

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MANAGEMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2019

Present

Chairman: Cllr J. Broom

Members: Cllr Ms B. Bawden, Cllr R. Doney, Cllr Miss K. Ellis, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr D. Sarson, 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)

19/01/TMH Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The mayor, Cllr B. Larcombe opened the meeting.

Cllr J. Scowen nominated Cllr J. Broom as chairman of the Town Management and Highways Committee, seconded by Cllr S. Williams.

There being no other nominations, Cllr J. Broom was duly **ELECTED** as chairman of the Town Management and Highways Committee.

Cllr J. Broom nominated Cllr J. Scowen as vice-chairman of the Town Management and Highways Committee, seconded by Cllr D. Sarson.

Cllr G. Turner nominated Cllr S. Williams as vice-chairman of the Town Management and Highways Committee, seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe

Cllr J. Scowen was duly **ELECTED** as vice-chairman of the Town Management and Highways Committee.

19/02/TMH Terms of Reference

The committee **RECEIVED** its terms of reference.

19/03/TMH Public Forum

Mr S. West

Mr S. West spoke in relation to agenda item 12, Weed Spraying and said he fully supported all the findings in the report. He said one thing not mentioned in the report was the damage glyphosate was scientifically proven to do to the bee population. He said many studies had been done proving glyphosate affected the gut bacteria of bees and was a contributory factor to the declining number of bees in the countryside and gardens, and he was convinced widespread use of glyphosate was a contributory factor. Mr S. West asked the council to stop using the dangerous poison. He said there

were many lawsuits going on in America, some extending to £2 billion, against the manufacturers of these products. He said he would hate to see the council sued by its own employees for continuing the use of something which was now a probable carcinogen. He asked the council to consider carefully whether it should continue using it or find an alternative.

Mr S. Philips

Mr S. Philips spoke on the same agenda item. He said he didn't know anything about council procedures but this issue was very important to him. He said the use of glyphosate products couldn't go on. He said the report on the agenda talked about the few councils that had banned the product, but this was the tip of the iceberg. He said those councils were leading the way, in the way it had to be. Mr S. Philips said he didn't want the product used within 100 miles of him, it was a killer, and it had to be stopped. He said this council could show the way to the rest of the county.

Mr N. Ball

Mr N. Ball spoke in relation to agenda item 14, Henry's Way Play Park. He said he hoped the public would be able to remain in the room for that debate.

Mr N. Ball also spoke about the lighting project in the gardens. He said he had spoken to the Dorset ranger about the effect of the scheme on the wildlife habitat and questioned whether any permission had been granted from Dorset Wildlife or Dorset Council.

Mr N. Ball said at the annual town meeting he had expressed a concern about the town bus and asked that it be put on an agenda for the council to consider allowing people with a Gateway Card to use it for free. He said the service could be opened up to the town, it would cut down on pollution as people wouldn't take cars, and there was the possibility of an electric bus.

Mr N. Ball also spoke about weed spraying. He said he had been a horticulturalist for many years and he had used glyphosate products and Roundup many times. He said he was undecided about its continued use as he believed it should still be used on certain areas with hard surfaces, but the council had to question what the alternative was. He said he would recommend using it in small doses on problem weeds. Mr N. Ball said people didn't realise the implications of banning the product because the council didn't have the staffing levels to deal with the work.

Mr N. Ball also spoke about the cemetery and said he was concerned about lack of communication which had led to a delay in a burial. He said he was also concerned with the way graves were marked with an old broom handle, which had upset the family of a deceased person. He said a cross could be used instead.

Mrs T. West

Mrs T. West commended the council for cutting around wildflowers near the football club and said it had been remarkable to see such care and attention being given. She said it took longer to deal with weeds in this way but it made Lyme Regis stand out as having a council that cared. She said bees were needed more than ever before but

their numbers were declining, so something had to be done to encourage them and wildflowers definitely made a huge difference.

Mrs T. West also spoke about weed spraying. She said using glyphosate on hard surfaces would result in a run-off into waterways and creatures being killed. She said weeding by hand was a longer process but there were more natural ways to deal with weeds. She said it was good to see Lyme Regis taking a strong step forward on this.

19/04/TMH Apologies

There were none.

19/05/TMH Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 April 2019 were **ADOPTED**.

19/06/TMH Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr D. Sarson declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 14, Henry's Way Play Park, as his house was next to the park.

19/07/TMH Dispensations

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

19/08/TMH Matters arising from the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee meeting held on 10 April 2019

Roof replacement above the Swim, the antique and craft centre, and the amusement arcade

Cllr B. Larcombe was concerned the project timescale was as broad as 12 to 16 weeks as he believed there should be a definite completion date.

Refurbishment of council offices

Cllr B. Larcombe was concerned members had not seen the survey and he asked when they would see the draft plans.

The deputy town clerk said the project was a long way off that point as it needed to be properly discussed with members first and no decisions could be made until the council had decided if it wanted to provide any kind of tourist information services.

Several members said they would like to see a target date for the office move into the current tourist information centre.

ATM

The operations manager said he would continue to pursue CashZone on the possibility of submitting a planning application for the bottom of Bell Cliff. If this was the case, Cllr J. Broom said it would be of benefit if members attended Dorset Council's planning committee meeting to support the application.

Winter boat storage at Monmouth Beach

In response to a member question, the operations manager said payment had still not been received from Dorset Council (DC). The deputy town clerk added that this matter had been included in an email to DC's executive director of place.

Blue Sea Café

The deputy town clerk said the problems at the site were more serious than originally thought and quotes for the work required were being obtained, although contractors were not available for at least four weeks.

Barber surf rake

Cllr B. Larcombe suggested the harbourmaster's store could be used to store the rake, as it was noted the lease with DC had expired.

It was agreed this would be taken to the Strategy and Finance Committee for further consideration.

Gardens refurbishment

The chairman invited Mr N. Ball to talk about his recommendations for the gardens following the site meeting with the operations manager.

Mr N. Ball made a number of recommendations, which included weeding and re-vamping flower beds, splitting up the workforce and ensuring some gardeners were kept in the gardens at all times, spot spraying on paths, filling in cracks on the paths, and signs to inform the public that work was going on. He said he would provide his detailed recommendations to officers.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked what he believed should be the priority tasks for the next month.

Mr N. Ball said he believed the priorities were revamping three flower beds which contained mare's tail and brambles, filling in the cracks in the paths, and cutting back any plants protruding at eye level.

The operations supervisor said signs informing the public of the work taking place had been made but they hadn't been put out and he would follow this up.

The operations manager said the recommended work was possible but it would cost a considerable amount of money and it would also mean other areas of the town wouldn't be serviced if all the gardeners were deployed only in the gardens for a period of time.

19/10/TMH Beach Disabled Access

Cllr R. Doney said pre-owned conveyor belts were used at Beer and suggested this was looked into. He said the council also needed to check with its insurers if it was covered for the hiring out of two ordinary wheelchairs.

Cllr J. Scowen said he was also aware of rubber matting from a quarry being used.

Members were generally in favour of rubber matting on the pebbles to allow easier disabled access and the purchase of two ordinary wheelchairs, but agreed further information was required on costs.

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to agree in principle to introduce rubber matting to the pebble side of the groyne to allow easier access to the shoreline, and to purchase two ordinary wheelchairs to enhance the council's offer for disabled people on the seafront, subject to further details on costings being considered by the Full Council on 24 July 2019.

19/11/TMH Gardens Handrail Replacement

Several members were in favour of recycled plastic timber as they required less maintenance.

It was proposed by Cllr J. Scowen to use recycled plastic timber for the replacement handrails in the seafront gardens.

This motion was not seconded.

Cllr Ms B. Bawden said she was in favour of metal handrails because there would be four different materials if recycled plastic timber was used. She said this would also support the council's aim of going plastic-free.

Cllr R. Doney asked officers which they would recommend in terms of installation and maintenance.

The operations manager said in considering cost, he would recommend metal. The operations supervisor said if the recycled plastic timber was graffitied or burnt they would need to be replaced, whereas metal railings could be re-painted, so he would also recommend metal.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr S. Williams, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to replace wooden handrails and posts in the seafront gardens with metal.

19/12/TMH Weed Spraying

Cllr J. Scowen said he was in favour of an immediate ban of glyphosate-based products. He said the council should do this as a priority and then consider an alternative to getting rid of weeds.

Cllr Ms B. Bawden said she had spoken with Bridport Town Council, which banned the product in September 2018, and it had reported there had been no problems and no extra costs.

Cllr Ms G. Stammers said members needed to consider how the employees felt about using the product.

The operations manager said the workforce was divided – half objected to using the product and half didn't mind using it.

Some members were concerned there had already been a discussion about the gardeners' heavy workload and an agreement they would focus on the seafront gardens for a set period, and that banning the product and hand weeding instead would create extra work for them.

Cllr Ms B. Bawden said Bridport Town Council had teams of volunteers who helped the staff. Cllr J. Scowen said he believed the public would come forward and help to weed by hand, and he volunteered to help with the weeding.

Cllr J. Scowen left the meeting at 8.38pm.

Several members believed there needed to be an effective alternative in place before the council banned glyphosate-based products, which was still licensed.

Cllr J. Scowen returned to the meeting at 8.40pm.

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr Ms B. Bawden, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the town council bans the use of glyphosate-based products immediately.

Cllr Ms B. Bawden left the meeting at 8.41pm.

19/13/TMH Speed Indicator Device

Members agreed they would prefer the old location in Sidmouth Road as it was closer to the junction with Clappentail Lane.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr J. Scowen, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to agree the speed indicator device is located in Charmouth Road and in the old location in Sidmouth Road, in addition to Timber Hill and instruct officers to consult local residents before pole installation; to approve the purchase of a solar-powered Vario speed indicator device; and to offer the obsolete device to Thorncombe Parish Council.

Cllr D. Sarson left the meeting at 8.48pm in line with his declaration of pecuniary interests.

19/14/TMH Henry's Way Play Park

Cllr B. Larcombe said he was not in favour of goal posts as the park was too close to houses, and he wasn't sure seesaws were well used.

It was proposed by Cllr J. Scowen to approve the designs from Proludic for the refurbishment of Henry's Way play park, without the goal posts or the seesaw.

This motion was not seconded as it was noted the goal posts were not included in the Proludic design.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said she favoured the lower quote from Proludic, which included black floor surface instead of coloured, and no finger sign panels or talk tubes. She said this would allow for any remaining section 106 funds to be used to enhance the toddler area at Anning Road play park.

The operations manager said no further equipment could be installed without extending the toddler area.

It was proposed by Cllr J. Scowen to approve the designs from Proludic for the refurbishment of Henry's Way play park.

This motion was not seconded.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr J. Scowen, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the designs from Proludic for the refurbishment of Henry's Way play park at the lower quote, which includes black wetpour surface but no finger sign panels or talk tubes.

Cllr D. Sarson returned to the meeting at 9pm.

19/15/TMH Hydrock Report

It was noted the report had achieved two main outcomes: it had proven the need for improved signage to direct people to Charmouth Road park and ride, and had shown the case for the continued use of Sidmouth Road park and ride no longer stood.

Cllr J. Broom said there was still work to be done in terms of parking charges and the need for a consistent charging structure across all car parks.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said the council needed to give some thought to a park and ride that could incorporate Lyme Regis and Charmouth in future, which members agreed with.

19/16/TMH Complaints and Incidents

Members asked that the completion date of each complaint/incident was included in the report in future.

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.