

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MANAGEMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL 2019

Present

Chairman: Cllr J. Broom

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

Officers: Mr M. Adamson-Drage (operations manager), Mr M. Green (deputy town clerk) Mrs A. Mullins (administrative officer), Mr P. Williams (operations supervisor)

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

18/102/TMH Public Forum

Mr N. Ball

Mr Ball spoke in relation to agenda item 11, Henry's Way Play Park and asked that the item was discussed in the public forum. He understood finances needed to be discussed in exempt business but the public wanted to know what was being proposed. He said there had been no public consultation on the proposals and he asked why. Mr Ball said the notice on the gate of the park said it was suitable for children up to the age of nine but he asked what had happened to the other sign, which was taken down. He said he had met with Cllr J. Broom to outline his concerns but a public consultation should have taken place way before. Mr Ball said it seemed the senior council staff did not talk to councillors and he asked who really had the power. He said the problem needed to be addressed and the council needed to be more specific in what was required regarding consultation and research. Mr Ball said he was in favour of new like-for-like equipment, but what was proposed was insensitive to houses surrounding the park. He said he had seen many small children using it and had spoken to parents who used the park and preferred it because it was small and only for young children.

Mr Ball asked how much the council had already paid Hydrock for the traffic and transport report. He said the councillors were told they would see the report and there had been no public consultation as promised. He said there was a lack of transparency and he hoped councillors and senior staff would work more closely in the new administration.

Mr Ball also spoken about the recent filming in the town and the fee paid to the council, but this was not on the agenda.

Mr N. Luxton

Mr Luxton, speaking on behalf of a Queen's Walk resident, also spoke in relation to agenda item 11 and reiterated his main objections as outlined at the Full Council meeting. These were: privacy, as the proposed towers would be overlooking into people's bedrooms; and planning, as it was agreed with the mayor and council at the time of building the park it would be for children under nine. He said he would like to think the current council and mayor would stand by that. He added there was a notice relating to the age group in the area. Mr Luxton said an increase in noise was also a concern if the park was designed for an older age group. He said the park would cost a lot of money for what would be gained. He said if you stood in the park, you could put your hand over the fence and touch the window of 19 Elizabeth Close, which he believed was ridiculous. Mr Luxton said surface water was also an issue and he believed the original plan was to allow the grassed area to take the surface water. He said there were also concerns for children's safety if there was an increase in use, perhaps with skateboards and balls causing a problem.

18/103/TMH Apologies

Cllr R. Doney – personal commitment
Cllr B. Larcombe – another commitment

18/104/TMH Minutes

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 February 2019 were **ADOPTED**.

18/105/TMH Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

18/106/TMH Dispensations

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

18/107/TMH Matters arising from the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee meeting held on 27 February 2019

Refurbishment of council offices

Cllr J. Scowen said the mayor's parlour needed attention and he hoped it would be used more following the refurbishment.

It was agreed this would be added to the list of programmed works.

Hydrock report

Several members expressed their disappointment that the report had not yet been circulated to all members.

The deputy town clerk said there were aspects of the report that were disappointing and he would prefer to have a better version of the report before it was circulated more widely.

In response to Mr Ball's comments in the public forum, the deputy town clerk said the report cost around £22k but the full amount had not yet been paid. He added a meeting was taking place on 24 April 2019 with the chairmen of this committee and the Strategy and Finance Committee to discuss the way forward and inform discussions with Hydrock.

Langmoor and Lister Gardens lighting project

As the project would not require planning permission, Cllr S. Miller asked if it would be expedited.

Cllr J. Broom said it was hoped the lighting would be in place by mid-June.

Cllr S. Williams raised issues of seating on the Marine Parade, the shelters' lift, the Bay Hotel and the putting green, but these matters were not on the agenda.

18/108/TMH Update Report

Mary Anning headstone

Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds said the cleaning of the headstone had been well received by Mary Anning's family.

Charmouth Road park and ride

The deputy town clerk said the park and ride was running as of today's date.

Marine Parade toilets

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis asked if there was a date for the outstanding works to be completed.

The operations manager said there was no date, but LF Webb were in regular contact with Skinner Construction and the retention was still being withheld.

Blue Sea Café

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis asked if there was a timescale for the completion of the work.

The operations manager said the timescale was unknown as the ceiling covering had to be removed to check a water leak.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis asked for members to be updated on the situation when the ceiling was removed.

Other updates

The operations manager said 14 new memorial benches had been installed on Marine Parade.

The operations manager said the base of the cannon at Bell Cliff had been re-built and was back in place.

Cllr S. Williams asked why there were no benches on Bell Cliff.

The operations supervisor said they were undergoing refurbishment and they would be back in place by the end of the week.

18/109/TMH Speed Indicator Device

Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds asked if the council was still loaning its speed indicator device (SID) to Thorncombe Parish Council. As there would potentially be three sites for the SID in Lyme Regis, she didn't believe it should be loaned out in future.

The operations manager confirmed the SID was still loaned to Thorncombe.

Cllr S. Miller said the post in Sidmouth Road was too close to the gate to Shire House and suggested it was placed further down the hill.

Members agreed a new solar-powered SID would be preferable and that Thorncombe Parish Council should be given the opportunity to buy the old SID.

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr P. Hicks, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to agree the two proposed sites in Sidmouth and Charmouth Road to site the speed indicator device, in addition to Timber Hill, and instruct officers to consult with local residents before pole installation; to purchase a solar-powered Vario speed indicator device; and to offer Thorncombe Parish Council the opportunity to buy the old speed indicator device.

18/110/TMH Roof Replacement above the Swim, the antique and craft centre, and the amusement arcade

Mr R. Hussey, from John Stark and Crickmay Partnership (JSCP), gave an update on the project. He said the situation was encouraging as the existing asphalt did not have to be removed; it could be repaired where required and the new surface could be laid over it.

Cllr J. Scowen asked if this would bring the project in under budget.

The town clerk said although this was encouraging, the balustrade would incur additional costs, but there would be a clearer view of cost in a few weeks when the results of the tendering exercise were known.

It was agreed the three recommended actions relating to the 'deep' drainage behind the shelters be added to the tendered works to PCRM Consultancy and JSCP.

18/111/TMH Flail Verge Cutter/Hedge Mower

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.

18/112/TMH Henry's Way Play Park

Several members were concerned about the height of the proposed trail rider and play tower due to the intrusion on neighbouring properties and felt the equipment should be more appropriate for children under nine years old.

Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds was concerned the council was considering changing the proposals but the designs had already been shown to the local schools and their favourite one chosen.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said due to the concerns of residents and members not being aware of the age restrictions, the equipment should be replaced like-for-like. She said the new equipment which the schoolchildren liked could instead be put at Anning Road park.

Cllr D. Hallett said he was concerned about the lack of public consultation. However, the operations manager said he had hand delivered letters to every house in Henry's Way and Admiral Heights, and houses around the park in Queen's Walk and Elizabeth Close.

Cllr J. Broom said he would support a significantly smaller investment in the park, limited to essential maintenance and new equipment restricted to a younger age group. He said the fence should also be heightened to at least 6ft and a gate installed at the top of the slope.

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to replace the existing play pads at Henry's Way play area with wet pour and select a contractor to install new 'toddler' equipment, for which costings should come in at under £15k; to pursue whether the remainder of the section 106 money could be spent in the Anning Road play area; and to install fencing at Henry's Way play park at least 6ft in height and a gate at the top of the slope.

18/113/TMH Exempt Business

a) Flail Verge Cutter/Hedge Mower

Members discussed whether to hire or buy a machine and there was general agreement to buy one.

Cllr S. Miller said this matter raised the question of the council changing the way it accounts for its equipment, as it currently went into the balance sheet and remained at the amount of purchase. He said the council should set a depreciation period for

those items and make provision for them to be renewed. He said he intended to bring this forward to the Strategy and Finance Committee in the new administration.

Cllr D. Hallett was concerned the council was intending on cutting hedges that were not its responsibility, as he believed if someone's land was adjacent to a road, it was the landowner's responsibility to cut it. He said a flail could only be used between October and February and it was difficult to operate. As such, he suggested someone could be hired to do this work.

The operations manager said this related to the agency agreement with Dorset Council, within which there was a map showing which areas Dorset Council was currently responsible for and would pass over to this council under the agreement. He said the machinery could also be used for grass cutting and potentially helping other local councils. He added that the team would be trained on how to use it.

The operations supervisor said the rear wheel ballast, which was suggested by one company and would be at an additional cost, was not essential.

Proposed by Cllr S. Miller and seconded by Cllr Mrs C. Reynolds, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to purchase a flail hedge cutter/verge mower from Buglers and approve unbudgeted expenditure of £11,500 + VAT.

Cllr D. Hallett voted against this motion.

The meeting closed at 8.21pm.