

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MANAGEMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY 2019

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 J. Scowen, Cllr G. Turner

Officers: Mr M. Adamson-Drage (operations manager), Mrs A. Mullins (administrative officer)

18/70/TMH

Public Forum

Mrs Z. Patrick

Mrs Patrick spoke in relation to agenda item 8, Dogs on the Beach. She said she had lived in Lyme Regis for a year and was shocked to hear dogs were allowed on the sand beach without any control. She said when she heard the distressing news about a child being attacked by a dog, she was surprised to hear it hadn't happened more often. Mrs Patrick said she had seen many incidents on the beach since she had been in Lyme Regis. She said during the summer when there were many visitors there was a dog ban on the beach, so there were never any issues if she went to the beach with her grandchildren. She said when the ban was lifted from 1 October, many people still wanted to swim but dogs were all over the beach so it was difficult to do so. Mrs Patrick said there should be a safe space where people could swim and bring children to the beach without worrying about being attacked by a dog or the mess they made. She said even if people picked up after their dog there was still residue left in the sand, which was a public health issue. She said if someone was ill, they wouldn't be able to prove which dog made the mess. Mrs Patrick said as it was a small beach, if there were 10 dogs and it was full, there was virtually no space to sit. She said toddlers were on the beach all year round and children came after school to enjoy the beach. She said dogs were allowed on all the other beaches in Lyme Regis so it would still be possible for them to go in the sea. Mrs Patrick said for those people who wanted to enjoy the beach dog free there was nowhere for them to go, which she felt was unfair. She said she hoped the town council would send a strong message to West Dorset District Council (WDDC) about this, as she understood the council was originally not in favour of dogs being allowed on the beach, and she would support the case.

Mr M. Saunders

Mr Saunders spoke in relation to agenda item 15, Seasonal Concessions as he had applied to run a paddleboarding concession. He said he and his wife had been safely teaching and promoting paddleboarding for the last six years, based at their shop Boylo's, which was open 364 days a year for advice, lessons or sales. He said they had also supported town events by offering free paddleboarding. Mr Saunders said they would intend to run the concession from their shop seven days a week as they had in the past. This would include qualified instructors, a flexible service, and advice

and guidance. He said when conditions were favourable, they were on hand for lessons, guidance and rentals, a business which ran in harmony with the shop. He said this meant there was no requirement for beach storage or clutter, and they could also offer people somewhere secure to store their valuables rather than leaving them on the beach, eliminating the risk of crime. He said all the equipment was stored in the shop, so there was no requirement for racks or containers on the beach. Mr Saunders said everything was stored and secured in the shop so there was no need to leave it on the beach or bring a vehicle onto the seafront on a daily basis. He said paddleboarding was a key part of their business plan and they had recently agreed a considerable rent increase. Mr Saunders said he and his wife enjoyed worked in Lyme Regis and as a helm on the lifeboat, using the sea safely was of paramount importance, something which he and the whole Boylo's team always had in mind. He said Boylo's could offer a fun and safe paddleboarding package, benefiting the local economy, residents and visitors. He said they looked forward to encouraging paddleboarders to Lyme Regis and showing them the best of the seaside town.

Mrs S. Bennett

Mrs Bennett also spoke in relation to agenda item 15, Seasonal Concessions as she had applied to run a paddleboarding concession. She said she had trained with the Academy of Surfing Instructors (ASI) as a paddleboarding instructor, and she was a fitness instructor, swimming coach and triathlon instructor. She said she wanted a presence on the beach and many local people had commented there was no presence on the beach. Mrs Bennett said paddleboarding was the most accessible of all watersports, easy to learn and a way to have fun in a safe way. She said a designated area could be made available for it.

18/71/TMH Apologies

Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds – holiday
Cllr S. Williams – holiday

18/72/TMH Minutes

Cllr R. Doney asked for an amendment to minute number 18/57/TMH, Seagull Control. He requested the word 'trial' was changed to 'demo' in his comments.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr P. Hicks, with the above amendment, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 November 2018 were **ADOPTED**.

18/73/TMH Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

18/74/TMH Dispensations

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

Matters arising from the minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting held on 14 November 2018

Cemetery chapel

Cllr D. Hallett asked why the roof was only repaired, as he believed it needed replacing.

The operations manager said the report from the builder confirmed a new roof would be required in two to three years' time.

Charmouth Road park and ride

Cllr J. Broom reported the income from the park and ride was c.£30k, which may result in a loss to the council of up c.£2k.

Hydrock traffic survey

Cllr J. Broom said the deputy town clerk was meeting with Hydrock the following week to review the draft report and providing he was happy with it, the report should be with the council shortly after.

Dorset Police Community Safety Accreditation Scheme

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said she and the town clerk had met with Inspector Darren Stanton the previous week and she would try and get a report for members on what was discussed.

Cash machine

The operations manager said Cashzone was now looking at a new pod-style machine. He said the company was waiting for operational sign-off on this type of machine before it could confirm if it would be installed in Lyme Regis.

Henry's Way play area

The operations manager said he had met with several play equipment companies who were putting together quotes.

Anning Road play area surface

The operations manager said he was meeting with Eibe, the company which installed the park and surface, on 4 February 2019 to look at the site.

CCTV

The operations manager said he had met with Central Southern Security and it was hoped the system could be fitted in February. He said he had also asked the company to quote for cameras looking at the balustrade above Marine Parade Shelters due to incidents of vandalism in the area.

Cllr B. Larcombe requested an item on the agenda of the next meeting to discuss the refurbishment of Guildhall Cottage.

18/76/TMH Update Report

Millennium clock

The operations manager said several electrical faults had been repaired, the battery had been replaced, an issue with the mains was identified, and an annual service was carried out. He said the issue of water ingress, which it was believed was causing condensation in the faces, was being resolved.

18/77/TMH Dogs on the Beach

Members agreed the extent of the dog ban needed to be looked at again by WDDC. Cllr B. Larcombe said the whole of front beach needed to be reviewed, including the pebble area and especially areas where the high-water mark didn't reach.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said the family of the boy who was attacked should be encouraged to pursue a prosecution as the council was unable to.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to press West Dorset District Council to extend the dog ban to an all-year-round order for the length of the main front beach in Lyme Regis (sand and pebbles).

18/78/TMH Speed Indicator Device

Members agreed Sidmouth and Charmouth Roads were ideal locations for the speed indicator device (SID) to be located and agreed a solar device would be beneficial.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if the SID had a camera inside.

The operations manager said the SID could record data but couldn't record number plates or take pictures.

Cllr R. Doney said the ability to record data may be helpful in trying to justify the mobile speed van being in Lyme Regis. He said he would be interested to know if there were SIDs which did have cameras, as this information could be passed to police in the same way as the Community Speedwatch schemes worked.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis suggested having a survey done first on the suitability of Sidmouth and Charmouth Roads before deciding whether to invest in a solar SID.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr P. Hicks, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to have a survey done on the suitability of Sidmouth and Charmouth Roads for deployment of the speed indicator device, and if suitable, to report back to the Town Management and Highways Committee to allow members to consider if a solar device should be purchased.

18/79/TMH Replacement Caravan, 7 Monmouth Beach

Proposed by Cllr S. Miller and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the request to replace a static caravan at 7 Monmouth Beach.

18/80/TMH Strawberry Field Bunded Areas

Cllr D. Hallett said Strawberry Field was intended for sporting facilities and he was concerned building bunded areas would restrict its use for other purposes.

Cllr S. Miller said this should not deflect the council from getting a proper review of what could be achieved at Strawberry Field, which all members agreed with.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to agree to build bunded areas at Strawberry Field for bulk storage.

18/81/TMH Tiled Areas – Broad Street

Cllr J. Broom confirmed this request to remove the tiled areas would not include the paving slabs in Broad Street.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to make a request to Dorset County Council to remove the tiled areas of the pavement on Broad Street.

Cllr R. Doney said he also had some concerns about the cobbles at the bottom of Bell Cliff steps, as they were a problem for people with limited mobility or vision. He requested this was looked into to see if the council could do something about improving it.

18/82/TMH South West Britain in Bloom

Cllr J. Scowen said he understood entry to the competition was a long-term project, but he hoped the council would still press ahead with raising the standards in the gardens, which members generally agreed with.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said standards across the whole town, not just the gardens, would need to improve to have any success in the competition.

Cllr B. Larcombe said members needed to understand the costs of bringing the town up to competition standard.

Cllr G. Turner asked if there was any progress with the project to light the gardens.

The operations manager said the company Limelight had agreed to light up an area of the gardens in January as a demonstration for members, but the date had not yet been set.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr P. Hicks, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to defer entry into the South West Britain in Bloom competition until the true costs are known and the council is confident it has a reasonable chance of doing well in the competition.

18/83/TMH Review of Christmas and New Year 2018

Members noted the report.

18/84/TMH Seasonal Concessions

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr S. Miller, 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 information relating to the financial or business affairs of a 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.

18/85/TMH Complaints and Incidents

Members noted the report.

18/86/TMH Exempt Business

a) Seasonal Concessions

Members agreed the kayak hire and worked well in previous years and should continue.

Members discussed the two applications for paddleboarding and agreed there was not enough room on the beach for two businesses offering the same activity.

Members asked officers if more than one non-motorised watersports' concession could be operated on the beach at the same time.

The administrative officer said it was in the council's gift to agree to as many concessions as it wished, and that paddleboarding and kayaking had operated alongside each other in previous years.

Members acknowledged Boylo's had been allowed to run paddleboarding in 2018 and the charge for this had been incorporated into their rent for the retail unit in Marine Parade Shelters.

As this historic agreement had been made, and in an effort to support a council tenant, members agreed the application from Boylo's should be accepted.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr J. Scowen, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the tender from Boylo's Watersports for a three-year non-motorised watersports concession for paddleboarding, and to approve the tender from Lyme Kayak Hire for a one-year non-motorised watersports concession for kayak hire.

The meeting closed at 8.23pm.

