

## LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 JULY 2024

#### Present

**Chairman:** The Mayor, Cllr D. Ruffle

**Councillors:** Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr G. Caddy, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr P. Evans, Cllr D. Holland, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr P. May, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner

**Officers:** M. Green (deputy town clerk), A. Mullins (support services manager), J. Wright (town clerk)

The mayor, Cllr D. Ruffle read out the town prayer.

The town clerk confirmed Cllr D. Holland had signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

#### 24/28/C Public Forum

##### K. Gollop

K. Gollop thanked the council for starting to clean up the town after he had raised areas of concern at a committee meeting. He said there was more to do and he hoped the council would continue cleaning up the areas under its control, although he was aware the town council couldn't improve Dorset Council areas.

K. Gollop congratulated staff for the way they had presented the results of the 20mph speed limit survey, which highlighted how the internet could manipulate the results. He believed petitions to the town council should come from Lyme Regis people.

##### K. Rohleder

As someone who lived next to the playing field, K. Rohleder spoke about the proposed multi-use games area (MUGA). She was concerned no meaningful consultation had been carried out but she had raised her concerns in a letter to the council. She felt information could have been provided on the council's website and felt there was a lack of detail available about the proposal. She was concerned about the proximity of the MUGA to her property, which was less than the distance recommended by Sport England and Fields in Trust. She was concerned about potential noise, reverberations, and the potential danger to people walking on the nearby path. She said residents in Cloverdale Court had not been consulted on the proposed new location. She felt the MUGA would negatively affect neighbours' lives and asked that their needs were taken into account.

##### R. Daw

R. Daw also spoke about the proposed MUGA and said he was concerned no consultation had been carried out by those who might be affected by the noise and reverberation. He was concerned the fence wouldn't be high enough to stop balls coming out and that people using the path could be hit. He referred to recommendations from Sport England and Fields in Trust about the distance of MUGAs from properties. He said he experienced noise from the park between 5am and 12pm and felt a MUGA would increase the disturbance and impact on the quality of his life and health.

#### **J. Dover**

J. Dover said he was also speaking on behalf of local taxi driver Neville Causley. He hoped the council would look at a composite solution to traffic issues, including speed restrictions and a one-way system. He said Neville had submitted proposals to the Dorset Council ward member and he understood they would be considered by the town council's Traffic and Travel Strategy Working Group. He said the solutions didn't need to cost a lot of money and did not involve Uplyme.

J. Dover also spoke about the Three Cups Hotel. He said the local group formed 15 years ago to progress development of the hotel would like to work with Palmers and the town council to move things forward.

#### **N. Russell**

N. Russell spoke about the proposed 20mph speed limit and was concerned the public survey had not been successful in assessing opinion across the town, with Timber Hill not receiving any information about it. She was concerned about the anomaly on one particular day and how this had manipulated the results. She asked for reassurance that the council's Traffic and Travel Strategy Working Group would continue to look at the broader issues and hoped there would be some constructive proposals.

#### **P. Blackshaw (read out by an officer)**

P. Blackshaw also spoke about the proposed 20mph speed limit. He said they had previously raised concerns about traffic in the area around Pound Road and Hill Rise Road and the town generally and were disappointed that the expected traffic survey had not happened. He said their main concern was Pound Road as there was no footpath, vehicles travelled at speed, and pedestrians were at risk. He said the local bus service along Pound Road was appreciated and hoped it could become a safe route for road users. He felt a 20mph speed limit was essential for safety and environment reasons and also suggested other speed deterrents in Sidmouth Road and signs at town entrances when car parks were full. He hoped the Traffic and Travel Strategy Working Group would continue to support the speed limit and couldn't understand why anyone would oppose it. He said other towns in Devon had introduced it and businesses had not ground to a halt.

#### **C. Breeze (read out by an officer)**

C. Breeze also spoke about the proposed 20mph speed limit and was concerned about the unsatisfactory outcomes of the public consultation as residents' responses had not been extrapolated. He was concerned about the spike in responses on a particular day and felt the impact on the results should not be limited to that one day. He felt the overall outcome of the survey was therefore open to doubt. He said if all visitors were discounted and all voted against 20mph, the vote in favour would be around 60%. He said a clear indication of the views of residents, businesses and workers in Lyme Regis was needed and he volunteered to go through the responses to establish those in favour or against a 20mph speed limit from these three groups.

**J. Breeze (read out by an officer)**

J. Breeze also spoke about the proposed 20mph speed limit and said she found the report and findings on the survey unsatisfactory. This was due to the inadequacy of the original survey, the failure to analyse the views of residents only, the failure to neutralise the impact of an anti-climate group's responses, the gaps in postal distribution of the survey, the failure to make allowance to indicate what degree of acceptance there would be if the proposal was amended, the inaccurate map, and the failure to include results of other data which may be relevant to the discussion, such as Speedwatch data. She said given the high level of response to the survey and historical evidence that traffic management was a concern in Lyme, the proposal should form part of a wider discussion.

**C. and H. Aylett (read out by an officer)**

C. and H. Aylett also spoke about the proposed 20mph speed limit. They said they were residents of Pound Road and had not been aware of the survey. They had suggested speed monitoring could be carried out on their road but it was deemed too dangerous, which confirmed the dangers pedestrians faced due to lack of pavement and narrow passing in places. They said drivers often drove furiously on their way to Holmbush car park and hurled abuse at pedestrians. The junction of Silver Street and Pound Road was also dangerous, with pedestrians having to watch for traffic in three directions or to step into the road to see round the corner, and a narrow pavement along the street. They said the difference between 20mph and 30mph for a vehicle moving through a small town was negligible but the damage to a pedestrian was significantly worse at 30mph. They said emergency vehicles would be exempt from a 20mph limit in an emergency situation. They felt the suggested one-way system for Silver Street/Pound Street/Pound Road would make matters worse if the speed limit wasn't reduced as drivers would go even faster without oncoming traffic. They referred to Bridport where a 20mph limit had been introduced and said Lyme Regis had a greater and more urgent need.

**V. Elcoate (read out by an officer)**

V. Elcoate also spoke about the proposed 20mph speed limit and said she was in support. She said there was much support locally and she had spoken to people who lived in areas most affected by speeding cars, particularly the Queens Walk area. Where she lived in Colway Lane was a mixed-use road with no pavements but vehicles raced along and it could feel quite dangerous at times. She said a 20mph limit would be popular and in line with other towns and villages where it had become

accepted very quickly. She thanked the town council staff for the analysis of the survey results.

**A. Coleman (read out by an officer)**

A. Coleman also spoke about the proposed 20mph speed limit. She said it would be helpful to have a full analysis of the data and respondents' comments, and to separate visitors' comments from those of residents who lived with the traffic and parking issues all year round. She asked the council to consider a limited 20mph limit along Sidmouth Road between Ware Lane and Holmbush car park as there was no pavement and a significant blind bend requiring pedestrians to walk up the hill on the left-hand side. She said she had been hit twice by car wing mirrors in this area. She said cars tended to speed up the hill and this had been demonstrated during community Speedwatch. She felt 30mph was too fast where there was no pavement and there were many examples of 20mph being used for small stretches, often outside schools.

**K. and P. Benfield (read out by an officer)**

K. and P. Benfield also spoke about the 20mph speed limit, which they were in favour of as this would protect everyone due to so many narrow roads, lanes and narrow pavements. They said drivers' speeds were increasing so lowering the speed limit would prevent future accidents and injuries. They believed this change would lead to increased safety and quality of life for both residents and visitors and was a change worth supporting.

**G. Barr (read out by an officer)**

G. Barr also spoke about the proposed 20mph speed limit. He felt this would be a positive thing for Lyme, its businesses and visitors and the environment.

G. Barr gave his compliments and thanked the council staff and employees for the new wildflower areas, which were both beautiful to look at and beneficial to the natural environment.

**N. Ball (read out by an officer)**

N. Ball said he was concerned about the cleanliness of the town, weeds and the general look. He felt good progress had been made on the gardens but Dorset Council was letting the town down. He had sent photos to Cllr Andrews at Dorset Council and copied in the ward member but assumed with lack of funding, the town council would have to do more of the county's work. He said in the past he had weeded Bridge and Coombe Streets but hadn't this year and they now looked a disgrace. He asked the town council to lean on the councillor for open spaces to get a long-term plan to keep the town a place to be proud of.

**24/29/C Dorset Council Matters**

Members noted the report.

**24/30/C Questions from Councillors**

There were none.

**24/31/C Apologies for Absence**

Cllr J. Trevena – holiday

**24/32/C Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr P. Evans declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 31, MUGA at Anning Road Playing Field as he was a close neighbour of the proposed site and would leave the meeting for this item.

**24/33/C Dispensations**

There were none.

**24/34/C To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 27 March 2024**

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 27 March 2024 were **ADOPTED**.

**24/35/C To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of Annual Meeting of the council held on 15 May 2024**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr S. Cockerell, the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the council held on 15 May 2024 were **ADOPTED**.

**24/36/C To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 19 June 2024**

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, the minutes of the extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 19 June 2024 were **ADOPTED**.

**24/37/C Matters arising from the minutes of the extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 27 March 2024, the Annual Meeting of the council held on 15 May 2024 and the extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 19 June 2024**

Members noted the report.

**24/38/C Update Report**

There were no updates.

**24/39/C Mayor's Announcements**

Members noted the report.

## **24/40/C Planning Committee**

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, it was **RESOLVED** receive the minutes of the meetings held on **30 April, 22 May, 11 June and 2 July 2024**, and to note the committee's comments made on planning applications under the power delegated by Full Council.

It was noted Cllr S. Larcombe was present the meeting on 2 July 2024 and this would be amended at the next committee meeting.

## **24/41/C Environment Committee**

Proposed by Cllr S. Cockerell and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Environment Committee held on 26 June 2024 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

### **24/13/ENV – Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation**

**RESOLVED:** that the council publicises its silver level Carbon Literacy accreditation as much as possible on council website and in any other appropriate ways.

**RESOLVED:** that the council looks into further carbon literacy training for new members and new employees to keep the silver accreditation up to standard.

**RESOLVED:** that the council includes Little Green Change's logo and information on the town council website.

### **24/80/ENV – Lithium Ion Battery Safety of eBikes and eScooters Parliamentary Bill**

**RESOLVED:** that the town council responds in support of the Lithium Ion Battery Safety of eBikes and eScooters Parliamentary Bill and to query why it only included bikes and scooters and not vehicles.

## **24/42/C Human Resources Committee**

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 29 May 2024 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

### **24/11/HR – Health and Safety Committee membership**

**RESOLVED:** that Cllrs G. Stammers and P. May are the member representatives on the Health and Safety Committee.

### **24/12/HR – Civility and Respect Agenda and External Support**

**RESOLVED:** to ask officers to bring a report to the Full Council meeting on 17 July 2024 to allow members to consider the council's position with regard to the Civility and Respect agenda.

**RESOLVED:** to set up a panel consisting of the mayor, deputy mayor and chairman of the Human Resources to work in conjunction with the town clerk to finalise the specification and agree the appointment of consultants to undertake organisational development work with the council.

**RESOLVED:** to ask the town clerk to write a letter to the MP to increase cross-party awareness of the Civility and Respect project.

#### **24/13/HR – Pay Grade of Administrative and Community Engagement Assistant Post**

**RESOLVED:** that the council approves a change in the pay grade of the administrative and community engagement assistant post to spinal column point 10 to 13.

#### **24/14/HR – Sabbatical Request**

**RESOLVED:** that the council approves, subject to an agreement to be set in place by officers and subject to there being no extra cost to the council, an unpaid four-month career break for postholder 218 from October 2024.

**RESOLVED:** that officers draft a policy on career breaks to be considered by the Human Resources Committee.

#### **24/88/HR – Equivalent Hours Request**

**RESOLVED:** to approve the equivalent hours request from postholder 215.

#### **24/43/C Strategy and Finance Committee**

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Strategy and Finance Committee held on 3 July 2024 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

##### **24/11/SF – Cash and Cheque Handling Policy and Procedure**

**RESOLVED:** to approve the cash and cheque handling policy and procedure.

##### **24/12/SF – The Annual Review of the Fixed Asset Register**

**RESOLVED:** to approve the fixed asset register.

##### **24/14/SF – Wedding Package Prices**

**RESOLVED:** to agree charges for wedding packages at the Guildhall as follows:

- All inclusive (chair covers, chair sashes, LED candles, fairy lights, table centrepiece, table runner, beach hut) – £99
- Chair covers – £2 each
- Chair sashes – £1 each
- LED candles – £5

- Fairy lights – £5
- Table centrepiece – £10
- Table runner – £2

#### **24/15/SF – List of Payments**

**RESOLVED:** to approve the schedule of payments in May 2024 for the sum of £220,435.62.

#### **24/44/C Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee**

Proposed by Cllr P. Evans and seconded by Cllr c. Reynolds, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee held on 19 June 2024 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

#### **23/91/TCP – Sculpture Trail Working Group Membership**

**RESOLVED:** to integrate the sculpture trail working group into the gardens working group.

#### **23/92/TCP – eat:Lyme Regis**

**RESOLVED:** that the council does not support eat:Lyme Regis.

#### **23/93/TCP – Free Parking Days**

**RESOLVED:** to agree the non-charging date in Lyme Regis car parks as Monday 23 December 2024.

#### **23/94/TCP – Request for Funding – Fireworks**

**RESOLVED:** to contribute a total of £4,000 towards the cost of the summer and autumn fireworks' displays.

#### **24/45/C Town Management and Highways Committee**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, it was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee held on 5 June 2024 and adopt the recommendations, as follows:

#### **24/11/TMH – Traffic and Travel Strategy Working Group membership**

**RESOLVED:** to appoint Cllrs C. Aldridge, S. Cockerell, P. May, B. Bawden, G. Caddy and M. Ellis to the Traffic and Travel Strategy Working Group.

#### **24/12/TMH – Lyme Regis Proposed Speed Measures**

**RESOLVED:** to use some of the budget set aside for recommendations from the Traffic and Travel Strategy Working Group to fund additional speed indicator devices for Sidmouth Road at a cost of up to £5,500 and a further speed survey by Dorset



Council in Sidmouth Road at a cost of £295, and if necessary, to refer this back to the working group.

#### **24/13/TMH – CCTV Policy and Documents Review**

**RESOLVED:** to approve the CCTV policy and documents.

#### **24/14/TMH – Gazebo Refurbishment**

**ORIGINAL MOTION:** to ask officers to obtain further quotes for the replacement and removal of the rear and side panels of the gazebo, and to also investigate a structure made of cob.

The town clerk said he had followed this up with the operations supervisor, who believed the council's external works' team could carry out the repairs to the gazebo for less than £5,000 and he recommended this option was taken forward.

**SUBSTANTIVE MOTION:** Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** that the council's external works' team carries out repairs to the gazebo.

#### **24/16/TMH – Marine Parade Shelters' Roof Glass Panels**

**RESOLVED:** to replace glass panels in the roof of the Marine Parade Shelters as unbudgeted expenditure in 2024-25 due to health and safety concerns.

#### **24/17/TMH – Bowls' Club Advertising**

**RESOLVED:** to approve the request for advertising on the bowls club wall.

#### **24/18/TMH – Candles on the Cobb Management Committee**

**RESOLVED:** to approve the setting up of a committee for the management of the Candles on the Cobb Pavilion, to include the council's appointed representative Cllr P. Evans, a representative from Lyme Regis Youth Football, a representative from the original Candles on the Cobb Pavilion group, and to seek one other member from the local community; to invite a representative from St Michael's Primary School to attend; and for the committee to be served by an officer of the council.

#### **24/20/TMH – Outdoor Gym Equipment**

**RESOLVED:** to accept the quote from Fresh Air Fitness for the installation of outdoor gym equipment.

#### **24/21/TMH – Harbour Store Tenders**

**RESOLVED:** to instruct officers to have further discussions about the Harbour Store with the two lowest tenderers and to take a report to the Full Council on 17 July 2024 for a final decision.

**24/46/C To receive the minutes of the Gardens Working Group meeting held on 2 July 2024**

Cllr P. May said he would like to join the working group.

Proposed by Cllr D. Ruffle and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr P. May to the Gardens Working Group.

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, the minutes of the Gardens Working Group meeting held on 2 July 2024 were **RECEIVED**.

**24/47/C Appointments to Council Committees**

Proposed by Cllr D. Ruffle and seconded by Cllr P. Evans, it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr S. Larcombe to the Environment Committee, Human Resources Committee, Planning Committee, Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee and Town Management and Highways Committee and to appoint Cllr D. Holland to the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee.

**24/48/C Appointments to External Bodies 2024-25**

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr S. Larcombe to the Charmouth Road Allotments Association as a liaison member and Cllr P. Evans to the Barfleur Twinning Association as a participating member.

There was no member representative for the Rural Market Town Group.

**24/49/C Governance Arrangements, the Civility and Respect Agenda and the Appointment of Consultants to Undertake a Cultural and Behavioural Change Programme**

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members **RESOLVED** to integrate the Civility and Respect agenda and any changes in governance arrangements into the cultural and behavioural change programme.

**24/50/C Monitoring Officer Report**

Several members commented on the contents of the report and it was noted.

**24/50/C Releasing Further Objectives**

A member asked if there was any spare budget to provide funds to the parish church to replace the flagpole.

The town clerk suggested the church came to the council with a request and it was considered during the 2025-26 budget-setting process.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr S. Cockerell, it was **RESOLVED** to undertake the following priority 2 objectives in 2024-25: addition of King Charles to

chains; west and east store doors; improve welcome signs; electronic noticeboards; and £5,000 for solar panels on council buildings; a total sum of £27,124.

#### **24/51/C Operations Manager Recruitment**

A member suggested there was a reference to maintaining carbon literacy status and carbon literacy initiatives in the job description.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed changes to the operations manager's job description and person specification, with a further amendment to include a reference to maintaining carbon literacy status and carbon literacy initiatives.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members **RESOLVED** to approve the timetable for the recruitment of the operations manager.

Proposed by Cllr D. Ruffle and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs M. Ellis and D. Ruffle to be part of the recruitment process.

#### **24/52/C 20mph Speed Limit**

Several members were concerned about how the 20mph limit would be enforced, that moving more slowly would increase pollution, how emergency services personnel would travel to their homes and the stations, and they felt it was difficult to drive more than 20mph in the town anyway.

The town clerk said the 20mph limit would not be enforced; it was for information and to prick people's conscience into driving slower. He said this had been made clear from the start so as not to raise expectations.

A member said she hoped the Traffic and Travel Strategy Working Group would be able to use the qualitative data to progress ideas. She added that the results of the survey should be considered alongside other data, such as Speedwatch data, to do more work on the proposed 20mph scheme.

It was pointed out the results showed a lot of residents would be in favour of 20mph outside schools but there was already a 20mph limit outside Woodroffe School.

The town clerk said the 20mph proposal was a town council initiative but it was Dorset Council (DC) which would agree it or not. One of the things DC would look for was significant community support. If it was a priority scheme, DC would fund it, but if not, the town council could consider funding it. His assumption was Lyme Regis would not be a priority.

Proposed by Cllr D. Ruffle and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members **RESOLVED** to instruct officers to seek advice from Dorset Council to consider revising the extent of the 20mph scheme following the public consultation.

#### **24/53/C Extraordinary Meeting of the Human Resources Committee**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business as it included confidential matters relating to relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 8 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (see Section 1 and Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985), as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

**24/54/C Cemetery Lodge Tenders**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business as it included confidential matters relating to relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 8 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (see Section 1 and Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985), as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

**24/55/C Harbour Store Tenders**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business as it included confidential matters relating to relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 8 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (see Section 1 and Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985), as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

**24/56/C Boylos Watersports – Lease Assignment and Rent Review**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business as it included confidential matters relating to relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 8 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (see Section 1 and Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985), as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

**24/57/C Town Bus Service**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business as it included confidential matters relating to relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 8 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (see Section 1 and Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985), as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

**24/58/C MUGA at Anning Road Playing Field**

Proposed by Cllr M. Ellis and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business as it included confidential matters relating to relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 8 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (see Section 1 and Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985), as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

*The meeting was adjourned for a break at 8.51pm.*

*The meeting resumed at 8.59pm.*

**24/59/C Exempt Business**

**a) Extraordinary Meeting of the Human Resources Committee**

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr P. May, members **RESOLVED** to approve an extraordinary meeting of the Human Resources Committee (HRC), probably on 24 July 2024, to assist in the consideration and determination of a member complaint.

**b) Cemetery Lodge Tenders**

The deputy town clerk said discussions had already taken place with the lowest tenderer and it was possible to achieve modest savings.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members **RESOLVED** to formally accept the lowest tender received, from Minster Building Contractors Ltd, in the adjusted sum of £121,345.52 ex VAT, for those works to the cemetery lodge, Lyme Regis set out in the relevant tender documentation and to approve the submitted programme of works, commencing in early-October 2024 and completing in mid-March 2025.

**c) Harbour Store Tenders**

The deputy town clerk said the lowest tender was over the approved budget but there was no scope to reduce it without making decisions which were not good asset management. However, savings had been made on solar panels.

The deputy town clerk said the contractor recommended by officers was the second lowest tender, but with an earlier start date and a programme of works at least one month shorter.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Ellis, members **RESOLVED** to formally approve Bagwells Ltd as the selected contractor for the harbour store project at a cost of up to £158,994.38 excluding VAT; to note the cost overspend as compared with the approved budget of £125k and instruct officers to endeavour to minimise the actual build cost and to maximise any available external and other funding towards the costs of elements of the build, such as the intended roof-mounted PVs and battery back-up system; and to note the intended build programme and approve a commencement on 5 August 2024 to achieve best programme 'fit' with other projects, such as the office move to St Michaels Business Centre.

**d) Boylos Watersports – Lease Assignment and Rent Review**

The deputy town clerk said since the report was written, Boylo's had accepted an offer from Jurassic Coast Photography and would ask the council to consider the reassignment of the lease on that basis.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members **RESOLVED** to approve the early renewal and assignment of the lease for Boylos Watersports, to Daniel Bowstead trading as Jurassic Coast Photography with effect from 1 September 2024, subject to the council's reasonable legal and other costs being met, the receipt of satisfactory trading references, and the introduction of the reviewed rental figure of £24,500 p.a. with effect from 1 June 2024.

**e) Town Bus Service**

The chairman brought this item forward on the agenda.

The deputy town clerk said he had made enquiries with the current operator and the cost of operating a town bus would be £97k, compared with the £15k the council currently paid. He said when the name of the new school bus contractor was known, he would make contact with them to ask if they would be willing to operate a town bus service and if they had a suitable vehicle. If so, it would then be a matter of price and registering with the Traffic Commissioner.

It was suggested a request could be made to DC to help with funding for the town bus service as it funded a park and ride in Bridport.

It was agreed a press statement would be issued to let people know what was happening but also that the town council was doing its best to find a replacement.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members **RESOLVED** that given the fluidity of the situation, the council authorises the town clerk, in consultation with the mayor, deputy mayor and chairman of the Town Management and Highways Committee, to agree any reasonable short-term measures to secure continuity of the town bus service, with a further report to the next Full Council meeting.

*Cllr P. Evans left the meeting at 9.16pm in line with his declaration of pecuniary interests.*

**f) MUGA at Anning Road Playing Field**

Members discussed the two proposed sites for the MUGA and the potential to level the football pitch.

*Cllr S. Larcombe left the meeting at 9.22pm due to a pecuniary interest.*

The deputy town clerk said lead times of all potential contractors were around two months and prices were below the approved budget. The quotes were site specific and more groundworks would be required for the roadside site.

The deputy town clerk said members were not in a position to accept a tender at this meeting but if they would like to progress the project before September, officers would need a resolution where the principle and location was agreed and authority was delegated to others to agree the precise details, subject to keeping members' informed.

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr C. Caddy, members **RESOLVED** to agree the roadside location for the multi-use games area and for officers to agree the final specification in consultation with the major and the chairman of the Town Management and Highways Committee.

*The meeting closed at 9.40pm.*