

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MANAGEMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 2022

Present

Chairman: Cllr J. Broom

Members: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner

Officers: M. Adamson-Drage (operations manager), M. Green (deputy town clerk) A. Mullins (support services manager)

21/59/TMH Public Forum

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

21/60/TMH Apologies

Cllr B. Bawden – fear of intimidation
Cllr C. Reynolds – appointment
Cllr R. Smith – work commitments
Cllr D. Sarson – holiday

21/61/TMH Minutes

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 January 2022 were **ADOPTED**.

21/62/TMH Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

21/63/TMH Dispensations

There were none.

21/64/TMH Matters arising from the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee meeting held on 12 January 2022

Request for access across Woodmead car park

Cllr M. Ellis asked what the final date was that access would be required across the car park as it needed to be clear for the main season.

The operations manager said he would find out and report back to members. He said the final 12 beach huts which were being replaced would be removed from the seafront the following week so the space would also be needed in the car park to store them.

Guildhall works

Cllr B. Larcombe commented on how good the work to the oriel window was, which enhanced the building and was carried out to price and on time. He said it was worth noting the how good a job the contractor had done for future reference.

Cllr J. Broom asked if the traffic lights were working as he had waited at the top end of the lights for three minutes.

The operations manager said he would follow this up with Dorset Council (DC).

Sale of Additional Beach Huts on Cart Road

The operations manager confirmed the sale of the two beach huts had been completed.

CCTV

The operations manager said the camera in the gardens looking onto the seafront roof had been supplied for free for an indefinite period of time but it was now going to be removed by the supplier. He said he was still progressing the wider CCTV project, of which this camera would become part, but there would not be a camera in that location for the time being. However, if members wanted him to get a camera, that particular model with the servicing package would be £8,000, or they could wait until the whole project came back as a whole, which would cost £40-£50,000, of which 80% would hopefully be paid by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Cllr J. Broom asked if the camera had been of some value.

The operations manager said it had captured someone in the immediate vicinity after the roof glass had been broken, which was then passed onto the police.

Cllr J. Broom suggested a dummy camera to deter people from vandalism, although members felt the mentality of those who caused damage wouldn't be affected by whether it was a real camera or not.

Lamp columns

Cllr B. Larcombe said he had been contacted by a member of the public about a lamp column at Jane's Café which had been out all summer, but he believed it was a DC column.

The operations manager said there were two lights which were not working; one within the Jane's Café seating area and one on the beach near the Harbour Inn seating area and due to their location, DC believed the town council had asked for them to be installed as part of the gardens' regeneration.

Cllr M. Ellis said she was on the council at the time of the gardens' regeneration and didn't recall the council asking for any lamp columns.

The operations manager said they had never been serviced by DC, despite having DC reference numbers on them and DC had subsequently removed the numbers. He said an electrician was coming to look at other lights and could look at the column at Jane's

Café as it could be fixed without the town council taking on permanent responsibility for it. He felt the town council should try and get it working or it would remain broken.

Cllr M. Ellis suggested the operations manager asked DC for proof the town council requested the column, and in the meantime, inform DC an electrician would look to repair the light without prejudice.

Cllr B. Larcombe was concerned if the town council repaired the light, it would imply ownership.

The operations manager said DC was also denying ownership of lights outside the lifeboat station and outside the traders' car park, which were areas clearly owned by DC.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if DC couldn't disprove those lights were theirs, who did they believe installed them? He said West Dorset District Council installed them and that obligation moved to DC.

It was agreed the operations manager would continue corresponding with the relevant officer at DC to determine responsibility.

Improvements to Town Bus Service and Possible External Funding Opportunity

Cllr C. Aldridge said given the very short amount of time the deputy town clerk had to submit the funding bid, he had done a very good job, but the timescale for being notified of the outcome would be longer than hoped due to the number of applications.

21/65/TMH Update Report

Car park ticket machines

The operations manager said the new machines had arrived and would be installed in stages so there were always operational machines. He said the new cash collection company, Pivotal, started collecting that day.

21/66/TMH Request for Photovoltaic Panels (PV) on Roof of Chalet at 17 Monmouth Beach

Cllr J. Broom said although the adjoining chalet owner had been contacted about the request, he felt the impact would be greater on the chalets behind, i.e. numbers 37, 38 and 39, and they should be contacted to ask if they were happy with the PV panels.

Cllr G. Stammers said the council had agreed in principle to allow PV panels on chalets due to the climate and environmental emergency declaration so it was tied into allowing the request, even if members didn't feel it was aesthetically pleasing.

Cllr M. Ellis agreed and said she felt the council had no choice but to agree the request; chalets had electricity already and the owners were trying to reduce their carbon footprint. She said it was not necessary to ask other chalet owners if they were happy with the PV panels as this was not a requirement if people were putting them on their houses.

Cllr C. Aldridge said she had seen huts in Muddiford with panels on and they weren't that noticeable as they were flush to the hut.

Cllr B. Larcombe said if the panels were facing south they would be seaward but if they were on the gable end, there would possibly be a strong reflection.

Cllr M. Ellis said if the panels were flush on the chalet, she didn't see any reason to refuse them. She said there were panels on the Woodmead Halls which she could see from her house and they didn't reflect that much.

The operations manager said the default position for the council should be to approve requests and if it refused requests, it should be an exception.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the request to install PV Panels on the roof of a chalet at 17 Monmouth Beach.

21/67/TMH Public Litter Bins

The operations manager said although the council could consider replacing its own bins with seagull proof ones, the vast majority were owned by DC.

Cllr B. Larcombe suggested the council lobbied DC to install seagull-proof bins when they required replacement.

The operations manager said two bins with letterbox openings were recently installed at Cat's Park but with flaps on and it cost £30 for a flap kit. He said Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) was under budgetary constraints at the moment but it had ordered new bins, although he hadn't yet requested any. However, if the town council wanted to pay for new seagull-proof bins, DWP would be quite happy to empty them.

Cllr M. Ellis said she was sure in the long run seagull proof bins would be more cost effective because of the time it took for the workers to pick up rubbish that had been pulled out of the bins by the seagulls. She suggested the council looked at replacing its bins on a rolling basis to spread the cost and to also ask DWP to support the council in this.

The operations manager said he had a standard budget for bins which contained enough money to replace up to five bins each year.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to put seagull proof flaps on all town council bins on a rolling basis within the already approved budget for waste bins, focusing on the areas where the problem is worse, and to also ask Dorset Waste Partnership to support the council in tackling the issue by installing seagull-proof bins when they are replaced or when new ones are installed.

21/68/TMH Complaints, Incidents and Compliments

Referring to complaints about dogs on the beach, Cllr C. Aldridge asked if the council was going to take a tougher stance on those who didn't abide by the rules as it had previously said it would.

The operations manager said the enforcement officers were taking names and addresses and those details went on a DC system, so if the individual was approached

for a second time, they would be issued with a fixed penalty notice. He said officers hadn't yet reached the point of issuing a fixed penalty notice.

Cllr M. Ellis asked if people were giving the correct name and address.

The operations manager said the law said if a person committed an offence, which they had if a dog was off a lead, they had to provide an address to a PC or an authorised officer, and the enforcement officers were authorised officers. He said they were committing a further offence if they didn't provide a name and address, at which point, the police needed to step in. He said the police had committed to supporting some targeted approaches with the enforcement officers.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.