LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 JULY 2026

Present:

Chairman: Cllr S. Cockerell

Members: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr P. May

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

Co-Opted Membership: V. Elcoate (River Lim Action Group)

26/01/ENV Public forum

There were no members of the public present.

26/02/ENV Apologies

Cllr A. Wood
Cllr M. Denney
G. Barr (non-member)
J. Breeze (non-member)

26/03/ENV Minutes

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr P. May, the minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2026 were **ADOPTED.**

26/04/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

26/05/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

26/07/ENV Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 April 2026

Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold arrived at 7.03pm.

Invasive Species – Japanese Knotweed

A member asked if it was in the town council's best interest to treat nearby invasive species on non-council land to avoid the spread onto town council land. He said Himalayan Balsam was also becoming problematic again and needed to be considered.

It was suggested the operations manager liaised with the River Lim Action Group regarding what action was being taken and where.

It was noted there were patches currently being treated by Uplyme Parish Council and the outcrop of invasive species growth at Charmouth Road car park had already been reported to Dorset Council.

26/08/ENV Update Report

No additional items were raised.

26/09/ENV Environment Committee – Objectives

A member asked about the garden signage. The operations manager said it was already part of the objectives set out for 2026/27 and that he had met with Creative Solutions last week to discuss the options. He said they were currently looking at A4 signage to keep costs down.

It was suggested the committee added to its list of 2026-27 objectives all the organisations it wanted to support. Bee Friendly Lyme Regis was suggested.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the town council includes in the list of objectives for 2026-27 to support the activities of Turn Lyme Green.

The operations manager asked for clarification on the financial implications of this, as the budget for objectives had already been set for the 2026-27.

It was suggested organisations such as Bee Friendly Lyme Regis would not progress without the support of the town council and although no funding was being sought at this time, it may be for subsequent years.

The value of consulting with local experts and avoiding duplication with the Climate Action Plan was discussed.

26/10/ENV Co-option

It was noted the process for co-option agreed at the last meeting of this committee was different to the process outlined in the report. A member had sought advice from an officer, who confirmed the committee should use the agreed process, as per the minutes.

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the three applicants, G. Barr, V.Elcoate and J. Breeze, be accepted and co-opted to the Environment Committee.

26/11/ENV Carbon Literacy Accreditation/Training Update

The committee was reminded Dorset Climate Action Network had silver accreditation and could deliver the training.

The operations manager said the costs outlined in the report were only for accreditation, but training costs would need to be considered by the Strategy and Finance Committee.

A member asked why ongoing training and accreditation had not been budgeted for, and suggested this be approved as unbudgeted expenditure. It was suggested this committee approved the expenditure, instead of being referred to the Strategy and Finance Committee.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge that members **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve unbudgeted expenditure of an unknown amount for the continuation of the silver level carbon literacy accreditation and the relevant requirements be actioned, and that the town council uses external suppliers where appropriate to reduce significantly the workload on officers.

26/12/ENV River Lim Action Group Report

It was noted Church Cliff Beach water quality had improved, but Front Beach had some issues. The committee agreed to raise these concerns at the upcoming Bathing Water Quality meeting and to ensure Dorset Council's participation.

Positive developments in beach signage were reported, with new, more informative signs being developed. The committee discussed the challenge of countering negative media coverage and the need for accurate public information.

It was noted the Rover Lim Action Group planned to intensify river monitoring and reporting, with the aim of holding responsible agencies accountable and publicising improvements when data supported it.

The committee acknowledged the positive impact of local groups and funding for local farmer engagement, with ongoing efforts to secure additional resources for river health initiatives.

The meeting closed at 7.52pm.