

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MANAGEMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2022

Present

Chairman: Cllr J. Broom

Members: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr P. May, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr G. Stammers

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

22/01/TMH Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Turner that Cllr J. Broom is chairman of the Town Management and Highways Committee.

There being no other nominations, Cllr J. Broom was duly **ELECTED** as chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr D. Sarson that Cllr G. Turner is vice-chairman of the Town Management and Highways Committee.

Cllr G. Turner said he did not wish to be nominated.

It was proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr J. Broom that Cllr C. Aldridge is vice-chairman of the Town Management and Highways Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr B. Bawden that Cllr B. Larcombe is vice-chairman of the Town Management and Highways Committee. This nomination was not seconded.

Cllr C. Aldridge was duly **ELECTED** as vice-chairman.

22/02/TMH Public Forum

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

22/03/TMH Apologies

There were none.

22/04/TMH Minutes

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 April 2022 were **ADOPTED**.

22/05/TMH Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

22/06/TMH Dispensations

There were none.

22/07/TMH Matters arising from the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee meeting held on 20 April 2022

Skateboarding

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if there had been any further response on this issue from the police.

The operations manager clarified that the Road Traffic Act did not apply as a skateboard was not a motor vehicle so it was not a straightforward issue for the police to deal with.

However, it was noted there were some motorised skateboards going around the town.

Cllr C. Reynolds said she had seen the local PCSO and police constable stopping skateboarders to talk to them about the issue but this was all they could do.

22/08/TMH Update Report

Injury at the Bowls Club

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if there was any update following the injury to the child.

The operations manager said he had spoken to both parents and the child's father had written to the town clerk. He said they had asked for a thorough investigation, any steps that could be taken to improve the situation and requested compensation.

Amenities Hut

Cllr B. Larcombe said as the council was going to be the commissioning body, whether members were going to see the documents before the project went out to tender.

The operations manager said he was in the process of getting drawings and was awaiting advice on whether the project could be considered permitted development. He said he could bring the drawings to this committee.

Trailer Park at Monmouth Beach, Accreted Land and Harbourmaster's Store

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if there was a date set for the Monmouth Beach working group.

Cllr J. Broom said a date would be set later in the week.

Guildhall and office works

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if members would see details of the proposed works to the office before the contract was awarded.

Cllr J. Broom confirmed members would see the details before the work was commissioned.

Jubilee Pavilion

Cllr J. Broom said it was likely the parapet wall would have to be taken down, which would cost £50-60k.

22/09/TMH Review of the CCTV Policy

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve CCTV Policy unchanged.

22/10/TMH Civil Enforcement Officer Training

The operations manager said the proposal for Dorset Council (DC) to train the town council's enforcement officers to civil enforcement officer level had been discussed for some time but DC was now keen to progress it. He said it wasn't intended that the enforcement officers would do the job of a DC officer in their car parks; the idea was the enforcement officers would be able to enforce parking on the roadside as they were moving around the town between Monmouth Beach and Woodmead car parks.

Cllr G. Stammers asked if this would change the enforcement officer's job description and potentially their rate of pay.

The operations manager said the officers were already authorised officers for DC for enforcement of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO), so it would only be a matter of training them in the civil enforcement officer role, which in effect, they already carried out in the town council car parks.

Cllr M. Ellis felt it would benefit both the town council and DC but was concerned DC would pull some of their enforcement from Lyme Regis as a result, which would mean the town council taking on the work at its own cost.

Cllr G. Stammers agreed and said when DC highways officers had attended a recent meeting of this committee, members had raised concerns about the level of enforcement so this was already an issue.

Cllr B. Bawden, the DC ward member, said she would make a note of these issues to feed back to DC.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to request that Dorset Council trains the town council enforcement team to civil enforcement officer level.

22/11/TMH Kitchen Garden

Cllr C. Reynolds, who was also the lead co-ordinator for Lyme Garden Growers, said the volunteers had done the best they could to bring the garden up to standard, including all the winter planting, and there were now more volunteers available to help maintain it. She said with the number of people needing support from the food bank increasing, the garden was more vital than ever.

Cllr J. Broom thanked Cllr Reynolds and her husband for their hard work to bring the garden up to standard.

Members agreed it was an asset to the gardens and that having more volunteers available would be vital to its ongoing maintenance.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to confirm the kitchen garden has improved enough to remain a part of the Langmoor and Lister Gardens.

22/12/TMH Hedgecutter/Flail Mower

The operations manager said this equipment was not budgeted for in 2022-23, although it had been in a previous budget, so the expenditure would come from reserves.

Cllr B. Larcombe said he expected there to be a reduction of work carried out by DC in future so it was important the town council had this equipment to be able to carry out any work it might be asked to do.

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the purchase of a hedgecutter/flail mower at the revised cost of £14,000 + VAT, to be purchased from the reserve.

22/13/TMH Bridge Inspection Reports

Members noted the report.

22/14/TMH Complaints, Incidents and Compliments

Cllr B. Bawden asked what action had been taken following reports of rats on the seafront.

The operations manager said he had notified DC environmental health, who said they would be visiting businesses that sold food along the seafront as an educational exercise and would be combining it with a routine kitchen inspection. He said he had also approached a pest control company, which had put rat boxes behind the Cart Road beach huts.

22/15/TMH Kawasaki Mule 4x4 replacement

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, 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 matters relating to relating to the financial or business affairs of any 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.

22/16/TMH Advertising Boards

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, 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 matters relating to relating to the financial or business affairs of any 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.

22/17/TMH Exempt Business

a) Kawasaki Mule 4x4 replacement

The operations manager said the vehicle had been budgeted for at £15,000 but the two proposed electric models would exceed this.

Cllr M. Ellis said she understood the council had made a commitment to be carbon neutral but it also had to consider its budget. She felt the cost of an electric vehicle was too high and buying a diesel one at this point was preferable as the cost of electric vehicles would undoubtedly reduce.

Cllr G. Turner asked if the old mule was worth anything.

The operations manager said it would have a trade-in value but he didn't know how much it would be.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if an electric model would be capable of getting up hills as he was aware after speaking to staff that the current electric vehicle had difficulty doing this.

The operations manager said the team had test driven the electric models and they were more than capable of getting up hills. He said of the two electric models, the team preferred the Hi-Sun Vector but the team was split in terms of whether they would prefer this model or a like-for-like diesel replacement.

Cllr B. Bawden said the council should be buying an electric vehicle to demonstrate leadership and encourage other people to do the same. She said the fuel and maintenance costs were also lower on an electric vehicle so this would make up for the initial expense.

Several members spoke about the reliability, running costs, durability and performance of electric vehicles.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to purchase an ex-demo Hi-Sun Vector at £19,800+VAT as a replacement for the Kawasaki mule.

b) Advertising Boards

Cllr C. Aldridge said there were advertising boards all over the town in awkward places and asked if there was something wider the council could do to address the issue rather than concentrating on this particular case.

Cllr J. Broom said the council could clamp down on advertising boards in general but members were being asked to consider this particular issue for the reasons outlined.

The operations manager said he had done a leaflet drop to businesses with more than one board to remind them they should only have one and under the agency agreement with DC, the town council could ask businesses to put them in a more sensible place if they were causing an obstruction.

Several members felt taking legal action against the business concerned would send a message to other businesses that the council was serious about enforcing the A board policy.

Cllr C. Reynolds was concerned about the costs of taking legal action against the business concerned. She said there had been many attempts in the past to get businesses to remove their boards and they would take them in for a day or two and put them back the next day; as such, she didn't think making an example of this business would make a difference.

Cllr M. Ellis also felt any action should be more widespread in the town but didn't feel legal action was necessary.

Cllr P. May said just because people hadn't listened in the past, that wasn't a reason for the council not to take any action. He suggested there could be a report to the next meeting about the wider issues with advertising boards but at the moment, members were being asked to consider this specific business.

Cllr C. Reynolds asked for a recorded vote on the following motion:

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr P. May, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that under the Road Traffic Act Section 149, to apply to a magistrate for a removal and disposal order of an advertising board owned by a business refusing to remove it.

Voted for – Cllr J. Broom, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr P. May, Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr B. Bawden

Voted against – None

Abstentions – Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr M. Ellis

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.