

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOURISM, COMMUNITY AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2022

Present

Chairman: Cllr C. Reynolds

Members: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr G. Stammers

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

Absent: Cllr R. Smith

Other members: Cllr B. Bawden

22/38/TCP Election of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers that Cllr D. Ruffle is vice-chairman of the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee.

There being no other nominations, Cllr D. Ruffle was duly **ELECTED** as vice-chairman.

22/39/TCP Public Forum

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

22/40/TCP Apologies

Cllr J. Broom – illness
Cllr B. Larcombe – illness
Cllr D. Sarson – holiday
Cllr G. Turner

22/41/TCP Minutes

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr D. Ruffle, the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2022 were **ADOPTED**.

22/42/TCP Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

22/43/TCP Dispensations

There were none.

22/44/TCP Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 September 2022

Gateway Card

A sample of the new Gateway Card was not available at the meeting and would be taken to the Strategy and Finance Committee meeting.

22/45/TCP Update Report

Tourism microsite

Cllr C. Aldridge asked how the microsite was accessed from the town council website.

The support services manager said the microsite was a separate website, linked to the Visit Dorset website. However, a link to the microsite could be added to the town council website.

Cost of living webpage

Cllr B. Bawden said Lyme Regis Library was also running a warm space, probably on Mondays, as the Hub's warm café was Tuesdays to Fridays, and suggested this could be added to the webpage.

The support services manager said she would check the information and add it to the webpage.

22/46/TCP Update Report on the Totally Locally October Fiver Fest 2022

The chairman brought this item forward on the agenda.

Cllr C. Reynolds felt the council would need to see prices for the any promotional materials if it was going to consider supporting the initiative.

The town clerk suggested members may want to consider any funding request through the community grants' process.

Cllr B. Bawden said she was managing Fiver Fest on her own but it was it was not sustainable to continue this so she was asking the town council to think about how it might support the initiative. She said she felt Fiver Fest could be a lot better if more people helped, although she had asked the businesses to help but this hadn't been forthcoming.

Cllr C. Aldridge asked if Cllr B. Bawden was asking for an in principle agreement for the council to support a volunteer group to help her or to take Fiver Fest forward.

However, Cllr C. Reynolds said this was a separate organisation to the council.

Cllr B. Bawden said it wasn't an organisation that ran Fiver Fest, it was just her at the moment, and she suggested the council could take it on as a joint initiative.

Cllr C. Reynolds acknowledged that as there was no business group in Lyme Regis, it was difficult to get businesses together for an initiative such as this but she would be happy to help personally in speaking to local traders. She said as the council was sending out regular business briefings, this was also a good starting point to reach businesses.

Cllr B. Bawden suggested the council could do some of the printing for the next Fiver Fest.

The town clerk said the council could grant fund but it couldn't divert resources to do work for an outside organisation. He said the initiative should be run by the local business community as potential beneficiaries.

Cllr M. Ellis arrived at the meeting at 7.15pm.

The support services manager said to be eligible for a community grant, it had to be a properly constituted organisation and it had to be not-for-profit, so this would not qualify for a community grant.

Cllrs C. Reynolds and C. Aldridge agreed they would personally help Cllr B. Bawden with the next Fiver Fest.

22/47/TCP Mobile Hoist – Further Considerations

Cllr C. Reynolds felt the council needed to find out where it stood legally if it supplied wheelchairs but didn't supply a hoist. She said although there were issues with storage, she felt the council should still be providing one.

The support services manager said there was no legal requirement for the council to provide a hoist, or even the beach wheelchairs.

Cllr C. Aldridge said as council staff would not be allowed to help with transferring people between chairs using the hoist, it would require two people to do a transfer and their own sling, therefore people were not going to be able to turn up on spec to use the mobile hoist. She said most people would have had to transfer someone from a vehicle into a wheelchair, even if it was using a board, so she wondered whether it would be necessary for the council to provide a hoist, especially if there was an issue with storage.

The town clerk said the council needed to think about the demand for the service as the seafront attendant had reported that people seemed to cope with what was already provided. He said if the council got involved in major investment for a hoist, it would then have to find space to store it and space was at a premium on the seafront. He also drew members' attention to the legal and liability issues that came with servicing and maintaining the equipment.

Cllr M. Ellis said she felt it was something the council needed to look into further and perhaps speak to Exmouth Town Council about how they managed the use of a mobile

hoist. She didn't feel storage was a problem as there was going to be a new amenities hut in the gardens so perhaps some of the equipment that was currently in the storerooms could be moved. She suggested instead of a mobile hoist there could be one fixed to the wall in the east or west store but agreed council staff shouldn't be involved in assisting the hoisting.

The support services manager said officers were asked to go away and find out more information about cost, storage, operational requirements and maintenance of a mobile hoist so there was no further information she could provide to help members reach a decision. She said she had also contacted Exmouth Town Council but had received no response, although she had spoken to around four other councils or organisations who provided beach wheelchairs to get advice.

The support services manager said storage was a major issue for the external works' team, particularly on the seafront. She clarified there would be space to store the hoist in the west store but she didn't feel a store room would be a dignified space to hoist a person between wheelchairs and it would not be an option to do this in public view outside the store room.

The support services manager said she was sure the council would like to provide a mobile hoist but if there were practical reasons to prevent this, it may have to reluctantly decide not to. She said if the council wanted to consider any other improvements, it could consider the seafront attendant's suggestion of replacing the Nomad Tundra with a new wheelchair as this had the highest seat of all the wheelchairs and was the easiest to move someone in and out of.

Cllr G. Stammers said although there had only been one request for a hoist, more people might use the wheelchairs if there was a hoist available.

Members generally agreed that although they would like the council to be able to provide a hoist, there were currently practical limitations which meant it was not possible but it was perhaps something which could be re-visited in future.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that due to operational issues, the council does not purchase a mobile hoist at this time but if the situation changes, it can re-visit this in future.

Cllr B. Bawden left the meeting at 7.38pm.

22/48/TCP Newsletter – Printing and Distribution

Cllr G. Stammers said she would favour using Royal Mail to deliver the newsletter as the council could be assured it would be consistently delivered.

Cllr C. Aldridge agreed it seemed sensible to use Royal Mail but having seen discussions recently on social media from people outside the area who were upset they wouldn't get the privileges Lyme Regis residents had, she felt sending them the town council's newsletter wouldn't be very tactful.

Members discussed the alternative of using local volunteers to deliver the newsletter.

Cllr C. Reynolds said when Lyme Regis Community Support was set up, there was a volunteer on each street to deliver flyers so the group could do the same with the newsletter.

The town clerk said the council had tried using local volunteers in the past and it hadn't been reliable. He said if the council was going to produce a newsletter, it needed to be certain it was being delivered to every household. Royal Mail seemed the most reliable option but this would include addresses outside Lyme Regis, he suggested asking Uplyme Parish Council if they would like to get involved in the newsletter so it would be relevant to all those it was delivered to.

Members agreed this was a good idea and that Uplyme Parish Council would need to provide their own copy and images. It was suggested the town council had the first three pages and Uplyme Parish Council had the back page.

It was agreed if Uplyme Parish Council turned down the offer, members would re-consider the distribution options.

The support services manager said if Uplyme Parish Council did agree to have a page, the printing quote would increase as more newsletters would need to be produced.

Proposed by Cllr D. Ruffle and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to ask Uplyme Parish Council if they would like a page in the town council's newsletter and if so, to use Royal Mail to distribute it, and to accept the quote from Advantage Digital Print for the printing of the newsletter, regardless of the number of newsletters required.

22/49/TCP Bands in the Marine Parade Shelters

Cllr D. Ruffle said he didn't realise the council paid brass bands and he could understand why other musicians would be aggrieved.

Cllr M. Ellis said the bands had been coming to Lyme Regis for many years and the council paid for the performance for the public's entertainment.

The town clerk said it wasn't suggested the council didn't engage with brass bands, it was suggested there was a mixture of performances.

Cllr C. Reynolds asked if the council had been approached by other musical groups to ask if they could be paid to perform in the shelters.

The support services manager said the council had not been approached as she didn't think people were aware the council paid brass bands to perform. However, it didn't sit right with officers that the council was paying some bands, including those from outside Lyme Regis, to play in an area that the council charged others to perform in.

Cllr C. Reynolds asked how much the council would pay other types of musicians and whether this would mean some of the brass bands that had been coming to Lyme Regis for many years would be told they could no longer come.

The support services manager said members were not being asked to consider this level of detail; members were being asked to consider whether, in principle, the budget for brass bands should be used to pay for other types of performances. The administrative team could then agree the finer details with each performer.

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the budget for brass bands is used to pay for other types of performances.

22/50/TCP Coronation Events

Cllrs C. Reynolds, M. Ellis and D. Ruffle said they would like to sit on the working group to organise coronation events and it was noted Cllr D. Sarson had also indicated he would like to sit on the group.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to appoint Cllrs C. Reynolds, M. Ellis, D. Ruffle and D. Sarson to sit on a working group to develop plans to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023.

22/51/TCP Sculpture Trail

Cllr C. Reynolds said since working in the community garden, she had seen a positive reaction to the sculptures. She suggested there were less sculptures from professional artists and more from Woodroffe School pupils.

Cllr M. Ellis said the model used in Bridport of paying for works around a particular theme seemed the right way to go.

Cllr C. Aldridge said she was aware the insurance was a concern for some members and the council did insure the sculptures but had chosen not to claim for previous damage. She said damage to some of the pieces could be mitigated by placing them differently.

The town clerk said members had to trust officers to decide on the council's behalf whether to claim on the insurance or to pay for the damage to avoid increased premiums.

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr D. Ruffle, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to allocate £6,000 in the 2023-24 budget for the sculpture trail in the gardens, using the same model as Bridport for payment of the works around a theme chosen by the council, and that Cllrs B. Larcombe, D. Sarson and C. Aldridge continue to work with the deputy town clerk to agree, in conjunction with the Arts Development Company, the precise basis of how the trail may be delivered in future.

22/52/TCP Major Events 2023

The support services manager said a date has still not been confirmed for EAT: Lyme Regis.

The town clerk said the town council was in discussions with the organisers about an alternative date because although it was taking place on Dorset Council land, Dorset Council had agreed the town council could manage the licencing of events on land it owned in Lyme Regis in future.

Cllr C. Aldridge asked if the council would be asked to approve the Oyster Festival as permission was given for it to be held on town council land this year.

The support services manager said the event was now in the town calendar so it was just a matter of noting the date for next year.

22/53/TCP Grant Review, Lyme Arts Community Trust

Members noted the report.

22/54/TCP Managing Consultation Exercises

Members noted the report.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.