

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MANAGEMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2019

Present

Chairman: Cllr J. Broom

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

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

Guests: Cllr D. Turner (Dorset Council)

19/32/TMH Public Forum

Mr S. West

Mr S. West spoke in relation to agenda item 8, Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. He said as an electric vehicle owner, he felt it was absolutely vital the council moved as quickly as possible to install charging stations as the one in Charmouth Road car park was broken and had been for seven weeks. He said it made Lyme Regis less attractive to tourists as a destination because more and more people were buying electric vehicles and wanted to charge up. Mr S. West urged the council to install as many lower power, fast charging stations as it could in as many locations as it could. He said this was better than having a single station that had let people down many times.

Mrs T. West

Mrs T. West spoke on the same agenda item. As an electric car driver she applauded the council for doing all it could to get more charging stations in. She said on a recent visit to Colyton she had passed five electric vehicles driving towards Lyme Regis, she had had her car for five years, and seen far more people in the town using them. She said a recent BBC report on children going to school in London referred to a hand-held pollution detector, and from children walking, being driven or cycling to school, the vehicle had the worst pollution. Mrs T. West said a lot of people took their children to school in cars and if the amount of carbon was reduced by using electric vehicles, respiratory problems in Lyme Regis would be reduced. She said it was important to make a difference for people in Lyme, for children, visitors and businesses and asked the council to make it more accessible by installing more charging points. Mrs T. West said a car taking a full charge cost around £2 to fill with electric petrol, a tiny amount of money. She said every electric vehicle driver would remember the places which offered the service, which would attract more people.

Mrs C. Reynolds

Mrs C. Reynolds spoke in relation to agenda item 12, Sharps. She said she wanted to talk about sharps' bins and the needle syringe programme, information for which she had provided to members at the Full Council meeting. She said she understood Dorset Council (DC) believed there had been an isolated incident in a safe town and that sharps bins would alert visitors to thinking Lyme Regis was an unsafe town. She said the town council's workmen had often picked up needles, so she couldn't understand how DC could say this was an isolated incident. She was certain it wasn't an isolated incident and felt it was naïve of DC to believe so. Mrs C. Reynolds questioned DC's approach not to let visitors think there was a problem, to get the locals not to say anything and not to admit it by providing sharps' bins. She said DC said it had a needle exchange programme run by public health at the Bethany Chapel on a Monday used by only 10 people. She believed a Friday or Saturday would be better, which had been proved elsewhere, and it was required more than once a week. Mrs C. Reynolds said she had not heard of the programme at the Bethany Chapel and no one she had spoken to knew it existed either. She questioned whether a drug user would go to a church. She said the 10 people who attended may have been referred by GPs but the medical centres knew nothing about it. Mrs C. Reynolds said it was good if users had gone to their GP for help but she questioned how many admitted they had a problem or would take it to their GP. She asked members if they had ever seen the service publicised and how effective it had been. She asked members not to turn down these ideas because DC said Lyme Regis was a safe town and this was an isolated incident. Mrs C. Reynolds asked members to use some common sense, to do something and to listen.

19/33/TMH Apologies

Cllr R. Doney
Cllr Miss K. Ellis – personal commitment
Cllr B. Larcombe – holiday
Cllr Ms G. Stammers – holiday

19/34/TMH Minutes

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 September 2019 were **ADOPTED**.

19/35/TMH Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

19/36/TMH Dispensations

There were none.

19/37/TMH Matters arising from the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee meeting held on 11 September 2019

Winter boat storage

Cllr S. Williams was concerned DC had said it did not intend to use Monmouth Beach car park for winter boat storage and would use harbour land instead, as that land also belonged to the town council. He asked what was being done about this.

The administrative officer said a Dorset Council working group meeting had been arranged for 19 November 2019, which Cllr D. Turner and the relevant DC officer would be attending, when members would have an opportunity to discuss this issue with them.

Cllr J. Broom said he would also follow up this issue.

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

The chairman asked Cllr D. Turner to give an update as the issue had caused a lot of interest locally.

Cllr D. Turner said the PSPO consultation was being considered by the Place Scrutiny Committee on 24 October 2019 to decide whether there would be a single PSPO for the whole of Dorset or different orders for different areas. He said this would go to the Cabinet before it went to public consultation. He said the scrutiny committee would also look at whether the consultation was fit-for-purpose.

The operations manager said it was intended to bring a report to this committee in December to allow the council to form a view on the consultation, which he understood would take place in January 2020.

19/38/TMH Update Report

Henry's Way play park

The operations manager said the contractors had started removing the old equipment and it was on target to be replaced within the next few weeks.

Speed indicator device

The operations manager said there had been some issues with the company that provided the device but it was now expected within the next two weeks.

Gardens lighting project

Cllr G. Turner said some of the lights were out.

The operations manager said he was aware of this as there were some issues with the fuses. He said he was speaking to the lighting contractor about programming the lights to different colours.

19/39/TMH Sharps

The chairman invited Cllr D. Turner to give an update on how DC was dealing with sharps.

Cllr D. Turner said a meeting had taken place on 30 September 2019 between himself, DC officers, Public Health Dorset officers, the police and the mother of the child who picked up the needle. He said they recognised the fact people didn't know what was on offer for needle disposal and it was agreed there would be a social media campaign to raise awareness. He said national guidance recommended local authorities should commission needle exchange services, and these services were in place in Lyme Regis through REACH.

Cllr D. Turner said he was not aware of any data suggesting Lyme Regis was a hotspot for drug-related litter. He urged the council to contact the relevant officers at DC and Public Health Dorset to help address the issue.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said the council's external works' staff needed to log when they found needles so this information could be fed back so there was more accurate data available. She said she was not aware of the REACH service and the Bethany Chapel was not the right place for it. She agreed with the suggestion from Mr M. Ellis at the Full Council meeting on 9 October 2019 that Unit 1A at St Michael's Business Centre was a more suitable venue and this should be offered as an alternative.

Members generally agreed council staff should be logging incidents of needles being found, that the REACH service was not publicised well enough, and that the chapel was not the right location.

The operations manager said in the last 12 months the external works' team had picked up three needles; at the beach, at Leper's Well and in the cemetery. He said if they were found in the future, it would be added to the incident log.

Cllr R. Smith said those who ran the existing programme would have a good idea of how it could be improved.

It was agreed a meeting would take place with Mrs C. Reynolds and Mr M. Ellis to discuss how to take this forward, more information would be obtained about the REACH service, and the DC and Public Health Dorset officers would be involved in any discussions.

19/40/TMH Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Cllr S. Williams said there was a three-phase power supply at Woodmead car park, which the operations manager said would give the opportunity to do rapid charging, which he hadn't got costs for but anticipated would be more expensive than fast charging.

The operations manager advised using a different supplier to DC for better availability.

Cllr J. Broom asked if the estimated cost of £1,800 for a wall-mounted charger included connection to an electricity supply.

The operations manager said it didn't include this and the cost would depend on how much tarmac would need to be dug up and advised using parking spaces close to the supply to keep this cost down.

Cllr R. Smith said he had asked people with electric vehicles which charging points they would like and the majority said type 2, 7kW points. He said visitors looked at the map and saw there weren't many charging points in Lyme Regis, so 'destination parking' was needed, where people could stay for the day while their cars charged. He added that the council should install as many as it could.

Mrs T. West invited members to see the charging point she had at her home.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said the council may also want to consider installing charging points at Monmouth and Cabanya car park, although there was no money in the budget yet for any stations. She suggested money could be put in the 2020/21 budget and more information could be obtained in the meantime.

Members discussed the charging structure, including whether the electricity would be free but the spaces would be a premium rate, as well as the possibility of people parking in the spaces but not charging a vehicle.

It was agreed more information, including detailed costings, would be brought to the next meeting on 4 December 2019.

19/41/TMH Marine Parade Barrier Baskets

Members were generally in favour of adding to the baskets to the railings but Cllr Mrs M. Ellis wanted to be certain the view wouldn't be obstructed from the benches.

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to add barrier baskets to Marine Parade railings in the season.

19/42/TMH Pound Road – Safety for Pedestrians

Cllr S. Williams said the situation could be improved with double yellow lines on both sides of Hill Rise Road to prevent people parking there.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said nothing should be done in isolation as it would have a knock-on effect on another part of the town.

Cllr J. Broom said highways matters were not within the gift of the town council and the only thing it could do was pass the residents' concerns to DC.

Cllr Ms B. Bawden said it was important the council put pressure on DC to do more about traffic issues in Lyme Regis. She asked if other problem areas could be raised with DC at the same time.

Cllr J. Broom said members used to have a walk-about with the local ward member and a DC officer and it was agreed this would be requested.

It was also agreed the contact details for the community highways officer for Lyme Regis would be circulated to members.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr Ms B. Bawden, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to forward residents' concerns about Pound Road to Dorset Council and request a meeting with highways' officers to allow the council to point out other problem areas in the town.

19/43/TMH Section 106 Money for Play Parks

The operations manager suggested the money could be used to refurbish the mini golf area.

Cllr Mrs M. Ellis said the council needed to provide a free play facility in the gardens and she also suggested more equipment in the toddler play area at Anning Road as the existing was not adequate.

Several members felt the putting green should be improved and better promoted. The operations manager confirmed it was open for use but it wasn't very well used.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to spend the leftover Section 196 money allocated to play parks on extra play equipment in the toddler area at Anning Road play park and revamping the mini golf.

The operations manager said the mini golf at Seaton was a good example and astro turf had been used there, which he suggested for Lyme Regis.

Proposed by Cllr J. Scowen and seconded by Cllr S. Williams, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to bring the putting green back up to standard and give it more publicity.

Several members said they would like to see a small play area in the gardens and it was agreed this would be put on the list of possible objectives for further consideration.

19/44/TMH Complaints and Incidents

Cllr Ms B. Bawden agreed the steps from Broad Street car park to the Town Mill were slippery and it was agreed a slip-resistant product or wire mesh would be looked into.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.