

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2026

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)

Guests: P. Benfield (Turn Lyme Green)

25/56/ENV Public Forum

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

25/57/ENV Apologies

Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold – holiday
J. Breeze – illness

25/58/ENV Minutes

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr P. May, the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2025 were **ADOPTED**.

25/59/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

25/60/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

25/61/ENV Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 November 2025

Monitoring and Bathing Water Quality Church Beach Notices

Although it was a Dorset Council responsibility to display the notices, it was suggested the town council could contribute financially to an electronic display system.

A member asked for a future agenda item to allow members to consider approving unbudgeted expenditure for the electronic display.

Carbon Literacy

Members who hadn't already done Carbon Literacy training were encouraged to do it now that the operations manager would be accredited to deliver the training.

The operations manager said he has asked for clarification on how many members from the town council needed to be trained in order to remain a carbon literate organisation.

Food security discussion

A member asked this to be flagged as a potential objective for the next financial year.

25/62/ENV Update Report

Garden QR codes and Signs project

The operations manager was concerned QR codes could be easily tapped into for criminal use and that the technology may become obsolete over time. He didn't think it would be achievable to spend the allocated budget within the necessary timeframe and that the objective may need to take a different steer towards something long-term and self-managing.

It was noted the budget would need to be accrued to the next financial year.

25/63/ENV Environment Committee – Objectives

Members noted the report.

25/64/ENV Bathing Water Quality Meeting Minutes

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr A. Wood, the minutes from the Bathing Water Quality meeting held on 13 January 2026 were **RECEIVED**.

It was noted there were still no confirmed details or dates for South West Water's Turning the Tide works and it was suggested the council put pressure on them to confirm this.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Turner members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that officers write to Allan Burrows and Sarah Sharpe at South West Water to ask for an update on their progress of the Turning the Tide works in Lyme Regis, as well as another letter asking for them to engage with officers to minimise impact on the town.

25/65/ENV River Lim Action Group Report

A member asked the operations manager if the external works team would benefit from having a Bactiquick monitor, as mentioned in the report, for events like Big Paddle Out or Lyme Splash.

The operations manager said the team wouldn't have the need for it because it was external organisers that set up the events.

The operations manager was asked if the external works team would be able to assist in pulling up the Himalayan balsam.

The operations manager said the external works team would not be doing the work as it was Magna land but he suggested an external contractor could do the work. It was noted there was £7,000 in the budget to assist with river maintenance, which had not yet been spent.

A member asked for an item on the next agenda to consider this expenditure.

25/66/ENV Bee Friendly Lyme Regis

P. Benfield from Turn Lyme Regis was invited to present a report on the Bee Friendly Lyme Regis initiative. She asked for the council's support to collaborate and publicise the project.

It was suggested this project could work hand in hand with the existing Great Big Dorset Hedge project and that the council could assist with both.

The operations manager said funding would need to be put forward in a budget for this. It was suggested the council could identify areas on town council land for solitary bees.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council recognises the importance of bees to local ecology, endorse and support the Bee Friendly Lyme Regis project, and promote its activities through council communication channels.

25/67/ENV Riparian Owners (River Lim) - Stakeholder Briefing Session

It was noted the consultation had a deadline of 30 April 2026 and the council, as a riparian owner, needed to submit a response.

The operations manager said he would ensure a response was submitted.

25/68/ENV Big Paddle Out 2026

Members noted the report.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.