

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2025

Present:

Chairman: Cllr P. May

Members: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr P. May, Cllr M. Denney, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr A. Wood, Cllr G. Turner

Co-opted members: G. Barr, V. Elcoate

Officers: K. Newman (administrative and community engagement assistant), S. O'Connell (operations manager)

25/43/ENV Public Forum

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

25/44/ENV Apologies

Cllr S. Cockerell – holiday
Cllr N. Rumbold – work commitments
J. Breeze – illness

25/45/ENV Minutes

Proposed by Cllr M. Denney and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2025 were **ADOPTED**.

25/46/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

25/47/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

25/48/ENV Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 October 2025

Round Britain eRIB – Commemorative Noticeboard

The operations manager had met with Jackie Besley prior to this meeting. The eRIB team had made a funding request and this would be brought to members at a future meeting.

25/49/ENV Update Report

Electric Rapid vehicle charging

Members raised concerns about the lack of access to rapid charging points within the town and asked if further investigation could be carried out by the deputy town clerk, as well as Dorset Council, as a priority.

Monitoring and Bathing Water Quality Church Beach Notices

The operations manager said an electronic noticeboard would cost around £30,000 but powering the unit with solar would bring costs down to around £10,000.

It was suggested the town council and South West Water could consider contributing to the costs of this. It was suggested this could be considered for the 2027-28 budget.

The operations manager said the next step was to engage with Dorset Council and come to an agreement. He hoped the Dorset Council ward member would be able to advise further at the next bathing water quality meeting on 13 January 2026.

Carbon Literacy

The operations manager said he should be fully accredited as a carbon literacy trainer upon completion of the course on 27 November 2025. The council would then need to put together a course or purchase a license to be able to provide the training, with an average cost of £800 per presentation/accreditation training package. The content would also need to be kept up-to-date.

An item was requested on the next agenda to review ongoing training and members who were not already carbon literacy trained were urged to take up the training.

25/50/ENV Environment Committee – Objectives

Members noted the report.

25/51/ENV River Lim Action Group Report

It was noted South West Water's Turning the Tide programme had not commenced in November, as previously expected, and that the timescales had been removed from their website.

The operations manager said the surveys have not yet taken place so a start date was unknown. It was suggested the town council wrote to South West Water to apply some pressure and that it is also raised at the next bathing water quality meeting.

As part of the Farming in Protected Landscapes project, visits to the 10 local farms had taken place and half of them had received their reports and funding suggestions.

A member asked the operations manager to ask South West Water for a progress report on the project.

The meeting discussed the Environment Agency's withdrawal of river maintenance. The operations manager said he had written to the relevant people at the Environment Agency to arrange a meeting between stakeholders. A response was expected by 10 December 2025 but this could be chased up at a meeting with the Environment Agency on 28 November 2025, set up to discuss fish passages.

The removal of Himalayan Balsam was discussed and whether town council staff would be available to help remove it.

The operations manager said he would discuss this with his team, taking into consideration work schedules and who was trained to do it.

It was suggested the town council engaged with riverbank owners and kept the pressure on Dorset Council to carry out vegetation clearance and to deal with collapsing banks.

It was noted there was an action from the previous meeting to encourage the Environment Agency, Dorset Council, Lyme Regis Town Council and other riparian owners to get together and discuss this.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Denney that members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that officers engage with South West Water about their revised timescales for the Turning the Tide works in Lyme Regis; that the council continues to press South West Water to carry out the much-needed upgrade at Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works; and for resources to be put into public engagement and key stakeholder briefings to ensure support for the proposed works and minimum disruption while they are taking place.

25/52/ENV Cigarette Butt Waste Outside Licensed Premises

It was suggested the town council asked local publicans to regularly empty the cigarette butt boxes outside their premises and sweep up any butts. It was suggested the enforcement officers would be able to enforce this.

The operations manager said the town council had no powers to enforce this. The council could write to Dorset Council and ask them to try and enforce it but ultimately, publicans were responsible for emptying their own butt bins.

A member suggested putting an article into the town council business briefing and LymeLiving Magazine to raise awareness and educate the public and publicans and praise those that do tidy up outside their premises.

It was noted Litter Free Dorset had run campaigns in the past and suggested the town council engaged with the organisation to further educate publicans.

It was also suggested the issue was raised with the Cobb Traders.

25/53/ENV Town Public Drinking Water Tap Provision

Several locations had been identified where taps could be installed, including outside the toilets next to the Sailing Club and the toilets next to the Pilot Boat. It was suggested taps could be installed for £200 to £400 each.

The operations manager said it would be necessary to carry out legionella testing, which would be more feasible if the taps were installed at town council properties. He said the town council was in discussions with Dorset Council about managing more public toilets in the town so this might provide an opportunity to install more taps.

It was agreed G. Barr would work with officers to identify locations and come up with a proposed programme for installation, to be considered as a future objective.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers that members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that town public drinking water tap provision be added to the proposed list of objectives for 2027-28.

25/54/ENV Food Security discussion

It was suggested an article was included in LymeLiving magazine to raise awareness of local food suppliers.

The operations manager was asked if there was more scope for additional grow your own food or community gardens using town council land, or if more allotments could be created. He said there were currently no resources but the town council was always open to suggestions, depending on feasibility. The potential for more allotments would be a Town Management and Highways issue.

It was noted there were already plans in place for a garden at Woodroffe School, to be maintained by students.

It was agreed everyone would come back to the next meeting with proposals that were within the council's gift. It was also suggested there needed to be a champion to bring the ideas together.

It was agreed there would be an agenda item for food security at the next meeting, and suggestions should be received before that meeting to be included in the report.

25/55/ENV Action Plan for Achieving Net Carbon Zero Emissions by 2030

The operations manager urged members to read the plan and if they wanted to add anything, to let him know before the working group met on 4 December 2025. He suggested that the wording of the action plan be amended to 'achieve carbon neutrality' instead of 'net carbon zero'.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.