

**LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL 2025**

**Present:**

**Chairman:** Cllr S. Cockerell

**Members:** Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr P. May, Cllr M. Denney, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr A. Wood, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr G. Stammers

**Other members:** J. Breeze

**Officers:** K. Newman (administrative and community engagement assistant), P. Williams (acting operations manager), J. Wright (town clerk)

**Guests:** M. Morrow (River Lim Action Group)

**Absent:** Cllr G. Turner

**24/73/ENV Public Forum**

There were no members of the public present.

**24/74/ENV Apologies**

V. Elcoate  
G. Barr

**24/75/ENV Minutes**

The chairman said he had not yet checked when last the council reviewed its adherence and performance against its own environment policy but said he would do so for the next meeting.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2025, were **ADOPTED**.

**24/76/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were none.

**24/77/ENV Dispensations**

There were none.

**24/78/ENV Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 March 2025**

**Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation**

The town clerk said Speak Carbon Collective had been appointed to deliver the carbon literacy training for the organisation.

A member wanted clarification on the cost of the training to be provided and asked if the decision was made due to a disagreement with a member of Dorset Climate Action Network, because he wanted to be careful about how the council's funds were being spent.

The town clerk said the matter deserved a degree of sensitivity and he did not want to discuss it at the meeting. If any members wanted to discuss the decision with him, they would be welcome to do so in a separate meeting.

### **Environment Policy**

A member asked if there was any further action needed from officers or if a proposal was needed regarding the wording in the environment policy for the scope 3 emissions discussed in 26/67/ENV. He said he would like the wording provided by officers to be included.

## **24/79/ENV Update Report**

### **Bathing Water Quality Meeting**

The acting operations manager said the meeting on 15 April 2025 was not as well attended as previous meetings but was a productive meeting that was attended by South West Water and Dorset Council representatives.

Those who attended the meeting gave an update on the topics discussed.

It was noted that a purpose of the bathing water quality meeting was discussed and would be recorded in the minutes of that meeting, that a council member would chair the meeting, and a representative from the River Lim Action Group (RLAG) would take the minutes, and then combined with the recording, the council would draft the minutes.

It was also agreed that the group would try to encourage a representative of the Uplyme Parish Council to attend the meetings. It was noted Surfers Against Sewage was a data source but hadn't been asked to attend any of the meetings.

## **24/80/ENV Environment Committee – Objectives**

A member asked if trees could be planted along Strawberry Fields where hedges were accidentally cut down.

The acting operations manager said the hedges weren't cut down accidentally but were cut back because of ash dieback so they needed to be removed for safety purposes.

The town clerk said a decision would be made in autumn 2025 regarding the future of the site, and it would be a good idea to have these discussions first before planting any trees. He suggested the first budget setting meeting in October would be a good time to establish a budget for this.

## **24/81/ENV River Lim Action Group Report**

M. Morrow from RLAG presented the report and highlighted the concerns the group had about data uncertainty and increases of discharge hours at the sewage treatment

works and Horn Bridge. He asked if the town council could write to South West Water to ask for an explanation of these anomalies.

M. Morrow said the two meetings they had held with the public and with farmers went very well and thanked the council for its continued support.

M. Morrow answered members' questions regarding the monitoring of sewage from each area and how the new housing estate was coping with the extra demand.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that that the council write to Southwest Water expressing concerns about the data provided by the environment agency and the uncertainty within it and the increased discharges from the Uplyme sewage treatment works and the Horn Bridge pumping station.

The town clerk asked for sight of any previous correspondence from RLAG to South West Water.

#### **24/82/ENV    Action Plan for Achieving Net Carbon Zero Emissions by 2030**

The acting operations manager said another meeting would be taking place on 8 May 2025 to progress the plan.

He said with regards to action point 7.2 relating to food security, supply chains and local growing and production, he wasn't clear on where members wanted to go with this point and how they would like it to work, but it could be discussed further in the working group.

It was noted the community garden and other small initiatives might eventually lead to improvement or a change of behaviour. It was suggested the allotments could also be an option to educate the community, potentially by giving a plot to the school.

#### **24/83/ENV    Lighting in the Lister and Langmoor Gardens**

The town clerk said a metered supply in the gardens would be preferred because the council was currently two times more than was necessary for electricity. He said the cost would likely be between £10k and £12k and it would take around 10 years to pay back the amount, which wasn't ideal, but it was liveable. In 10 years' time the council could be benefitting from cheaper electric if it commissioned a metered supply.

A member asked if solar would be a better option than a metered supply.

The town clerk said he wasn't convinced that a solar option would be adequate; he thought it might be possible during summer months but storage and battery capacity to supply the gardens in the winter might not work. However, it could be considered.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge that members **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to instruct officers to pursue the installation of a metered electricity supply for the footway lighting in the Lister and Langmoor gardens.

*The meeting closed at 7.40pm.*