

## LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

### TOWN MANAGEMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 JULY 2017

##### Present

**Chairman:** Cllr J. Broom

**Members:** Cllr R. Doney, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis, Cllr D. Hallett, Cllr P. Hicks, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr S. Miller, Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, Cllr J. Scowen, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr S. Williams

**Officers:** Mr M. Green (deputy town clerk), Mr M. Tredwin (interim operations manager), Mrs A. Mullins (administrative officer)

**Other members:** Cllr O. Lovell

**Guests:** Mr R. Hussey (John Stark and Crickmay Partnership)

17/17/TMH

##### Public Forum

###### Mr C. Williams

Mr Williams thanked Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds for working with residents on the town bus service. He said he understood the town council had known for a year that the town bus would be cancelled, which he believed was more than enough time to get a contingency plan in place. Mr Williams said the current service was not going to work as there were no bus stop pick-ups, people had to register to use the service, give two days' notice, and had to wait 20 to 30 minutes for the bus to arrive. He said he hoped the number of people using the bus didn't reflect the demand and it was deemed residents didn't want a bus. He said people wanted a proper service for the town.

Mr Williams raised issues regarding the bin lorry, water on Marine Parade and the cleaning and weeding of streets. However, these items were not on the agenda.

###### Mr N. Ball

Mr Ball said only half of the residents who usually attended the Hallett Court coffee morning had attended that day as they were unable to get there because there wasn't an adequate bus service. He believed the council should be looking at running a bus service for 28 hours a week, even if the service was reduced to three days a week. He said the former service worked well after the buses had finished the school drop-offs. He said the service benefited not only residents but also less-able people who visited Lyme Regis.

Mr Ball said he would prefer to see wooden benches along the seafront rather than metal ones.

Mr Ball said the public toilets needed to be replaced, rather than temporarily fixed, as they were in poor repair.

### **Mrs P. Kaxe**

Mrs Kaxe said there used to be a bus stop outside Langmoor Gardens, which was used on a temporary basis during road closures. She asked if this could be reinstated as many people found it difficult to walk up the hill from the bottom of the town, where the bus dropped them off. She said people on the outskirts of the town were stranded since the town bus stopped.

### **Mrs J. Robinson**

Mrs Robinson said surely the town council had known a year ago that the town bus would be cancelled and she asked why a strategic plan wasn't put in place. She said she had seen people trying to get up hills but were unable to. She said residents would need help getting to the medical centres, especially in the winter. Mrs Robinson asked what the council intended to do to get a permanent bus service in place before the winter.

Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds said all these questions were answered when she attended a meeting at Hallett Court. She said the bus was a temporary arrangement until the school bus contracts were known. She said discussions had taken place with Stagecoach about the potential to extend the 9A service to Fairfield Park. Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds gave an assurance the council was doing everything it could. She said the Lyme Flyer had only started the previous day so there were bound to be teething problems, which were being discussed with Dorset Community Transport.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said the town council had provided funding to get something in place and she emphasised the outcome of the school bus contracts were awaited. She said provision of a bus service was not within the town council's remit but funding had been set aside for this purpose.

Cllr O. Lovell said the problem had been created by Dorset County Council (DCC), not Lyme Regis Town Council, which was trying to provide a solution. He said the town council was assured on several occasions by the local county councillor that the schools' contract would be awarded imminently, but it hadn't happened yet. He said the council couldn't secure an operator until those contracts were awarded.

### **Mr A. Robinson**

Mr Robinson said when buses were coming into town, he had noticed on several occasions people struggling to get as far as Peek Chapel. He said people moved to a place like Lyme Regis on the grounds there was a public transport service. He said perhaps a bus stop could be created at Peek Chapel or further down the hill. Mr Robinson said the county council was trying to get people out of their homes and into the community to relieve pressure on services and improve things like health and obesity, and he believed DCC should be pushed to confirm what provisions it was putting in place to meet the strategies it had published.

**17/18/TMH Apologies**

There were none.

**17/19/TMH Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 June 2017 were **ADOPTED**.

**17/20/TMH Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were none.

**17/21/TMH Dispensations**

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

**17/22/TMH Matters arising from the minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting held on 14 June 2017**

**Additional benches on Marine Parade**

Members asked when the benches would be installed and asked what specific type of benches had been chosen.

It was agreed to have benches identical to those in Sidmouth. The deputy town clerk said he didn't know the lead time on these benches.

**Marine Parade toilets**

Cllr S. Miller said he would like the report to the next meeting on long-term solutions to include a professional appraisal of the options available.

**17/23/TMH Update Report**

**Public Space Protection Orders**

Members discussed skateboarding and cycling on the parade and whether it was prohibited or if byelaws could be introduced to do this.

The administrative officer said the town council was not permitted to introduce byelaws for promenades, but there was a prohibition of cycling order on the Marine Parade, only.

Members asked if signs informing people that cycling is prohibited could be put up on all entrances to the Marine Parade.

**Speed indicator device**

The deputy town clerk said the device was in place at Timber Hill.

## **Park and ride**

Cllr S. Miller asked when the traffic count would be in place on Sidmouth Road, as required by East Devon District Council (EDDC) in relation to the application for permanent planning permission.

The deputy town clerk said a meeting would take place the following day to arrange it, with a view to getting it in place immediately.

## **Highways issues**

Cllr S. Miller said following the meeting regarding the proposed one-way system, there were three clear actions: an update to be given to the town council, a press release, and Cllr D. Turner and Cllr I. Thomas would take the issue back to DCC and EDDC to see how it might be progressed.

Cllr S. Miller said there had been no updates on these actions.

## **Gun Cliff barrier**

In response to a member question, the deputy town clerk said a new suite of locks would be installed on all the council's barriers and the enforcement officer would have one key to control all barriers.

## **Woodmead Halls toilets**

*Cllr Mrs M. Ellis left the meeting at 7.55pm in line with her declaration of pecuniary interests.*

Cllr J. Scowen said he was pleased both parties had reached an amicable agreement and the toilets would be re-opened to the public.

*Cllr Mrs M. Ellis returned to the meeting at 7.56pm.*

Cllr S. Miller asked for updates on the Three Cups and the Regent Cinema to be brought to the next meeting.

## **17/24/TMH Proposals for a Café and Toilets in the Lister Gardens**

Mr R. Hussey, from John Stark and Crickmay Partnership (JSCP), gave a summary of how their plans for toilets, and subsequently a café, had won a competition run by the council eight years ago, but had been put on hold due to council funding being committed elsewhere.

Cllr J. Broom said updated costings were needed before the council could consider any project.

There was some concern about potentially spending £300,000 on this project when the Marine Parade toilets required complete refurbishment.

It was noted the section 106 funding from WDDC and potential funding from the Coastal Communities Fund would help fund this project.

The deputy town clerk said the council would need to have regard to the financial regulations. He said the outcome of the design competition was still as valid as it was previously, but there would need to be a competitive process to deliver and build the scheme.

Proposed by Cllr S. Miller and seconded by Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that John Stark and Crickmay Partnership's scheme is properly costed at today's rates, and for a costed scheme to be taken to the Strategy and Finance Committee for review and to consider a way forward.

#### **17/25/TMH Winter Boat Storage, Monmouth Beach Car Park**

Cllr J. Broom said WDDC had now paid the debt for 2016/17 winter boat storage.

Members discussed whether storage should be allowed for boats from Lyme Regis harbour, only, but this was not agreed.

There was some concern about whether the invoice would be paid promptly, given the delay for last year. It was agreed standard terms would apply, i.e. that the invoice must be paid within 30 days.

Cllr S. Williams said the suggested end date of 28 March 2018 was too close to Easter and it should be brought forward to the week before Good Friday.

Proposed by Cllr S. Miller and seconded by Cllr S. Williams, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the request from the harbourmaster to store boats on the western section of Monmouth Beach from 14 October 2017 until 23 March 2018, to charge West Dorset District Council £3,500 plus VAT, to be paid within 30 days of the invoice, and to instruct the town clerk to give West Dorset District Council advance notice of this committee's recommendation to Full Council.

#### **17/26/TMH A Request to Launch Personal Watercrafts from Monmouth Beach**

The deputy town clerk said Natural England had confirmed it was not in favour of launching personal watercrafts from Monmouth Beach.

Proposed by Cllr S. Miller and seconded by Cllr J. Scowen, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to refuse the request to launch personal watercrafts from Monmouth Beach.

#### **17/27/TMH Cleaning of Marine Parade Toilets**

Members discussed the quality of the cleaning provided by the current contractor and agreed it was not sufficient. There was general support for employing local people to carry out this work.

Cllr S. Miller said the report dealt with what the cleaning company was contracted to do, but didn't address what the contractor was actually delivering.

Proposed by Cllr S. Miller and seconded by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to prepare a costed schedule for servicing the public toilets, formulate a plan for the servicing of the toilets, and assess the viability of how people can be employed to service that.

**17/28/TMH Event Safety**

Members noted the report.

**17/29/TMH Red Arrows Visit to Lyme Regis 2017**

Members noted the report.

**17/30/TMH Request for Use of Candles on the Cobb Pavilion**

There was general support for the request. Members noted that the applicant's offer to clean the public toilets would not be a replacement for the service provided by the current cleaning contractor, but in addition to these cleans.

Members wanted the arrangements to be put in place as soon as possible.

It was agreed the committee had given officers a firm steer and an operational decision could be made to allow the request to be approved and implemented by officers.

**17/31/TMH Complaints and Incidents Summary**

Members noted the report.

**17/32/TMH Repairs to Guildhall Cottage**

Members noted the repairs required but there was general agreement that a more thorough review and repair of the building was required to ensure it was fit-for-purpose.

Cllr B. Larcombe said he wanted to see a proper asset management plan for the council's buildings.

*The meeting closed at 8.49pm.*