

## LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

### TOWN MANAGEMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2022

##### Present

**Chairman:** Cllr C. Aldridge

**Members:** Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr P. May, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr G. Turner

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

**Absent:** Cllr T. Webb

**Guests:** M. Attwood (Dorset Police Community Speed Watch co-ordinator)

##### 22/18/TMH Public Forum

###### A. Coleman

A. Coleman spoke in relation to agenda item 8, Speed Watch, specifically related to dangerous speeding and dangerous parking on Sidmouth Road, which although the residents knew was not in the town council's gift, they hoped for its support in these matters. She said the section they were referring to specifically was from Holmbush car park to Clappentail Lane, a dangerous section of the road where there was around 200 metres of no pavement and a dangerous right-hand bend as vehicles went up the road. She said there was a 30mph speed limit but with no pavement and the blind bend, it was still too fast. She said many tourists came down both sides of the road, many with children and prams, and couldn't be seen by cars in either direction. A. Coleman said at night in particular the speeds were well in excess of 30mph, with vehicles racing up the hill at great speed and then braking because of the blind corner, causing a lot of noise for residents. She said there had been two accidents on this stretch of road in the last four years and she had had shopping knocked out of her hand and her elbow knocked on her way up because she had to walk on the left-hand side because of the blind bend. A. Coleman said from Umbrella Cottage upwards there were no restrictions on parking and in summer tourists parked on both sides of the road for long periods of time and overnight. She said this caused problems for traffic flow, particularly when there were lorries and buses, it caused congestion and tailbacks, noise and air pollution for local residents, it meant residents couldn't access their driveways on Sidmouth Road and it was also challenging to get out of Ware Lane onto Sidmouth Road. She said traffic coming in from the west had to pull out to avoid parked cars when they hit the blind corner, making it a very dangerous spot. A. Coleman said they had two recommendations, based on some canvassing of Sidmouth Road and Ware Lane residents. The first was a 20mph speed limit on that part of Sidmouth Road, which wouldn't require much money and would only require some speed indicators and signage. The second was to extend single-yellow lines up Sidmouth Road to Ware Lane on both sides and then from Ware Lane to Clappentail Lane on the north side. A. Coleman said she appreciated the council had many challenging issues with visitors around transport, traffic and pollution but they believed their recommendations would go some way to addressing these and they hoped to get the council's support.

## **H. Deary**

H. Deary spoke in relation to the same agenda item and said there was a problem in the network of lanes that were Haye Lane, Roman Road and Colway Lane, which should be referred to as single track lanes with passing places. She said there was one point in Haye Lane where drivers could get a clear line of sight so they would speed down the lane. She said a 20mph speed limit instead of the national speed limit from the top of the lane by the Black Dog might be a helpful improvement. H. Deary said she couldn't understand why someone leaving the main road where the speed limit was 30mph should suddenly be confronted by a national speed limit lane. She said the sign showing an adult and a child was incongruous with this. She said signage might be able to make people more aware that it was a single-track lane with passing places and remind them of the hazards. H. Deary said she met a man walking along the lane with a bike who had come from Axminster; he was comfortable with riding on the B roads but not on Haye Lane. She said drivers should also be mindful of other users that hazard signs were needed for, such as horse riders, cyclists and elderly people and generally people just needed to be more aware.

## **J. Deary**

J. Deary spoke in relation to the same agenda item and emphasised that Haye Lane was a single lane with some signs indicating a 30mph speed limit, the same speed limit for a two-lane road in places such as Bridport or Weymouth. He said due to speeding, clearly someone was going to be seriously injured. He listed the uses of the lane, including mobility scooters, horses and riders, school children, residents walking, leisure cyclists, dog walkers, motorbikes, delivery vans, trucks, passenger vehicles, ambulances and more recently dumper trucks. J. Deary said the residents wanted some prompt and meaningful response and resolution and mitigation of risk to residents. He said their recommendations were for signage which said 'slow, one vehicle only', speed humps, and priority arrows that signalled to drivers there was a concern. He said drivers needed to be made aware it's becoming a high-risk lane and it was just a matter of time before someone got seriously hurt.

## **P. Brock**

P. Brock spoke on the same agenda item. He said he would be happy to volunteer to monitor vehicle speeds as part of any Speed Watch scheme. He said he wrote to the county council some years ago suggesting the idea of speed humps but the response was that traffic lights couldn't be put in so this didn't go any further. He said he agreed with everything already said about Haye Lane and if something wasn't done, there was going to be a major accident. He said from Haye Close down it was a speed run and regardless of whether signs were put up, people were still doing around 45mph.

## **22/19/TMH Apologies**

Cllr J. Broom – unwell  
Cllr M. Ellis – work commitments  
Cllr B. Larcombe – unwell  
Cllr D. Ruffle – holiday  
Cllr G. Stammers – holiday

**22/20/TMH Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 June 2022 were **ADOPTED**.

**22/21/TMH Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were none.

**22/22/TMH Dispensations**

There were none.

**22/23/TMH Matters arising from the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee meeting held on 22 June 2022**

Members noted the report.

**22/24/TMH Update Report**

**Avian Flu**

Cllr B. Bawden asked if there was information and advice about avian flu for the public on the council's website.

The support services manager said there wasn't, but this could be implemented.

**22/25/TMH Speed Watch**

M. Attwood, the Dorset Police Community Speed Watch co-ordinator, was invited to give a presentation about the Speed Watch scheme.

M. Attwood said the scheme was reliant on volunteers, with a minimum of six needed to start a team, who would be given training at the roadside. The best locations to be sited at would be discussed as they had to be in a safe location and not a distraction to drivers and they could operate in 20, 30 and 40mph speed limit areas. Sessions normally lasted for half an hour to an hour, one person was needed to co-ordinate the team and they had to let the Dorset Road Safe team know when they were operating. They were not allowed to operate in bad weather or in darkness.

M. Attwood said there needed to be a minimum of three people at the roadside during each session, using a device which only recorded speed. She explained what happened with those details and the consequences if a driver was caught once, twice or three times. She said the emphasis of the scheme was on education but, when possible, an enforcement officer would join the team with a laser camera which was able to record a vehicle's details and a fine could be issued.

Cllr C. Reynolds said in 2015 she had raised the £300 needed to purchase the equipment for a Community Speed Watch and she had volunteers in place, but they pulled out as they didn't want to be seen to be reporting friends and neighbours for speeding. She said she would be happy to help with the setting up of any scheme, but she doubted the residents would be successful in getting 20mph speed limits introduced as she had tried and failed even outside the primary school.

M. Attwood said she understood Dorset Council (DC) was keen to introduce 20mph speed limits across the county but one of the provisions was that an area had to have Community Speed Watch. She added that the scheme could also produce various statistics and residents could chose to share the data with highways as evidence of there being a problem with speeding.

Cllr B. Bawden said she had been approached by many residents in different parts of the town so she had talked to DC about how to start the process of introducing speed restrictions or 20mph speed limits; she was told the first step was to set up Community Speed Watch groups as no one would do anything until there was evidence. She said she had written to everyone who had signed a petition about speeding to tell them about the scheme and she hoped there were enough people so they could operate outside of their immediate area.

Cllr B. Bawden said DC was considering the issue of 20mph speed limits on a village or town basis on 6 October 2022 at a meeting of the Place and Resources Overview Committee and although town council support was not needed to operate Speed Watch Groups, it would be needed for any subsequent measures. She felt it would be helpful to send a message to DC before the meeting to express the town council's support for 20mph speed limits.

As the camera to be used by the Community Speed Watch team would cost £300, members discussed whether the council could purchase this.

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to support the Speed Watch initiative and agree to purchase one camera for the volunteer Speed Watch team and to support, in principle, the introduction of 20mph speed limits, where possible, in Lyme Regis and instruct officers to feed back to Dorset Council.

## **22/26/TMH Renewal of Planning Permission for Chalets, Caravans and Day Huts at Monmouth Beach**

Cllr C. Aldridge said it wasn't ideal that the council was reliant on one person who had geotechnical expertise to be able to submit the application and the council needed to give some thought to this in future.

The deputy town clerk said if this was a normal planning application and it wasn't so sensitive in terms of ground stability, there would be a number of people who could do the work, but in this situation, Peter Chapman was the best choice; otherwise, it would be someone out of the area with a long lead time.

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to appoint Peter Chapman to progress the renewal of the planning permission for chalets, caravans and day huts at Monmouth Beach.

## **22/27/TMH Lister Room Marketing and Appointment of Member Panel**

The deputy town clerk proposed the letting of the commercial units on the seafront be dealt with by a member panel, which considered the proposals received. He said this allowed the council to take into account all factors, including the community benefit, of the applications received, otherwise the tendency was to accept the highest amount

offered. He added that although not at the meeting, Cllr M. Ellis had expressed an interest in being on the panel.

Cllr C. Reynolds asked how many proposals had been submitted and how long it would take for the panel to come to a decision.

The deputy town clerk said there were two proposals submitted so far but he was expecting more by the deadline of 14 October 2022. He said he hoped the panel could meet as soon as possible after the deadline so ideally a decision could be made at the Full Council meeting on 26 October 2022.

Cllrs C. Reynolds, D. Sarson and B. Bawden said they would also like to be on the panel.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to note the update on the marketing of the Lister Room and appoint Cllrs C. Reynolds, D. Sarson, B. Bawden and M. Ellis to a panel to consider any proposals received from potential tenants.

**22/28/TMH 30 and 41 Ware Cliff Chalets, Request to Construct Extensions plus request to replace 37 Western Beach day hut**

The deputy town clerk said 37 Western Beach day hut was a like-for-like replacement and he would stipulate to the owners that it had to be in the same location as the old one as some new huts had been placed further forward to get a better view.

The deputy town clerk said he would be happy to recommend the requests for extensions to 30 and 41 Ware Cliff chalets as they met all the criteria: they could be extended within the existing site, the extension was in the same materials as existing, and they didn't obstruct the view of any other chalets. This would be subject to any other necessary permissions that might be required, such as planning permission or building regulations.

Cllr C. Aldridge asked if there were any issues with land slippage in any of the areas under discussion.

The deputy town clerk said not especially.

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr P. May, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve requests from the owners of 30 and 41 Ware Cliff chalets to build extensions in materials to match the existing, subject to also obtaining any other required consents, and a request from the owner of 37 Western Beach day hut to replace it on a like-for-like basis.

**22/29/TMH Dorset Council Free Parking Days**

Cllr B. Bawden suggested free parking days for the Totally Locally event, although as the event started on 8 October 2022, it was too late for this year. She asked that it be considered for 2023.

Members discussed whether there could be a late-night shopping event before Christmas when there could be a free parking day, but it was noted there could only be

one date in December and Carols Round the Christmas Tree had already been suggested.

It was noted the free parking days could ordinarily be spread throughout the year but as it was nearing the end of 2022, the time was limited. It was therefore agreed a report would be brought to this committee in early 2023 to allow members to consider free parking days for the year ahead.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to agree the non-charging dates for Lyme Regis Dorset Council car parks as follows:

- 11 November 2022 – Armistice Day
- 13 November 2022 – Remembrance Sunday
- 26 November 2022 – Christmas lights switch-on
- 3 December 2022 – Small Business Saturday
- 21 December 2022 - Carols Round the Christmas Tree

to apply the same non-charging days to Woodmead Car Park, only, and instruct officers to liaise with Dorset Council Parking Services.

### **22/30/TMH Amenities Hut Building Drawings**

The operations manager said he had spoken to staff about what they would like in the building and the resulting design was larger than the footprint of the current building. He said the through route for vehicles would be maintained and without digging backwards, this was the optimum situation that could be achieved.

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the drawings for the proposed new amenities hut and instruct officers to proceed to planning permission and procurement.

### **22/31/TMH Guildhall Car Park and Flagpole**

The operations manager said turning the current mayor's space into a ramp would allow for extra parking on the upper level and entry and exit would be controlled by bollards to prevent unauthorised parking.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to introduce a ramp at the mayor's current parking space to open up the higher level for parking while also installing remote-controlled retractable bollards at the front of Cockmoile Square and install a flagpole by the south side of the Guildhall entrance.

### **22/32/TMH Policing**

The operations manager said he understood there was a meeting on 4 November 2022 between the Dorset police and crime commissioner (PCC) David Sidwick, the town clerk, Cllr B. Bawden and others to discuss policing.

Cllr B. Bawden said she had received a letter from the police related to anti-social behaviour, rather than policing in general, which confirmed they had increased the priority on tackling anti-social behaviour. She said the letter said more patrols were now taking place in the area, the police had agreed this was a priority location for the neighbourhood team and they had developed a plan that the team was working to. She

added that she had invited the MP Chris Loder to chair a meeting of the various agencies involved.

Cllr C. Reynolds said the PCC had made various promises when he met with members shortly after being elected and as co-ordinator of Lyme Regis Community Support, she had a meeting with the chief inspector, so she would remind him of the promises made.

It was noted that the report was drafted before the meeting with the PCC had been arranged, so there was no requirement to arrange another one.

#### **22/33/TMH Accessibility and Mobility Review**

Cllr B. Bawden said she had received requests from people in the town for accessibility improvements, such as dropped kerbs for mobility scooters. She said for DC to implement such improvements, there needed to be evidence, so the process was to form a volunteer group of people with a range of mobility challenges to make their suggestions for improvement. She said DC would look strategically at which solutions would allow people to have the most access to services and facilities.

#### **22/34/TMH Complaints, Incidents and Compliments**

As there had been several complaints about bins not being emptied at the Kiosk, Cllr P. May suggested this was made a priority going forward.

#### **22/35/TMH Access Road to Ware Cliff and Bowling Green Chalets**

The deputy town clerk said the area of road had been moving for some time, but it had moved significantly in the last few weeks. He said the council's geotechnical engineer didn't believe there was any significant underlying land movement, he believed it was clay shrinkage, but some of the connections into the sewer chamber may have become detached and there was a risk water was discharging down the bank towards the car park and Boat Building Academy.

The deputy town clerk said the geotechnical engineer's view was that some initial investigations and immediate repairs took place as soon as possible, with possibly more significant work to be done in the spring.

Cllr C. Reynolds was concerned that leaving the work until the spring would have a bigger impact as the chalet site would be busy with residents and vehicles.

The deputy town clerk acknowledged this was a challenge. He said the road was the sole means of access to a large number of properties and the occupancy period started on 1 March 2023, so to avoid disturbance, the best time to carry out any work would be between January and 1 March.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to note the significant recent movement/subsidence in a length of the access road to the Ware Cliff and Bowling Green Chalets and authorise the town clerk, in consultation with the chairman of this committee, to approve and instruct any necessary remedial works as a matter of urgency, and to agree that the cost of any works be met from the operations budget and to note that this may result in an overspend on that budget at year end, the actual cost of the works to be separately identified and reported in due course.



**22/36/TMH Proposals by Western Power Distribution to reinforce (upgrade) the supply to the existing sub-station at Monmouth Beach**

The deputy town clerk said officers needed time to digest the detailed plans and meet with Western Power Distribution on site to understand exactly what they were planning to do. He said an upgrade to the substation at Monmouth Beach could only be a good thing because the system in that part of the town was at its limit.

Cllr C. Reynolds asked if the work would be paid for by the council or Western Power Distribution.

The deputy town clerk said Western Power Distribution would pay and depending on precisely what they planned to do, they might need formal easement over council land.

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr P. May, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to authorise the town clerk, in consultation with the chairman of this committee, to comment on and approve proposals by Western Power Distribution to reinforce (upgrade) the supply to the existing sub-station at Monmouth Beach in so far as they may affect town council-owned land or property.

**22/37/TMH Fleet Report and Vehicle Purchase**

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr P. May, 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.

**22/38/TMH Remote Controlled Mower**

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr P. May, 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.

**22/39/TMH Exempt Business**

**a) Fleet Report and Vehicle Purchase**

Cllr G. Turner asked why the council didn't lease vehicles instead of purchasing them.

The operations manager said it wouldn't be possible to lease some of the vehicles the council required; in the case of the lengthsman's vehicle, a small vehicle with a tipping back was required and this wasn't available to lease. However, if a standard vehicle was required in future, the council may want to look at this option.

The operations manager said the second-hand vehicle he had found for the lengthsman had been sold so the only remaining options were the two new vehicles. He said electric utility vehicles were not there yet but in 2028/9, the diesel model could hopefully be replaced with an electric model.

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to purchase a new Isuzu D Max utility 4x4 with after-market tipping rear from Livery Dole in splash white.

Members discussed the proposed replacement of the tractor.

The operations manager said it was coming to the end of its life and employees were worried it would break down on the beach while raking. He said the lead time for a tractor was a year and a deposit would be required on order.

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to purchase a New Holland T5 tractor with loader from Buglers, with the deposit to be paid in 2022-23.

The operations manager said this did not include the galvanising of the wheels but ungalvanised wheels on the current tractor had previously lasted eight years.

#### **b) Remote Controlled Mower**

Members agreed it was necessary to purchase a remote-controlled mower in the interests of the health and safety of staff as there had been an incident of an employee slipping on the bank while mowing.

It was noted that the expenditure would come from the 2023-24 budget, but members had yet to decide on projects and objectives for 2023-24, which was scheduled to take place at the Strategy and Finance Committee meeting on 12 October 2022. Members were therefore committing expenditure before being able to consider all proposed projects.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to purchase a Raymo Torpedo remote-controlled mower from the 2023-24 budget and that this item of expenditure is prioritised as a project within the setting of the 2023-24 budget.

*The meeting closed at 9.08pm.*