

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2021

Present

Chairman: Cllr B. Bawden

Members: Cllr J. Broom, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr R. Smith and Cllr G. Stammers,

Officers: M. Adamson-Drage (operations manager), E. Pawsey (senior administrative assistant)

21/14/ENV Election of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers that Cllr R. Smith is vice chairman of the Environment Committee.

There being no other nominations, Cllr R. Smith was duly **ELECTED** as vice-chairman.

21/15/ENV Public Forum

N. Ball (read out by an officer)

N. Ball spoke in relation to agenda item 10, Food Waste to Living Soil Project. He said he believed this project should not go ahead and council staff should not be involved. He said the only composting that should be done was green waste management and compost bins could be built in another area of gardens, rather than the proposed site. N. Ball said green waste need not be taken anywhere off site and he asked the council to consider his comments to avoid unsightly waste management sites in the public amenity space.

V. Elcoate

V. Elcoate said she had concerns with the pollution in the River Lym, which was first noticed by Cllr Daryl Turner in August. She said signs had been put up but she was concerned with them being permanent. She said she had contacted South West Water (SWW) and the Environment Agency (EA) to find out what action they were taking; both of their responses were very unsatisfactory, and they were only monitoring the beach. V. Elcoate said Turn Lyme Green would like to set up a monitoring project with the support of South West River Trust, who supported communities to make sure their rivers were cleaned up. She said they would monitor the water regularly, set up several monitoring points along the river, and the Rivers Trust would collect the data. V. Elcoate said she would like the support of the council to help with funding the six required testing kits at £25 each. She said Turn Lyme Green could fundraise, but this was an opportunity for the town council to show its support. V. Elcoate said she would continue to pressure SWW and EA to get some answers.

21/16/ENV Apologies

Cllr B. Larcombe MBE – personal commitment
Cllr C. Reynolds

Cllr D. Ruffle – illness
Cllr T. Webb
Cllr S. Williams – illness

21/17/ENV Minutes

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2021, were **ADOPTED**.

21/18/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

21/19/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

21/20/ENV Matters arising from the previous meeting held on 7 July 2021

Queen's Green Canopy

Cllr D. Sarson said he was on a walk in the cemetery when one of the gardeners pointed out that the tree roots were lifting the tarmac in several places so it might not be a good idea to plant trees there.

The operations manager said the council could plant trees in other areas. He agreed the tree roots were causing damage to both the path and drains in the cemetery and at some point, the council would have to do major work to the road and reinstate the drains. He said trees would not be able to be planted there in the future and would have to be planted in another area of the cemetery which would mean a reduction of burial plots.

The operations manager was asked to choose another location in the cemetery for trees to be planted.

Cllr G. Stammers asked if the council could plant trees with less invasive roots.

The operations manager said they could and there were areas, other than the cemetery, where the trees could be planted.

Japanese Knotweed

Cllr G. Stammers asked if the operations manager was dealing with the knotweed.

The operations manager said the gardeners now had the injecting kit to deal with it.

21/21/ENV Update Report

Lyme Regis energy scheme

Cllr B. Bawden said the Lyme Regis energy scheme (Dorset Community Energy, DCE) had done an investigation on buildings using energy, including the Boat Building Academy and St Michaels Primary school, and concluded that not enough energy was being used for DCE to get involved. She said individual buildings could get involved but

it would not be done collectively and grant applications could be done on an individual basis.

Our Future Town

Cllr B. Bawden said the community engagement on Our Future Town would now be postponed to start in the new year. She said there was a National Lottery grant for climate action if the council applied for this, the Royal College of Art would be able to develop their toolkit and if not, the council could just go ahead and do it itself.

Totally Locally

Cllr B. Bawden said Totally Locally was due to start on Saturday 9 October until 23 October. She said Totally Locally was a national campaign to support local independent businesses, which the council supported in February and October last year. Cllr Bawden said she sent the information out to local businesses and there had been a really good take up, especially from new businesses. Cllr Bawden said there would be free parking in Woodmead and Dorset Council car parks and the One Planet working group and Turn Lyme Green were going to split the cost of printing the map.

21/22/ENV Environment Information for the Town Council Website

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to use option 3 to add an environment tab to the town council website and to change the wording on the tab to Environment and not Environmental.

21/23/ENV Food Waste to Living Soil Project

The operations manager said the idea would be to have a showcase in the gardens with signage to show how to create compost from food wastage. He said there wouldn't be a large burden on town council staff in bringing waste from the seafront bins to this location as it was something staff already did, transferring waste to other bins for Dorset Waste Partnership to collect. He said once the waste had been deposited at the composting site, anything beyond that would be organised by Grolav.

The operations manager said more space and wheelie bins were needed than he was originally expecting, and consideration had also been given to levelling off areas and maybe canopying. He said he had been informed the process did not smell but they would be storing manure on the site.

The operations manager said that there seemed to be more to this project than originally anticipated and it would cost approximately £2,500 to £3,000 to set up. He said in the future, he wasn't sure if Grolav would continue with the project or whether the council would have to take over.

Cllr J. Broom said he didn't believe Langmoor Gardens was the right place for a waste transfer system and he suggested Strawberry Field as an alternative. He was concerned the project hadn't been costed properly and the concept had grown beyond the original request.

The operations manager said Grolav was going to find the funding and just wanted the council to underwrite it.

Cllr J. Broom suggested the council underwrote half the amount, i.e. £1,250.

Cllr R. Smith said although he supported the idea, he didn't think Langmoor Gardens was the right location. He said he would not want to match fund anything more than £1,500 and that the council would need a lot more detail.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the operations manager speaks to Cliff Powley to enquire if Strawberry Fields was a suitable site for the Food Waste to Living Soil Project and if so, approach Grovlab to get more explicit and costed details, to understand the visual impact and ask them to commence the fundraising.

21/24/ENV Water Quality on the River Lym

The operations manager said the only input this council had was to put up some signs, at first for just a day, and then more permanent signage. He said this request came from Cllr D. Turner via the Environment department at Dorset Council (DC).

Cllr D. Sarson commended V. Elcoate for the work she was doing. He said as SWW and the EA had not come up with a solution or an indication of where the sewage was coming from, it was not up to the council to chase up.

Cllr R. Smith said the council should fund the testing packs, as referred to by V. Elcoate in the public forum.

Cllr B. Bawden agreed the council should buy the testing kits and suggested the council engaged with Uplyme Parish Council to also get involved.

Cllr J. Broom asked what the council was going to gain from it and what it would do with the information.

Cllr B. Bawden said the council would get better information about the quality of the water and could then report the results to SWW and the EA.

Cllr J. Broom said they water quality was not going to improve until it was determined which properties were connected to the overflow pipe instead of the sewer. He said SWW was the responsible authority and that is where the council should be going for information.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council writes to South West Water to express its concerns about water quality in the River Lym.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to match fund the cost of water quality monitoring packs up to £75.

21/25/ENV Bathing Water Classification Gap 2020

Members noted the report.

21/26/ENV Dorset Council Rights of Way

Cllr B. Bawden said if lost paths and previous rights of way were not identified and reclaimed within the next five years, the opportunity to do that would be lost. She asked what the council could do about this and whether there were areas in our town affected.

The operations manager said Dorset Council had a ranger who checked the paths and they should check all the officially numbered footpaths.

Cllr B. Bawden asked if there were any in Lyme Regis that should be campaigned to maintain.

The operations manager said he was pleased DC was doing this as one of the issues in Lyme was Footpath 12 (Stile Lane) where the path was slipping and the tarmac was breaking up. He said this part of Footpath 12 was owned by the town council but was a named footpath, which DC was responsible for.

Cllr J. Broom suggested the operations manager contacted local resident Ken Gollop as he would know where the paths were.

Cllr B. Bawden said the ramblers map showed potentially lost footpaths.

Cllr R. Smith said there were other paths that were not on the ordnance survey map.

It was agreed the operations manager would contact Ken Gollop for further information on the footpaths in Lyme Regis.

21/27/ENV The Climate and Environmental Emergency – What is it and why we must act now

Members noted the report.

21/28/ENV Carbon Literacy Training for Members

Cllr B. Bawden introduced and explained the report and the background information.

Members noted the report.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.