needed a policy for concessions to make it easier on the officers to know how many concessions should be allowed and how often to advertise them.

Cllr B. Larcombe suggested a policy which considered concessions on a case-by-case basis.

Cllr M. Ellis said two concessions doing the same thing should not be in the same place at the same time but agreed that a policy would be very good with more delegation to the officers.

Members talked about the size of the beach and decided that it was not big enough for two concessions of the same type.

The support services manager pointed out that due to concession renewals in January it would be better to look at the request from Mr Salter now and look at the details of the policy later.

Cllr D. Sarson asked Mr Salter if what he would be teaching conflicted with the teachings of the United Beach Mission.

Mr Salter said United Beach Mission had been coming to Lyme Regis for 50 years and times had changed to an age of science where there was room for other opinions.

The support services manager confirmed that the United Beach Mission held a three-year concession on the beach until the end of summer 2022. She said if another similar concession would want to be on the beach at same time, it would be easier to establish terms of when and where the concessions could be if they were discussed at the same time.

Mr Salter said he would be willing to withdraw his current application and submit it again when the United Beach Mission applied to renew their concession.

Members agreed officers should put together a policy for concessions to be brought to a future meeting, with a copy to go Mr Salter.

Members discussed the introduction of new fitness and exercise concession.

Cllr M. Ellis suggested other venues such as the pebble beach, the roof, or the putting green to be utilised for this purpose.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the introduction of new fitness and exercise concession.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to introduce a policy on how operators each concession will be granted and how often they will be advertised.

21/39/TCP Green Dog Walkers Scheme

Cllr C. Reynolds said she felt the people who would sign up to the Green Dog Walkers scheme were not the problem and it was the irresponsible dog walkers who were not sign up that were causing problems.

Cllr B. Larcombe said he had concerns with the letter written by Claire Humphreys, as included in the report, which suggested the removal or the reduction of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in Lyme Regis and would not want to support it. Cllr B. Larcombe felt all dog walkers should be Green Dog Walkers without the need for a scheme.

Cllrs M. Ellis said it was down to the individual dog walker to make the pledge and not for the council to spend money on. She said she would rather see that money go on more enforcement.

Cllr B. Bawden said for the council to support the scheme would encourage others to be more responsible.

The support services manager said the council had already supported the scheme and advertised it on social media, but no funding had been allocated to it.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** not to extend the council's involvement in the Green Dog Walkers Scheme.

21/40/TCP Gateway card

Cllr C. Reynolds said she felt the council should continue with the Gateway cards for DT7 postcodes only.

Cllr M. Ellis explained that when this was talked about during the recent Strategy and Finance Committee meeting, the idea was that it was not a discount card for people with a DT7 postcode which included Uplyme but Lyme Regis residents only as they pay the precept here.

Cllr M. Ellis suggested a re-launch of the Gateway card.

As the council had previously made a decision to extend the scheme to Uplyme and Charmouth, members discussed whether they still wanted this to apply. It was generally felt the scheme should only be for Lyme Regis residents.

The support services manager said even though it wasn't advertised, there were about 10 people in Uplyme that had a Gateway Card and there was no way of getting them back.

Cllr M. Ellis suggested issuing a new card which were for Lyme Regis residents only.

The support services manager explained how the beach hut booking system would need to have new numbers to recognise the new cards.

Cllr B. Larcombe said the new cards should have a term life on them.

Members discussed the option of rather than putting an expiry date on the card, it should just have a year of issue which could be extended at a later date.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Turner members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to introduce new Gateway Cards with the same design as the existing cards but with the year of issue as 2022 and new card numbers on them, to be issued only to Lyme Regis residents.

21/41/TCP Eat Festival

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if the council could charge a fee that included all council costs. He said he wanted to make sure local businesses were happy and were not going to lose money because of the festival.

The support services manager said these points would be picked up at the meeting with the event organiser, which would be attended by the chairman of the Town Management and Highways Committee and the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee.

Some members felt these events were good for the town, most people enjoyed them, and they brought people into the town which helped local businesses.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the request to hold the Eat Festival on 7 May 2022.

21/42/TCP Dorset Council Libraries Consultation

Cllr C. Reynolds suggested the committee delegated two people to do the consultation on behalf of the council.

Cllr B. Larcombe agreed but said individuals should contribute as well. He said libraries should continue to provide factual and fictional books along with modern media services, and that the opening times needed regulating.

Members agreed libraries provided a good service within the community including audio books, e-books, and children's books.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Turner members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that Cllr B. Larcombe and Cllr B. Bawden complete Dorset Council libraries' consultation the consultation on behalf of the council.

21/43/TCP Managing Consultation Exercises

Members noted the report.

21/44/TCP Video for Tourism Website

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, 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.

Members discussed the quote from Max Redwood to create a video for the homepage of the new tourism website and felt that it was reasonable on cost and previous footage by Max Redwood had been good.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the quote from Max Redwood to create a video for the homepage of the new tourism website

The meeting ended at 8.43pm.