

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MANAGEMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2019

Present

Chairman: Cllr J. Broom

Members: Cllr Ms B. Bawden, Cllr Miss K. Ellis, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr J. Scowen, Cllr Ms G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr S. Williams

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

19/17/TMH Public Forum

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

19/18/TMH Apologies

Cllr R. Doney

19/19/TMH Minutes

Cllr G. Stammers asked for her name to be on the list of members present at the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 September 2019, with the above amendment, were **ADOPTED**.

19/20/TMH Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr D. Sarson declared a pecuniary interest in Henry's Way play park, referred to in the Update Report.

19/21/TMH Dispensations

There was none.

19/22/TMH Matters arising from the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee meeting held on 11 September 2019

Grave markers

The council wished to record its thanks to Mr N. Ball for making two wooden crosses to use as grave markers.

Gardens' refurbishment

Cllr B. Larcombe was concerned there were still substantial cracks in the pathways that were not filled in.

The operations manager said some cracks were still being monitored by the council's geotechnical engineer so they had not been filled in, but if they were significant cracks, they would be filled in as health and safety would take precedence.

Cllr B. Larcombe thanked the gardening staff for bringing the gardens back up to scratch and said the difference was noticeable.

Beach disabled access

The operations manager said the conveyor belt for disabled access had not yet been delivered but it would be in place for the next season.

19/23/TMH Update Report

Largigi – alfresco licence

The deputy town clerk said a meeting had taken place the previous day with Dorset Council, when agreement was reached about the highway status. He said this would not prevent the town council charging in the way it always had, providing those charges were felt to be reasonable. He added the council might need to take the advice of a valuer, but it would appear the council was not constrained by the Highways Act.

Electric vehicle purchase

The operations manager said the vehicle had not yet been delivered.

Signage from A35

Cllr B. Larcombe said he hoped the signage would not be too elaborate or incorporated into a wider strategy for the A35.

The deputy town clerk said the intention was to concentrate on signs to Lyme Regis from the A35 and nothing else.

Wildflower planting

Cllr J. Scowen thanked the operations supervisor for implementing plans for a wildflower area in the gardens.

19/24/TMH VE Day Commemorations, 8-10 May 2020

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr J. Scowen, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to participate in VE Day commemorations in May 2020, to form a working group to take this forward, and to appoint Cllrs D. Sarson, K. Ellis, B. Larcombe and J. Scowen to the working group, with the involvement of the Lyme Regis branch of the Royal British Legion and other relevant local organisations.

It was noted a budget for the commemorations would need to be included in the 2020/21 budget-setting process.

19/25/TMH Dorset Council's CCTV Project

Members were generally in favour of linking the existing CCTV to Dorset Council's pan-Dorset CCTV project and the installation of an additional camera in Broad Street.

However, several members emphasised that CCTV should be to aid police officers, not to substitute for them.

Cllr B. Larcombe said there were not enough figures in the report to allow members to make a decision and there was general agreement with this view.

Cllr Ms G. Stammers said clarification was needed on which 12 hours in the day the cameras would be monitored by Dorset Police.

The operations manager said he could obtain more details about cost and when the cameras would be monitored, although it was noted the cameras would be recording even when they were not being monitored.

Members agreed more detailed costs were required but agreed with Cllr Mrs M. Ellis's view that the council could apply for grant funding to link into the pan-Dorset CCTV project in the meantime.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to obtain more detailed costs for the link installation for Dorset Council's pan-Dorset CCTV project which allows Dorset Police access to monitor the council's CCTV system, and for the installation of a CCTV camera at the top of Broad Street to view the majority of Broad Street and vehicle movements.

19/26/TMH Private Beach Huts on Cart Road

The deputy town clerk said the existing beach hut licences, which had around 12 years left, did not include an obligation to replace huts. He said if maintenance standards could only be achieved by changing a hut, the council could make a licensee replace it with a pitched roof; if it could be maintained without replacement, this option was not possible.

It was noted there were several huts which were in a poor state of repair, which officers were aware of and were dealing with.

As licensees were not required to replace their huts, Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said they should be encouraged to do so by taking advantage of bulk buy discounts when the council bought new huts with pitched roofs.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to instruct the operations manager to contact all owners of private beach huts on Cart Road to encourage them to bring their huts into

line with the council's new 'pitched-roof specification by 31 March 2022, by which time all the council-owned huts will have been replaced, and to inform licensees of the opportunity to obtain a bulk-buy discount.

19/27/TMH Guildhall Car Parking

Cllr S. Williams asked if the listed building status would affect this proposal.

The deputy town clerk said planning permission and listed building consent would be required because the curtilage of the building was listed.

Cllr B. Larcombe said it would also be helpful to have a turning area so vehicles didn't have to reverse into Church Street. He added he wouldn't want this proposal to delay the office refurbishment.

The deputy town clerk agreed but said the area would make a useful builders' compound during the office refurbishment works.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis asked if staff would use the car park, as wider consideration needed to be given to where staff parked during the summer as spaces were at a premium at Woodmead car park.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr J. Scowen, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to support, in principle, the creation of a wider ramped access to the higher tiered land to the south and west of the council offices to allow for more on-site parking for members, staff and visitors, but that any permissions be obtained and the work be tendered and undertaken in conjunction with the planned office refurbishment project; final approval will need to come through the normal budget and objective-setting processes.

19/28/TMH Winter Boat Storage

Cllr S. Williams said 27 boats were stored on the car park last year, as well as other equipment, generating an income of over £8,000 for the former West Dorset District Council.

The deputy town clerk said officers had received a proposal from Dorset Council (DC) that day. DC said it was unlikely to need the whole area and suggested it paid the town council half of the income of £60.50 per metre for each boat. For illustration, if 20 boats were stored, DC would pay around half the £6,000 proposed in the report on the agenda.

Cllr B. Larcombe said this would mean the town council receiving less than it did in 2019, and DC would be profiting from the town council's asset.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said the council had always stated it would support a working harbour, and as the bowls' club had suggested boats could be stored on the car park it leased from the town council, there may be an opportunity for discussions to take place between the three parties.

Cllr B. Larcombe said the bowls' club car park would only be big enough for around six boats. He added that the availability of winter boat storage did not jeopardise a working harbour as it was more for leisure boats.

Cllr S. Williams said boats should be removed by the Friday before Good Friday, which didn't happen in 2019.

Cllr J. Broom said the council should also stipulate the car park was for boat storage, only, and not for any other equipment.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis requested a recorded vote on the following motion:

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to charge Dorset Council £6,000 for winter boat storage on the western section of Monmouth Beach car park, providing the boats are removed by the Friday before Good Friday, and it is used for the storage of boats, only.

Voted for – Cllr Ms B. Bawden, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr Ms G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr S. Williams, Cllr J. Scowen, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr J. Broom

Voted against – Cllr Mrs M. Ellis, Cllr Miss K. Ellis

Abstentions – None

19/29/TMH Blue Sea Café Roof Quotes and Letting

The deputy town clerk said three quotes had been received, which were all relatively close together in value. He said the lowest quote was likely to be around £20-25k, assuming several elements of costs were taken out, which was reasonable to do so. He added the exact figure would need to be reported to the Strategy and Finance Committee.

The following members put themselves forward to sit on the panel to select a tenant: Cllrs Mrs M. Ellis, J. Broom, J. Scowen, B. Larcombe, Ms B. Bawden.

The deputy town clerk said the closing date for formal proposals was the end of September, so the panel would be required to meet in early October.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr J. Scowen, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to note the progress of the tendering process for the repairs to the roof of the Blue Sea Café and the latest position with the marketing of the premises and to approve Cllrs Mrs M. Ellis, J. Broom, J. Scowen, B. Larcombe, and Ms B. Bawden sit on a panel to consider the selection of a tenant.

19/30/TMH Public Space Protection Order

Members agreed any new order should be specifically for Lyme Regis, rather than one comprehensive order which covered all affected towns, and dogs should be banned from Front Beach, including the pebble beach, all-year-round.

Cllr B. Larcombe said he also wanted a dog ban in the cemetery to be considered, or at least low-height fencing to prevent dogs straying away from the paths. It was agreed this would be included on a future agenda.

The deputy town clerk said the council's views could be relayed to Dorset Council, but this was not what the council was being asked to consider at this point. He said a formal consultation would be held in 2020 as part of any new order; the council was only being asked at this point if it agreed with extending the existing order for six weeks.

It was agreed the council's views should be flagged up to Dorset Council at this point, in anticipation of a formal consultation for the new order.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr J. Scowen, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to raise no objection to the proposal by Dorset Council to continue the current dog-related Public Space Protection Order covering Lyme Regis in place until 31 December 2020, i.e., for six weeks beyond the expiry of the current order (15 October 2020), but to flag up to Dorset Council at this point that the town council will be requesting changes to the current regulations and an order which relates specifically to Lyme Regis.

19/31/TMH Committee Objectives 2019-20

Cllr J. Scowen said he didn't see the need to appoint lead members as committee chairmen already fulfilled this role and it added another layer to the process.

Cllr B. Larcombe agreed and said he didn't believe it was necessary in a small council, as there was more value in all members being up-to-speed at the same time.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said it would help officers if they knew which member they were working with. She said there was a small core of chairmen and vice-chairmen, so having lead members would give others with the time and experience the opportunity to get involved.

Cllr Ms B. Bawden agreed and said she would like to be more involved. She said it would enable members who felt they didn't have as much opportunity to be more closely involved and learn more about a specialised subject.

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** not to identify lead members for committee objectives.

19/32/TMH Complaints and Incidents

With reference to incident 1668, the deputy town clerk confirmed the business concerned did not have permission to tie umbrellas to the railings.

With reference to incident 1667, members discussed the seagull problem in Lyme Regis and agreed an item should be included on the next agenda for further discussion.

The meeting closed at 8.33pm.