

**LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 JULY 2022**

**Present**

**Chairman:** Cllr R. Smith

**Members:** Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr J. Broom, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr P. May, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr G. Stammers

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

**Other members:** Cllr C. Aldridge

**22/01/ENV Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

It was proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden that Cllr R. Smith is chairman of the Environment Committee.

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

It was proposed by Cllr B. Bawden and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe that Cllr P. May is vice-chairman of the Environment Committee.

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

**22/02/ENV Public Forum**

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

**22/03/ENV Apologies**

Cllr G. Turner

**22/04/ENV Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, the minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2022 were **ADOPTED**.

**22/05/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were none.

**22/06/ENV      Dispensations**

There were none.

**22/07/ENV      Matters arising from the previous meeting held on 4 May 2022**

**River Lim Project Monitoring**

Cllr P. May asked what response the council had received to the letter to Chris Loder MP.

The operations manager said there had not been a response.

Cllr P. May said the river monitors had discovered some bad outflows at the Woodmead Road bridge, which smelled like sewage and was either grey or blue, although it was quite clear running today. He said they had no idea where it was coming from and he felt the Environment Agency or South West Water had a duty to investigate it. He added that he thought it was the same issue that was reported by the former ward member a year ago.

Other members confirmed this was the same outflow that was being dealt with by the former ward member.

Cllr B. Larcombe said at that time it was deemed to be an overflow so when there was excess water, it used that pipe. He understood South West Water was going to find an alternative solution at the time.

Cllr P. May said the river monitors and others were planning to meet with South West Water on 19 July 2022 and he would be going to observe. He understood the document that would be presented to South West Water at that meeting had been emailed to members by Cllr B. Bawden.

Cllr B. Bawden said the Charmouth river monitoring group had received a grant of £1,500 from Wessex Water and all the local river monitoring groups were working together and communicating.

Cllr B. Larcombe said if Church Cliff Beach was to be awarded Blue Flag status, the water quality wasn't the only factor, it was also the facilities that went with it.

The operations manager said if there was any prospect of Front Beach being awarded Blue Flag status, it may be advisable for Church Cliff Beach to remain de-designated as a bathing beach.

However, Cllr P. May said the river monitoring group wasn't looking for Blue Flag status, it was just asking for improved water quality and the current de-designation of the beach shouldn't be used as a reason not to improve it.

Cllr B. Bawden said she was collecting evidence of illnesses and reactions by sea swimmers to try and build up a picture before next year's harbour dredging to ask Dorset Council to monitor the materials that were deposited.

## **Community Energy Champions**

Cllr P. May said the community energy champions had attended Uplyme Fete and although they found it difficult to engage with the community in general, it had been helpful attending the event and there was a definite interest in the community. As a community energy champion, he had made one home visit and received a call from a Lyme Regis resident with a Grade II listed building which they were struggling to insulate.

Cllr P. May said the community energy champions had received a grant from Dorset Community Energy to purchase a second thermal imaging camera and they hoped the Regatta and Carnival Committee would fund a third.

Cllr C. Aldridge asked if any of the information gathered by the community energy champions using the thermal imaging camera was recorded as there may be an issue with GDPR.

Cllr P. May said the community energy champions had a duty to keep information secure but they didn't have a duty to comply with GDPR as they were acting as individuals, not an entity. He said they didn't intend to keep the images unless the owners wanted to keep them. However, he said they would discuss as a group how they could collect data to be able to provide feedback.

Cllr P. May said it would be good to have a community energy champions page on the council website and there was a good example already on the Bridport Town Council website.

### **22/08/ENV Update Report**

#### **Updates from Community Organisations**

Cllr B. Bawden said there would be a joint community engagement event between Turn Lyme Green, 2030 Vision and Community Energy Champions on 6 August 2022 during Regatta and Carnival Week.

#### **Dorset Council Biodiversity Enhancements Funding**

Cllr R. Smith said the council should be thinking about whether anything that happens in the sea needs biodiversity offsetting as people were often land-based in their thinking.

Cllr B. Bawden asked if it could be any biodiversity enhancing project that could benefit from the funding or whether it had to be linked to developments.

The operations manager said it had to be linked to developments.

### **22/09/ENV Carbon Literate Organisation Accreditation**

Cllr B. Bawden said she was confident the council could meet most of the criteria for Carbon Literacy organisational accreditation at silver level, but she wasn't sure how Carbon Literacy could be integrated into the performance management and assessment systems of the organisation, which was one of the criteria.

Cllr B. Larcombe said members were not involved in the day-to-day things that staff did so he suggested it was down to the operations manager to ensure the Carbon Literacy requirement was met.

The operations manager said he believed the council did actively manage the staff through the decisions it made.

Cllr B. Bawden said the operations supervisor and former senior administrative assistant were also accredited but if this committee felt more staff should undertake the training, it could make that proposal. However, she said the training was provided for free previously and might have to be paid for in future.

Cllr R. Smith asked officers if they felt staff had benefitted from the training, if they needed more help and support with it, or would be positive towards continuing with the training.

The operations manager said any training was useful but the council had already done enough to reach the silver level, so he questioned whether it was necessary to train more staff.

Cllr B. Bawden said it was to do with the culture of the organisation so individuals could understand how their job fitted in with what needed to be done, what the climate emergency was, and what they could do as individuals and as an organisation to adapt to and mitigate the impacts.

Cllr G. Stammers said she felt the gardeners would benefit from the training due to the biodiversity element.

Cllr P. May said he felt it would be a priority for managers within the office to be trained as they were helping members to implement decisions. He said there were clear statutory obligations on the council which took priority but the council needed to find some way of raising environmental issues up the list so they didn't get pushed down by other statutory requirements.

Cllr R. Smith suggested a rolling training programme so, for example, one-fifth of staff attended the training every year so it remained live.

It was clarified that the £750 cost of silver accreditation lasted three years.

The operations manager said if the course had to be paid for and Cllr B. Bawden was delivering the training, this would represent a pecuniary interest.

Cllr B. Bawden said she could find someone else to deliver it. She said there wasn't necessarily a need to train more staff, it just needed to be demonstrated how Carbon Literacy was built into performance management systems.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the Human Resources Committee considers ways of integrating Carbon Literacy into the performance management and assessment systems of the organisation.

The operations manager said it was also about corporate reporting of the green credentials so this would involve the Strategy and Finance Committee. He said visual

promotion of the council's Carbon Literacy could be incorporated into the environment tab on the website.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the proposal to seek Carbon Literacy organisational accreditation at Silver level.

**22/10/ENV Lyme's 'Green' Reputation – progress report since the climate and environmental emergency declaration in 2019**

Cllr B. Bawden said Dorset Council had appointed a new climate change director, who had come from Cornwall Council, which was one of the first local authorities in the country to declare a climate emergency, so she hoped this appointment meant things would now move faster at Dorset Council.

Cllr R. Smith thanked Cllr B. Bawden as so much of the work had come from her enthusiasm and connections. He said there needed to be a way of discussing some of the ideas and projects suggested in this and the next report but didn't feel this was the best place to do it. He said he would like to engage members by email between this and the next meeting to identify up to four ideas which could then be implemented.

The support services manager said any discussion about projects had to be done in conjunction with 2023-24 budget-setting. She said it was intended to take a report to the Strategy and Finance Committee on 13 July 2022 about proposed projects for 2023-24 as public consultation would need to take place between that meeting and the next Strategy and Finance Committee meeting on 12 October 2022 when the budget-setting process would begin.

The support services manager said a discussion about environmental projects at the next meeting of this committee would be too late for the consultation and budget-setting process so if there were any ideas, these needed to be fed into the Strategy and Finance Committee on 13 July 2022.

**22/11/ENV 2030 Vision Community Conversation – update report**

Cllr B. Bawden gave a presentation to update members on the 2030 Vision project.

Members noted the difficulties the project had encountered in engaging with the public.

Cllr R. Smith said there could be links to any relevant websites on the environment tab on the website.

*The meeting closed at 8.42pm.*