

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOURISM, COMMUNITY AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2025

Present

Chairman: Cllr P. Evans

Members: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr G. Caddy, Cllr M. Denney, Cllr M. Ellis, Cllr P. Evans, Cllr D. Holland, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr A. Wood

Officers: C. Austin (administrative and community engagement assistant), A. Mullins (support services manager)

24/132/TCP Public Forum

P. Scammell

P. Scammell from Maitri Yoga spoke in relation to agenda item 21, Seafront and Beach Concessions. She thanked members for considering the concession bid to continue to run yoga sessions on the beach. She said she had built a supportive community of regular resident clients but also had visitor clients join classes too. She said her yoga business was listed in the Air BnB top 10 experiences and had featured in several magazines and printed publications. She said local businesses and holiday lets were supportive of her business and felt a genuine sense of connection to the Lyme Regis community. She thanked members for their time in considering her proposal.

A. Ball (read out by an officer)

A. Ball spoke in relation to agenda item 22, Welcome to Lyme Regis Signs. He said it was a shame the design stage for the signs had been included in exempt business as the signs were mostly seen by residents and people of the town as they come and go on their commutes. He said with that in mind, it was a shame the residents had not been included in the selection process. He said it was a prime opportunity for the council to consider designs by local artists and to do something different. He said in previous meetings, comments regarding the design and using local talent had been discussed by this committee. He said he hoped members would revisit and take a different approach to decide upon the design of the signs.

24/133/TCP Apologies

Cllr G. Caddy – holiday

Cllr M. Ellis – family commitment

Cllr D. Holland – family commitment

Cllr G. Turner – work commitments
Cllr A. Wood – holiday

24/134/TCP Minutes

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2024 were **ADOPTED**.

24/135/TCP Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

24/136/TCP Dispensations

There were none.

23/137/TCP Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 November 2024

Sculpture Trail

Members discussed the display of Woodroffe School students' work on the sculpture trail project. The students had presented their maquettes to members of the committee that day. Members said it was a fantastic commitment from the school and were pleased to have given students the opportunity.

23/138/TCP Update Report

Youth Council

It was reported members of the Youth Council would be invited to meet with Dorset Council Youth Council. The Youth Council would consist of two students from each year group, to represent the views across the school.

It was suggested the Waffle House, once it was open, would be a good place for teenagers to meet on a Saturday and Cllr C. Reynolds said she would follow this up.

Tourism Website

The support services manager said visits to the site had plateaued; there had been over 42,500 visits in November 2023 compared to 26,000 visits in November 2024. The figures had been reviewed and it was suggested the visits in November 2023 were significantly higher due to storm watching on the webcams. She said the 637,870 visits across 2024 was a real success.

Repair Café

A member asked whether there were any gaps in the skills of the volunteers and suggested the town council could help to promote any vacant skill areas if needed.

Cllr S. Larcombe, the council's representative on the Repairs' Café steering group, said he would follow this up.

23/139/TCP Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee – Objectives

Bursaries

The support services manager said there had been 10 applications from local youth organisations.

23/140/TCP To receive the minutes of the Party in the Park Working Group meeting held on 4 December 2024

The support services manager said there was a good outline plan for the event. She said she was waiting on official confirmation, but it looked like the open-air theatre would be performed by the community play group and be 'A Midsummer Lyme's Dream'. She said there had been no response from local businesses to provide catering at the event and she would approach businesses a bit further afield.

Proposed by Cllr S. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, the minutes of the Party in the Park Working Group held on 4 December 2024 were **RECEIVED**.

23/141/TCP Free Parking Days

The support services manager said she had not had a response from Lyme Regis Business Association about their preferred dates for the free parking days.

Members considered possible dates which would coincide with major events in the town but felt there needed to be input from the business association. As members were being asked to agree five dates, it was agreed only three would be confirmed at this point and the support services manager would contact the business association again for their input on the two remaining dates.

Proposed by Cllr S. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** the non-charging days in Lyme Regis car parks in 2025 as 9 November (Remembrance Sunday), 22 November (Christmas Lights' Switch-on), and 23 December (Carols Round the Christmas Tree) and to approach Lyme Regis Business Association for their input to decide the remaining two dates.

23/142/TCP Lyme Regis Visitor Hub

Cllr P. Evans said he intended to host a mayoral reception at the Jubilee Pavilion on 31 January 2025. He said currently the council office acted as a tourist information centre, but with the office due to relocate this year, it was essential a visitor hub remained at the pavilion.

The support services manager the Visitor Hub had applied for term grant funding, which would go hand-in-hand with the five-year agreement.

Proposed by Cllr P. Evans and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve a five-year agreement for Lyme Regis Visitor Hub to occupy the Jubilee Pavilion.

23/143/TCP Sporting Festival

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** an inaugural meeting of sporting organisations in Lyme Regis, Uplyme and Charmouth is organised to progress the idea of a sporting festival called Sporting Lyme.

23/144/TCP VE Day 80 Outline Plan

Cllr P. Evans said he had now learned men from Lyme Regis had been involved in the conflict in Japan, so this would need to be considered for any commemoration of VJ Day 80 in August 2025.

23/145/TCP Grant Review, The Hub

Members noted the report.

23/146/TCP Grant Review, Bridport and District Citizens Advice

Members noted the report.

23/147/TCP Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring and Ride - Grant Review and Update on the Service

Members were concerned the service would not continue because TRIP Community Transport, which had taken over the service from Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring and Ride, had not applied for a term grant.

Cllr C. Reynolds, the council's representative for ring and ride, said she would follow this up.

23/148/TCP Grant Review, B Sharp

Members noted the report.

23/149/TCP Grant Review, Lyme Arts Community Trust

Members noted the report.

23/150/TCP Supporting Girls and Women into Science

Members noted the report.

23/151/TCP Managing Consultation Exercises

Members noted the report.

23/152/TCP Seafront and Beach Concessions

Proposed by Cllr P. Evans and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, 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 information relating to an individual 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.

23/153/TCP Welcome to Lyme Regis Signs

Proposed by Cllr P. Evans and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, 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 information relating to an individual 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.

23/154/TCP Exempt Business

a) Seafront and Beach Concessions

Proposed by Cllr M. Denney and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to award the deckchair concession to Darren and Jessica Herbert, to award the non-motorised watersports concession to Simon Lippett, and to award the henna tattooing and hair braiding concession to Tia Shoemark and Jessica Palmer.

Proposed by Cllr M. Denney and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to support, in principle, the applications from Philippa Scammell, Rosie Jackson and Lucy Watkinson for a fitness and exercise concession but to ask officers to negotiate a price that is in line with the fee paid in previous years.

b) Welcome to Lyme Regis Signs

Members reviewed the designs and the quotes from three contractors.

The design concept by Creative Solutions was preferred but members felt it needed a bit more work, as the image needed to show the outline of the Cobb, rather than the end of the Cobb with Golden Cap in the distance.

As two members had previously been delegated to work on this project with officers, it was agreed the final decision on the design would be delegated to this group.

Proposed by Cllr P. Evans and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to accept the quote and design concept from Creative Solutions and to ask officers to work with them on further development of the design, with the final decision to be taken by the delegated members, Cllr C. Reynolds and Cllr G. Caddy.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm